

Maria Montessori School Mirror

A Reflection of our School

December 2009

Calendar of Events

December 17		Hot Lunch
December 18		Last day of School Before Winter Vacation
January 4		School Resumes
January 7	2:15	Staff meeting - Early Dismissal for Students
January 29		Professional Development Day - No School for Students
February 4	2:15	Staff meeting - Early Dismissal for Students
February 15		Family Day - No School
February 16-17		Midterm Break - No School
February 18-19		Professional Development Days - No School for Students

Happy Holidays

News from the Office

by Miss Kelly



Thank you to all of our families who attended the 1st Annual MMS Cultural Festival on November 27. It was a lovely evening with lots of entertainment and visiting. Thank you to Miss Jewel for coordinating the decorating for the event and to the staff and parent volunteers who assisted her. Thank you also to everyone who brought items to display. It was truly a multi-cultural evening.

We would like to thank our parent volunteers who helped out with the November hot lunch. The kids

really, really enjoyed the spaghetti - just about everyone had seconds!

Our next hot lunch will be held on December 17. Children registered in our lunch supervision program will find forms in their mailbox. Please ensure your form is returned to your child's Directress by Monday, December 14. This lunch will be pre-ordered, so late orders will not be accepted.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our MMS families very happy, healthy and restful holiday. I'm looking forward to seeing you in 2010!

Upper Elementary

by Miss Jane and Miss Marie

What an eventful couple of months it has been for our school. The Mix-It-Up event was wonderful, and the Upper Elementary students enjoyed creating some of the beautiful art that was displayed on the walls. Miss Marsha has done some amazing work with our students in Art, and we look forward to the creative projects we will be doing in December.

December is such a great month to focus and learn about celebrations. We have been learning about Hanukkah and have made Menorahs and dreidels. We will also be making latkes soon. We have studied the African December celebration called Kwanzaa, and have created beautiful woven mats called mkekas. We will be learning about Saint Lucy's Day, a celebration throughout many Scandinavian countries, and then finishing off with our study of Christmas traditions.

We are well into our Resources Unit in culture, and have learned so much about the resources of our world, such as minerals, plants, oil, water and air. We very much enjoyed the presentation from Engineers Without Borders on "*Water for the World*" and gained valuable insight into how water is distributed and used across the globe. We will be looking at soil as an important resource, and learning ways that we can preserve this precious resource for future generations.

We wish you all a peaceful, safe and happy holiday.

Lower Elementary

by Miss Janis

Winter weather has arrived! Please make sure that your child comes to school with appropriate outdoor clothing as we go outside daily.

Our class has grown this month! We welcome Maya who comes to us from Indianapolis, and Miss Tanya who works with us in the mornings.

This month we are focusing on a science unit "Properties of Matter". We will be doing various activities which will allow the students to understand the three states of matter and the concept that matter takes up space. We will also be spending some time learning about a few of the celebrations that are taking place this month.

We have been enjoying French class with Madame Linda and have learned about the Food Groups. We

look forward to having Gym with Miss Jane and the Upper Elementary students on Thursday afternoons. Art with Miss Marsha has been wonderful!

The students really enjoyed dancing African style with Kahmaria Pingue. Thank you to Zayd and Adams mom for arranging this lovely presentation. We are now looking forward to doing some Latin dancing with Kirsty Snowsell this week.

This month Miss Marie and Jesleen are celebrating their birthdays. Enjoy your special day!

We hope that you and your families enjoy the holidays!



Casa 1

By Miss Kristy

What an exciting month December is!! We are learning about various celebrations and holidays, and the children are really absorbing a lot of information. We have already explored the celebration of Kwanzaa and created Kinas and zawadi (a hand made Kwanzaa gift, which were our book marks). We are now exploring Chinese New Year, and the children really enjoyed making Chinese paper lanterns. These are going to be hung in the classroom for everyone to enjoy. The children's favorite saying right now is "Gung Hay Fat Choy" (Happy New Year in Chinese). We will be learning about Hanukkah next, and than have a very exciting event planned for our study on Christmas. I know the children are going to love it! It is a very busy month and the children are starting to get more and more excited for the holidays.

I would just like to remind everyone to please remember to send weather appropriate clothing with your child to school. The children go outside everyday for recess unless it is below -25 degrees. They love going outside if they are warm enough and have proper outdoor clothing for the weather. Thank you for your cooperation.

I would like to thank Grace's family for the wonderful "help me be good" books and Ethan's family for the new step stool.

We would like to wish Jessica, Ethan, Daria and Payton a very happy birthday this month. We hope you all have a great day!!

It is hard to believe that this is my last newsletter submission for the year. These few months have been wonderful, and I am going to miss the children and families incredibly. I will be visiting often! Thank you so much for all that you do and for all your support. We have a great class, and I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to teach such wonderful children. The children are very lucky to have Miss Tracy fill in as Directress beginning in January. They are already very comfortable with her and very much enjoy learning with her. I would like to wish all families a happy holiday and all the best in the New Year!!

