



The Adventurer



Montessori Adventure School

December 2008

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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

Gloria M – Secretary

Jennifer T. – Treasurer

Dawn D. – At Large

please know that I am very grateful that you have made this school and me part of your extended family with all the special favors that go with that relationship. Thank you, families, friends, and staff. I hope to serve the children and you well in return.

One of the most recent blessings was the staff's professional observations at other Montessori schools and meeting later to compare notes. Lead teachers also attended a Montessori workshop featuring clinical psychologist and author of Beyond Time-Outs, Beth Grosshans. Her talk laid out for us the serious problems for families which can occur when there is a major imbalance in family power – either too much in the hands of the parents or (more likely with Montessori parents, she said) in the hands of the children. Her observations, compared to Montessori's, would make an interesting Parent Night. Let me know if you're interested.

As you may have heard, for the December celebration I am featuring the Latino Las Posadas. The children will be mainly learning about Mexican customs, which fits nicely into the Spanish lessons Trish S. is providing every Friday. We've done it before in 2004 and it is great fun. I'll keep you posted.

Sincerely,

Emily Forslin

Founder's Forum

Dear Parents,

As Thanksgiving Day is almost here and the December celebrations here at school always involve the help of many people, I am reminded that our school and I have many things to be grateful for and people to thank for the many blessings in time, energy, donations, insights, and kindnesses which have been received and continue to be given. Rather than list all of those already received,

Preschool - Kindergarten News

Dear Parents,

As we begin to learn about Mexico, I will try to connect how life in the U.S. desert Southwest in the olden days is similar to that in very small Mexican villages. How the heat dictated food and clothing choices still may be seen today even though air conditioning is now used.

Perhaps you know that while Santa Claus and Christmas trees are never included here in any celebrations, they not are part of a Latin Posada either. The Posada involves children trying to find lodging for the tired Joseph and Mary where she can give birth to her baby. Refusals of "No room here," are heard until finally the "party" door is reached and the party, complete with a piñata, begins.

If you have Mexican things to share or objects to put in a piñata, please let me know. A sign-up sheet will be posted when food choices have been made.

Fondly,
Emily



Winterwear



Here at Montessori Adventure School, we encourage outdoor play. Preschool children have Friday outdoor time, while toddlers and Plus children go out every day weather permits. ALL children need hats, snowpants, boots, and a pair of mittens fastened together on a cord long enough to go down both coat sleeves and across the back. Just keep the cord short enough to hang out of the sleeves no more than 2 inches. Even with clips children lose many mittens.

Toddler Talk

Dear Parents,

We're going to still try to go outside every day so be sure your children have warm outdoor clothes: Coat, hat, mittens, and boots. Label everything with your child's name as many things look alike.

Our TuTh toddlers are getting to know each other and learning some new holiday songs. The MWF toddlers are have been working on their manners ("please," "thank you") and setting up for and cleaning up after snack. The children are also learning to pour, spoon, and scoop. We're learning months and days of the week. We've also begun potty training.

For Thanksgiving, we've been thinking about what we are thankful for. Remember, there is no school Wednesday-Friday, November 26-28. We are also learning holiday songs for our school's Las Posadas celebration on Friday, December 19th. There will not be regular MWF hours that day and *all* toddlers and their parents are welcome to enjoy the school holiday party.

We'll back to class the week of January 5th. Have a wonderful winter break and a Happy New Year!

Eileen V.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD!



JULIA H.

BORN NOVEMBER 10, 2008

CONGRATULATIONS TO HER PROUD PARENTS, ANDREA AND BILL H., AND BIG BROTHER, DAVID H., IN OUR TODDLER CLASS.

Mark Your Calendars:



REMINDER:

Tuition is due on the 1st of the month. A late fee of \$20 is assessed if tuition is received after the 10th of the month.

WEEK OF DEC 15 – Ordered Cheesecake distributed to parents at school

DEC 19 (FRI) – Holiday Party
PARTY HOURS

DEC 22(MON) -JAN 2 (FRI) – Winter Break
NO SCHOOL FOR PRE SCHOOL & TODDLER
PLUS ATTEND EXCEPT BELOW:

DEC 24-26 (WED-FRI) – PLUS Holiday Break
NO SCHOOL ALL CHILDREN

JAN 5 (MON) – Classes resume

TBA – Adults-only Holiday Party



We often have a holiday party just for the grown-ups at this time of year, but some parents feel another month would work just as well. Please let Emily and the PAB know what you think.

Happy Birthday!

December Birthdays:



- Nikhil R. – December 3
- Mihir U. – December 4
- Morgan L. – December 16

Thank YOU!

- ♥ To the family of Ria P. for the donation of books, puzzles, colored pencils and crayons in honor of Ria's 5th birthday.
- ♥ To the parents who donate funds every month for our kindergarten fund.
- ♥ To the family of Zahra J. for the donation of a broom and dustpan to the toddler room.
- ♥ To Dawn D., Barb M., and Jennifer T. for giving their energy, time, and talents to coordinating, counting, and distributing our fundraisers.
- ♥ To all the families who ordered or donated money which made our Fall Fundraiser a huge success.
- ♥ To Manderfield's Home Bakery and CheeseCake Heaven for partnering with the Parent Advisory Board for our fundraisers.
- ♥ To Jennifer L., Barb M., and Ann B., for spreading woodchips on the playground.
- ♥ To all the families who have raked and collected leaves from the school yard.
- ♥ To all the parents for volunteering the morning of the Halloween party.



Year End Donations:

There's still time to make a tax-deductible donation to the Montessori Adventure School this year. Ask if your company does gift-matching.

Looking Ahead: January 2009

JAN 5 (MON) – CLASSES RESUME

JAN 7 (WED) – CONFERENCE FORMS DUE

JAN 16 (FRI) – MOM'S NIGHT

NO SCHOOL FOR PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN
(TODDLERS & PLUS ATTEND)

JAN 22&23 (THUR&FRI) – SCHOOL CONFERENCES

NO SCHOOL EXCEPT PLUS

JAN 29 (THUR) – DAD'S NIGHT

NO SCHOOL FOR PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN
(TODDLERS & PLUS ATTEND)

FEB 1ST – REGISTRATION FOR 2008-2009 BEGINS

From the Office:



Tax Statements for Donations

If you made a cash or non-cash donation to Montessori Adventure School in 2008 and would like a statement of acknowledgement for your records, please leave a note in the office for Anne. We would like to get all statements out by January 31. Effective January 1, 2007, donors who itemize deductions on their annual income tax returns must have a bank record or a written communication from the charity to substantiate any cash contributions. Donors are no longer able to claim deductions based solely on their own written records, such as a contemporaneous diary noting donations. If goods or services were received for a contribution of \$75 or more, a breakdown statement is required to take a deduction for the donation portion of the contribution. Statements must be received before you file your taxes. See IRS Publication 1771 for more information. Consult your tax or legal advisor for professional guidance.

Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be held in January. Forms for parents to complete will be put in cubbies in December. These need to be filled out and returned by January 7th.



FAQ: Why is the tuition for December the same as other months when there are fewer class days?

ANSWER: Tuition is calculated for the school year and divided into 9 equal payments with a built-in allowance for vacations and illness. Tuition payment is due the first of the month. Of course, you are welcome to pay for the whole year in advance.