



The Adventurer



Montessori Adventure School

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October 2008

www.montessoriadventure.com

School Staff

Head of School & Directress

Emily R. Forslin

Toddler Teacher

Eileen V.

Toddler Assisting Teacher

Buffy C.

Preschool Assisting Teachers

Ann B.

Stephanie G.

Plus Assisting Teacher

Colleen S.

Preschool Substitute

Janet H.

Office Staff

Anne Z. Office Manager

Perry Lou S., Treasurer

Parent Advisory Board

Jennifer L. – Chairman

Barb M. – Vice President & Secretary

Jennifer T. – Treasurer

Dawn Dickey – At Large

finding his or her own special interests because each task picked must achieve approval from both. Four-and-a-half year olds go through this most of the time but, hopefully, they already are deeply attached to several materials with which they spend solo time.

Another area that both adults and children are being urged to work toward is getting more sleep. If you usually seem to have difficulty getting here at 8:25 am, you probably need to set an earlier bedtime for both you and your children. After reviewing the research, I'm trying this myself and know it's important but difficult to achieve.

I know you join me in thanking our staff for their insightful start of the year's work with our children and handling all office tasks, the Advisory parents for a delightful introduction to possible school activities, and long-time friend of our school, Janet H., for filling in for staff first-time mother, Stephanie G.

We have all looked forward to baby and mother's return. It is a new experience for all of us here at the "Adventure" school.

Happy fall everyone,
Emily Forslin

Founder's Forum

Dear Parents,

It was nice to see so many of our families, both veterans and new, enjoying both our Parent Kick-Off evening and the apple-picking outing at the Bauer's Apple Shed. It looks as if many of you have become acquainted and are planning out-of-school get-togethers. Montessori friends have enriched my life and I know they will enrich yours, too.

Just a word of caution, however, when it comes to playdates for two- and three-year olds with children they are in class with here: "Best friend" status quickly develops which prevents each of the "best friends" from

Preschool/Kindergarten children go outside on Fridays, and Toddler and PLUS children go outside almost every day! Please be sure to provide your child with weather-appropriate attire – sweater and/or coat, warm socks & shoes or boots, caps, earmuffs, mittens or gloves, etc. The temperature can rise or fall during the day, so layers are best.



Preschool - Kindergarten News

Dear Parents,

October is always a busy month with many things to learn, review, and try to improve. The children are exploring the special things that happen in the fall. They all enjoyed going to the orchard to get apples where they grow, and then helping to turn those apples into applesauce by using “children power.”

Identifying continents and countries by both their shapes and Montessori color has already been introduced with the puzzle maps of all the continents and the countries of North America, as well as the representative pictures and objects of our continent. Europe will quickly follow because Columbus Day will soon be here.

As October is also Fire Safety month we are expecting our annual visit from the Grand Chute fire department on Friday, October 10th. Parents are welcome to attend in the same way they did for Picture Day, and it, too, is a regular-hours day.

The biggest event in October, however, is our Halloween party on Friday, October 31st, with party hours for non-Plus children. I continue to encourage parents to come “dressed up,” too, as this helps our youngest children not get scared. I will give them practice in standing and bowing to show off their costumes, but as this will be their first public performance, if they retreat and refuse we respect their feelings. As I use Halloween as a good time to interest children in which animals do and don’t have bones with bone names, all the children usually enjoy acting out my version of the “Dry Bones” song. They also enjoy all the decorations the parents put up and the yummy treats the parents bring to eat.

Our initial tree and plant exploration is expanding to include different kinds of trees, both evergreen and deciduous, and their leaves. Soon we will look at different kinds of foods as we move closer to Thanksgiving.

Kindergartners are all working on being models of “grace and courtesy” both in social interactions and physical indoor behavior. They have already started golden bead 4-digit math problems, printing, calendars, and sounding out words or reading 8-page phonic books.

Yes, fall is a busy and interesting time. You’re welcome to join us any Friday you can. Do be prompt! Tricia starts her Spanish lesson at 8:35 and it’s great fun.

Fondly,
Emily

Toddler Talk

Dear Toddler Parents,

I hope you all have noticed some differences at home as a result of your child’s Montessori experience. Mrs. C. and I certainly have seen the children developing more self-help skills. We are seeing social skills in the form of self-control, learning what one’s “space” is, and learning to speak to others in a nice manner. We are understanding each others’ words more and having fun getting to know each other. Every month I change the materials so the children don’t get bored and have something new to explore. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me after dismissal.

The school’s Halloween party is on Friday, October 31st. All toddlers and their parents are invited to dress up and join the fun. There will not be a regular Friday class that day.

Thanks,
Eileen V.

Start of School Parent Input Sheet

Attached to this newsletter is a form for parents of preschool and toddler children to provide teachers with feedback on how you think your children are doing in school. Please complete and return this form to the Office Cubby in the lobby.

FAQ: Whom do I contact about...

Administration: Emily Forslin is the founder, directress, teaching head of school and school administrator of Montessori Adventure School. She determines curriculum, staffing, school schedule, admissions, retentions, policies and fees. If you have concerns or questions about how the school is operated, contact Mrs. Forslin. E-mail her at Emily@MontessoriAdventure.com.