Ramadan

Casa 2

by Miss Regina

Our Casa children are wrapping up their first 4 month of school. We've worked hard and are looking forward to a nice relaxing break.

During the month of November all Casa students learned new sounds: c, k, n, e, h. Our 4 and 5 year olds were working very eagerly on their name writing skills. Some of our Kindergarten students have started to build words with the movable alphabet and have also begun printing these words. The Kindergarten students have explored our Teen Boards and practiced addition problems with the small number rods. Some of our 4 year olds are learning about odd and even numbers using the numbers and counters material.

The practical life shelf has a water transferring activity which is a big hit. Our older students learned to "roll up socks" and are now prepared to really help out with laundry folding at home.

We have finished our unit on South America. The children enjoyed learning a few Spanish words. The Llama unit was very interesting to the children. As we were unable to bring a live Llama into Casa 2, we watched a 7 minute DVD on Llamas in Peru. Also, thank you to Sarah Boot and her family for lending us the beautiful South American artifacts.

In Botany we discovered what the inside of a pumpkin looks like. We decided to plant some

pumpkin and apple seeds because we are curious to find out what happens to the seeds now in the soil. We will be taking care of those seeds for the next few weeks.

Our Casa children are producing fantastic art work during Miss Marsha's art classes on Wednesdays. You will be able to view these pieces shortly as we are going to display them in and around our class room.

During the month of December we are going to learn about different holiday celebrations with Kwanza, Hanukah and Christmas being the main highlights.

We would like to thank all the families who came to our Cultural Festival and contributed to a very successful event.

Thank you to Sarah Boot and her family for donating a new Globe. The kids love using it. Xander and his Mom brought a Globe from Planet Earth to Casa 2. We enjoyed observing how the Chia seeds grew and covered the Globe in no time. Amolika's Mom came in one afternoon to give a presentation on clothing from India. The children were very curious and asked many questions. Thank you so much Veena. Thank you to Amelia and her family for donating disinfecting wipes. They are used daily and are very much appreciated.

Chanukkah

Casa 3

by Miss Maria

Casa 3 students have been busy learning about cultural celebrations this month. We began in November with a week on Kwanzaa. Students learned that Kwanzaa is celebrated by African-Americans for seven days each December. We made our own paper Kinaras and were fortunate enough to have Kahmaria Pingue come in and teach us some African dancing. Thank you so much to Adam's family for organizing that for us!

Last week we learned about Ramadan and even practiced fasting on Friday. We had a "pre-dawn" snack first thing in the morning and then didn't eat anything until the end of the morning when we pretended that the sun had gone down and we enjoyed a very big special snack together. We also

made a paper chain with thirty links for the thirty days of Ramadan.

This week we are learning about Chanukah and will be making potato latkes on Friday. Miss Robin has been kind enough to share her menorahs with us, and on Friday we will have eight days of lighting the menorah all in one morning!

The last week before winter break we will be learning about Christmas and the different ways it is celebrated around the world. We will have lots of fun activities during the week including making and decorating gingerbread men.

A special Happy Birthday wish goes out to Angelina this month! She will be five on December 12th.

Thank you again to all of the families that donated materials to our classroom last month. A very big thank you to Elizabeth's family for bringing in a big bag of miniature items for our alphabet bags as well as some cultural celebration poster cards! Thank you so much to Ryan's family for lending us a whole lot of items from Tanzania for our Kwanzaa week, and also for bringing in craft materials and miniature objects for our alphabet bags. Thank you to Nathan's family for bringing us new dry-erase markers and also to Elias' family for the miniature alphabet bag items. Thank you so much to Adam's family for also bringing in dry erase markers for our printing boards!

Lastly, a big thank you to all of you who were able to help us with the Mix-it Up event!!! Your time was greatly appreciated in making the event such a success!

Christmas

Core French

by Madame Linda

Bonjour mes amis!

The Casa students are beginning a unit on winter clothing. Here is some of the vocabulary they are learning: les bottes (boots), les mitaines (mittens), un habit de neige (snowsuit), une écharpe (scarf), un chandail (sweater) une tuque (tuque) and les pantalons (pants).

Lower Elementary students are learning descriptions of the weather. Here are some of the

many answers to "quel temps fait-il?" (what's the weather like): il fait froid (it is cold), il neige (it is snowing), il fait du soleil (it is sunny), c'est nuageux (it is cloudy), il fait du vent (it is windy), il pleut (it is raining) and il fait frais (it is cool outside).

I wish all the Core French students and their families a happy holiday season.

Holiday Outreach 2009



We are still looking for families to help us meet our goal of providing 37 inner city children with holiday shoebox gifts. If you can help, please pick a mitten off of the gold trees in the front entry way and fill a wrapped shoebox with treasures. Please have your completed shoebox gift at school by Monday, December 14 for pickup. Thank you in advance for making this holiday season a little brighter for these children.

(For suggestions on what the shoebox gifts might contain, please refer to the letter which was distributed last week)

We only get one chance to prepare our students for a future that none of us can possibly predict.

What are we going to do with that one chance?

Community Notices

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