



The Adventurer



Montessori Adventure School

January 2009

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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

All the children (and parents?) need to wear boots on Friday because after a short program in the preschool room, we will all be led outside following Mary and Joseph to look for the inn (door) that agrees to give them shelter if only in a manger. When the right door is found, it is time for the piñata to be seen and broken, and for treats and food to be enjoyed.

I hope we here at Montessori Adventure can experience the same joyful feelings that surround Mexican families and friends as they gather together with their great concern for the welfare of mothers and their babies and children.

We are already feeling some of that as we delight in the presence of darling 3-month old Elena snuggling next to mommy, Stephanie, and charming us with her smiles and sleepy times.

Looking ahead to the new year I am including conference sheets for you to fill out and a 2002 article by Jane Healy on children's growing brains.

We all have busy lives with many things to do, but our children are our dearest treasures and we must make wise and thoughtful choices how to raise them while integrating the whole family's needs and not exhausting or martyring ourselves.

I wish us all a peaceful, joyous vacation and happy new year.

Sincerely,

Emily Forslin

Founder's Forum

Dear Parents,

With our Las Posadas celebration occurring this Friday you are welcome to look at several different recipes of Mexican foods and sign up for the foods you wish to bring or buy. They will again be placed in the toddler room to be enjoyed at the close of our performance.

Preschool - Kindergarten News

All of the children are having periods of sustained concentrated work, some of which is amazing. I look forward to our conference time of conferring and comparing home and school observations.

I hope to stage a very small Mexican Three Kings Party on January 6th as this is the time when many Latino countries' children receive holiday gifts (brought by the Kings, of course). If any parents want to come and bring us the proper bread with its hidden objects, you're very welcome.

We will then look forward to the inauguration of our country's new president and our own elections for class presidents. Finally, we will begin preparing special valentine cards, not for one another, but for our dear parents.

Be advised, dear parents, each child with your help will bring only one "special" valentine for the whole class – such as a song, card, flower, balloon. Surprise us.

Fondly,
Emily

Toddler Talk

Dear Parents,

In class we have been learning about the calendar and seasons of the year. The children have been working on pouring and scooping skills, and some have been doing button work. They've also learned some new songs. Potty training is now in session.

In the new year, we will be learning many more new skills, including washing dishes and bathing our "babies" (dolls). I hope you enjoy the school's Las Posadas celebration. Have a safe and happy winter break.

Happy Winter,
Eileen V.



DECEMBER REMINDER

Las Posadas Party Friday, December 19 10:00am -12:30pm

No regular class hours for MWF Toddler and Preschool/Kindergarten

This Friday is our winter celebration party. This year we are observing Las Posadas, a Mexican Christmas tradition. All toddlers and their parents are welcome to join the preschool families for this fun and educational program. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the lobby. We need food items and help with set-up and clean-up. The sign-up sheet has suggestions for traditional Mexican dishes. Recipes for items marked with an asterisk (*) can be found in the glass box below the bulletin board. We hope every family will contribute in some way to our celebration. If you're bringing something other than a listed item, please write down what you are bringing. Healthy foods, such as fruits and vegetables or whole grain breads are encouraged. Please bring food ready to serve with serving utensils and a description on a card. Please indicate if your dish is wholly vegetarian or contains meat products, including chicken stock, beef broth, etc. All food should be brought to the Toddler Room. Don't forget to put your name on your bowls and utensils. Please take any leftovers home with you, as there will not be regular classes until January.

Parents' Party
Saturday, January 10th
6:00-10:00pm

Fox Valley Golf Club



Our adults-only party for parents and staff will be held on Saturday, January 10th, at the Fox Valley Golf Club in Kaukauna, starting at 6:00pm. Information and directions will be in your cubbies. Don't forget to R.S.V.P. by 12/21.

Moms' Night Fri. Jan. 16
Dads' Night Thur. Jan. 29

Friday, January 16th will be Preschool Moms' Night and Thursday, January 29th will be Preschool Dads' Night. Please come at 6:30 if you are able, but if you can't make it until 7:00, come then. These special nights give children an opportunity to show Mom and Dad around the classroom and to introduce her/him to friends and activities. This is a wonderful *one-on-one* experience and your child will love this valuable time alone with you. If the time scheduled is a problem, hopefully we will be able to schedule something during regular class time or else Mom and Dad may switch nights. Do not bring siblings with you.

Parents with two children in our preschool should both plan to come both nights. On Mom's Night, separate the children so each parent is focused on only one particular child for the entire session. Separate your 'tour' from the other child to give individual attention and focus on your child for the night. Then on Father's Night both come again but switch children so each child has the opportunity to spend this valuable time with each of you . . . one at a time.