Finances: Perry Lou S. is our school treasurer and she handles *all* financial matters. She balances the books, collects and tracks tuition and fees, issues receipts, pays school bills and salaries, submits employee tax withholdings, and runs employee background checks. If you have questions about what you owe, or need a receipt for reimbursement of child care expenses, contact Perry Lou. Perry Lou is usually in the office on Monday and Friday mornings. Her e-mail address is Perrylou@MontessoriAdventure.com.

Clerical: Anne Z. is the office manager and she responds to e-mail and phone messages, prepares and distributes the newsletter and other communications, and tracks student files required by the State of Wisconsin to keep the school in compliance with our license. She also submits quarterly tax reports and state unemployment filings. If you have questions about your child's files, need to change contact information, wish to have something included in the newsletter or distributed to the parents, or need a letter of acknowledgement of a donation for tax purposes, contact Anne. Anne is usually in the office from 10:30am-2:30pm (to overlap with Perry Lou and with Emily's lunchtime), on Mondays, Fridays and one other day each week, usually Tuesdays. E-mail her at Anne@MontessoriAdventure.com

Note: Emily Forslin is the only "full-time" employee of the school; all others are part-time. The best way to make contact is either through e-mail, since it creates a paper-trail and avoids handwriting problems, or, for Emily, through phone calls over the lunch hour.

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia's production of Leo Lionni's



Thursday, October 2, 2008 • 9:30 a.m

Innovative, large-scale puppetry brings Leo Lionni's three Caldecott Honor books to life. Tiny fish Swimmy uses ingenuity to fend off danger. Frederick, a poetic mouse, makes everyday life an artful experience. And a lovable inchworm shares his facility for measuring absolutely everything! Spark students' imagination with this creative and inventive show.

The school has reserved 50 tickets to the show "Leo Lionni's Swimmy, Frederick & Inch by Inch" at the Performing Arts Center. Tickets are no longer available. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Because of limited ticket availability, only preschool children and one accompanying adult per child will initially be allowed to sign up. Parents are expected to accompany their children. Because of the field trip, there will not be a regular class for Preschool/Kindergarten on Thursday, October 2nd. If you cannot go, but want your child to attend, please arrange for another parent to transport and accompany your child. We would like to encourage parents of PLUS children to attend, but if that is not possible PLUS children may accompany another parent. Let us know if your PLUS child will be needing their usual hours that day.

Note: This show at the PAC is geared for children ages 3 and up. The PAC does not allow babies in arms inside the theater.

Run time: 60 minutes.

The Parent Advisory Board is picking up the cost of the tickets for this field trip. Be sure to thank Board members when you see them!

Happy Birthday!

October Birthdays:



Isabella L. – October 11

Dylan B. – October 20

Ria P. – October 29

WELCOME TO THE WORLD!



ELENA MARCELLA G.

BORN SEPTEMBER 5, 2008 TO OUR PRESCHOOL ASSISTING TEACHER, STEPHANIE G. AND HER HUSBAND, JUAN G. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PROUD PARENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Thank You!

♥ To the family of Isabella and Dylan B. for the book and golden beads donated in honor of Isabella's 6th birthday.

♥ To the families of Ria P., Nikhil R., and Dolly T. for the beautiful silk and other wonderful items from India.

Mark Your Calendars:



Thursday, Oct 2 – PAC Field Trip
Friday, Oct. 5 – Fireman Visit
Friday, Oct 31 – Halloween Party

NOTE: REVISED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE NO SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL DAY FROM APRIL TO NOVEMBER 7.

Looking Ahead: November 2007

FRIDAY, NOV 7 – PROFESSIONAL DAY
NO SCHOOL ALL CHILDREN

WED-FRI, NOV 21-23 – THANKSGIVING
NO SCHOOL ALL CHILDREN




Halloween Party

Our Halloween party will be on Friday, October 31st starting at 10:00 am. We will not hold regular classes for toddlers or preschool children that day.

- Parents of Preschool and Toddler children are asked to bring their children at 10:00 dressed in their costume for the party.
- Parents of PLUS children are asked to send the costume in a bag or if possible, arrive just prior to 10:00 dressed in their costume. If your PLUS child remains after the party, please make sure your child's costume is easily removable as we don't want it ruined. Bring either the costume or the play clothes in a bag, based on what arrival time fits your schedule. At the end of the party, the costume will be removed and placed in the bag.



We look forward to seeing lots of unique costumes. Parents are encouraged to dress-up, too! Often, this helps children feel less different or afraid.



NO MASKS are allowed inside the classroom for safety reasons.

Parents will enjoy seeing the children in their costumes, and we hope that all of you can be present for the party as it gives your child a feeling of security and loving pride. Halloween is a parent-child event and the first opportunity for our Montessori children to be in front of adults. Part of our celebration includes giving each child an opportunity to stand, introduce herself and show off her costume. Some children will enjoy this while others will not. This is OK. Come and enjoy your child whether he performs or not, and have some of the treats you and others bring.

TO HELP US PLAN AHEAD, PARENTS WHO WISH TO DECORATE AND/OR BRING SOMETHING SPECIAL (NO CANDY, PLEASE) FOR THE PARTY ARE ASKED TO WATCH THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR A SIGN-UP SHEET.