January 16th and 29th are NO-SCHOOL DAYS for preschoolers. Toddlers & PLUS children may attend.



Parent Conferences

Conferences will be held Thursday & Friday, January 22 & 23 for all children including toddlers. Sign-up sheets will be on the bulletin board in the foyer. We will have morning, afternoon and evening appointments to accommodate all families.

Preschool parents will receive three conference input forms. **Each adult active in your child's life should complete a conference input form independently,** without discussion. Additional forms will be available in the Information box in the entryway for step-parents, grandparents, sitters, etc. Feel free to compare answers with one another *after* completion as this may lead to some interesting findings. **The conference-input forms should be returned no later than Wednesday, January 7** to allow Mrs. Forslin and the Toddler teachers time to use your input in preparing for the conferences. Thank you.

Happy Birthday!



January Birthdays:

JC M. – January 5
Lexie C. – January 12
Dominic D. – January 20
Emma M. – January 20
Shreyas R. – January 25
Melia W. – January 30
Zahra J. – January 31

Fall Registration Begins!

Currently Enrolled Students

Fall registration for currently enrolled students will begin February 1 and end February 15. If you register and pay the registration fee (\$150 per child or \$200 per family if more than one child will attend) during this period, your child's spot will be reserved for the 2009-2010 school year. Please note that the optimum Montessori experience for the Kindergarten year is the extended day (8:30 – 2:30 Monday through Thursday, Friday's 8:30 – 11:30) in the prepared environment. Tuition rates are being reviewed and will be posted soon. It is VERY important that you re-enroll your child by Feb. 15 to guarantee a place in the fall! This includes all toddlers expecting to enter the preschool.

After February 15, enrollment will be open to the public. Any additional openings will be filled first with siblings, next transfer Montessori students and then youngest children on our waiting list. If you know of anyone who might be interested in sending a child here next year (toddler or preschool), have them call the school or give their name to the office to send a registration packet and schedule a visit.

Prepaid Tuition Deposit

Toddlers & PLUS: Your one-month tuition deposit is applied to the last month of the school year. The deposit you paid last year will cover the May tuition for this year. If you re-enroll for fall, the payment you make in May 2009 will be your deposit for May 2010 (adjusted for any tuition increase and the actual class your child will attend in fall). Parents of toddlers moving up to preschool, please be aware that you now need to pay *two*

months' tuition in advance, unless you are signing up for the PLUS program.

Preschool: As always, your two-month tuition deposit is applied to the last two months of the school year. So, the deposits you paid last year will cover the April and May payments this year. That means that if you are re-enrolling for 2009-2010, the payments you make April 1, 2009 and May 1, 2009 will be your deposits for next year. These deposits will reflect any increase in tuition for the 2009-2010 school year. Any tuition rates change for next year will be based on the age of the child, the length of his school day and increased operational costs.

Tuition and enrollment forms will be distributed in January. Put any questions regarding enrollment in the office cubby in the foyer.

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.

Thank YOU!

- ♥ To the family of Nikhil R. for the gift of five books honoring Nikhil's 5th birthday.
- ♥ To the family of Mihir U. for the gift of a quantity of artist-quality colored pencils in honor of Mihir's birthday.
- ♥ To the family of Vani S. for the cash donation to the school.
- ♥ To the parents of William H., Elias S., JC M., Emma M., and Eryn & Isabel L. for emergency bagging of leaves.
- ♥ To the family of Isabella L. for hauling away the bagged leaves.
- ♥ To all the families who participated in the cookie dough and cheesecake fund-raisers that netted \$1272.85 for the school.

Looking Ahead: February 2009

FEB 1ST – 15TH – REGISTRATION FOR 2008-2009

FEB 13TH – VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY



A Note about Valentines

Rather than exchanging individual cards, we are again asking that each child bring in a Valentine for the whole school. We encourage you to work with your child on this project. In the past we have had Valentines such as a decorated tree or plant, a homemade mobile, a flashing on/off Valentine, large poster-sized cards, smaller cards, children's performances, songs, and even special guests. If you and your child would like to give separate Valentines to friends, please mail them from home to the friend's home, as we will not pass them out here.

Mark Your Calendars:



JAN 1-2 (THUR&FRI) – NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY
NO SCHOOL FOR ALL CHILDREN

JAN 5 (MON) – CLASSES RESUME

JAN 10 (SAT) – PARENT & STAFF PARTY
FVGC 6:00-10:00PM

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)