

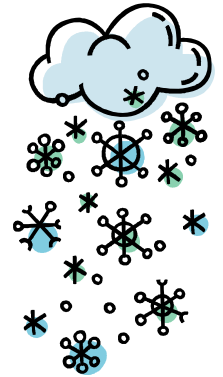
Maria Montessori School News

A Reflection of our School

November 2008

Calendar of Events

November 17		Report Cards
November 19	Noon	Hot Lunch
November 21		3-Way Conferences - No School for Students
December 4	2:15 p.m.	Staff Meeting - Early Dismissal for Students
December 8	7:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
December 10		Newsletter Submissions Due
December 19		Last Day of School Before Winter Vacation
January 5		School Resumes
January 8	2:15 p.m.	Staff Meeting - Early Dismissal for Students
January 12	7:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
January 14		Newsletter Submissions Due
January 26		Professional Development Day - No School for Students



News from the Office

by Miss Kelly



Thanks to all of our families who participated in our UNICEF campaign. We raised a total of \$758.85 for the Schools for Africa program.

Thanks also to everyone who purchased baking and/or gifts at our recent bake sale. We raised \$300.75 for new Phys. Ed. equipment. A big hug goes out to Chad and Tess' Grandma Helen for organizing this event. Thank you also to all families who were kind enough to supply us with bake sale goodies.

Last, but certainly not least, a big thank you goes out to Kendall's dad, Mike, for building us a sturdy stand to set our family mailboxes on - with room for storage underneath! Thanks Mikel!

Our next hot lunch will be on Wednesday, November 19. Forms have been distributed and are due back by November 17. We would ask that the forms be accompanied by cash rather than cheque.

It looks like winter is well on its way. Remember to make sure your child has appropriate outdoor clothing as, weather permitting, the students spend recess outside. The children will remain inside for recess in inclement conditions, which include stormy weather (example: rainy, snowy or extremely windy), and when the temperature exceeds -25° .

Cold and flu season is also upon us. We have already seen an increase in illnesses among the children. If your child is in the early stages of a cold, has a temperature above normal, has a rash, is in the early stages of a contagious disease or has an upset stomach, we would ask that you please keep your child home, even if he or she is keen to come to school. This will go a long way to keeping the other children and staff healthy. Please note that if your child is showing signs of illness, mom and/or dad will be called to pick up your child. For illnesses other than a cold or flu (such as chickenpox or pink eye), please follow the advice of your family physician with regard to your child returning to school.

Beginning in November, there has been a change to our French and Music schedules. French will now be held on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, and Music will be held on Monday and Thursday afternoons.

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on Friday, November 21. Please sign up on the sheets posted outside your child's classroom door. There is no school for students on this day.

Lower and Upper Elementary

by Miss Tina

Lower and Upper Elementary have had a busy last few weeks! Lower Elementary students ended October with an interesting unit on pioneer schools. This gave us an opportunity to look at old photographs of children at one room school houses throughout the prairies during the early 1900's. We enjoyed hearing many stories about traveling to school by horse or dog sled, using an outhouse, and about learning inside the classroom. The highlight of this unit was a trip to the Little Stone Schoolhouse where we "stepped back in time" and imagined we were school children in 1904. Both Lower and Upper Elementary students had a lot of fun.

Early November gave us an opportunity to reflect on World War 1 and 2, and to look at photos of the conditions our brave soldiers fought in during these wars. We also visited the Royal Canadian Legion's war artifacts museum and were lucky enough to meet and speak with veterans who shared their experiences with us. The students really enjoyed the trip and it gave us a good understanding of the importance of Remembrance Day. This also gave the Upper Elementary students the opportunity to learn the poem "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae, and the Lower Elementary students the opportunity to learn a song about peace "One Love, One World" by Crayo.

We also celebrated "Education Week" during the first week of November. Lower Elementary completed story maps and a character study of *Junie B. Jones*. Upper Elementary has begun a novel study on "Rescue Pup" by Canadian author Jean Little.

We continue to work steadily through our Geography unit and will begin to wrap up our studies this month with practical exercises on land and water forms, and studying atlases. Zayd is completing his own geographical studies for the next 2 months by traveling to

South Africa, London and Dubai! We wish he and his family a safe trip!

Casa 1

By Miss Kristy

Beginning near the end of this month and into December, Casa will be learning and discussing various celebrations. These celebrations may include Ramadan, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas, etc. If there is a particular celebration that your family celebrates, we welcome you to share your celebration with us. You are welcome to come into our classroom to discuss or share anything you may have at home that relates to your celebration. Please let us know if you are interested.

We are looking forward to our next field trip on November 28th to the Festival of Trees in relation to celebrations. We will be leaving the school at 1:15pm and returning back to the school at 2:30pm. If your child is in the morning program only, he or she has the option of joining us on the field trip in the afternoon, instead of coming to school at their regular time (in the morning). Please let us know of your decision. We will need many volunteers for this field trip, so if you are interested in volunteering please let us know. Like most of our field trips, the parent volunteers will be assigned a group of 2 or 3 children to help manage throughout the trip and help with anything the children may need assistance with.

A reminder for this month is the Parent-Teacher interviews on November 21st. There is no school for the children on this day. A sign up sheet will be posted outside the classroom for the parents to sign up for a 15 minute time slot to come and discuss your child's progress and what they have been working on in the classroom.

We would like to thank all the families for the wonderful gifts from our book fair as well as

Sammy's family for the hand made dishcloths and David's family for the dry-erase markers.

A happy birthday goes out to Sammy and David this month. We hope you both have a fun and great day!!

Casa 2

by Miss Janis

Winter has finally arrived! I'd like to take this time to remind all families to dress your children for the weather! Full day children (and those registered in the lunch program) will go outside EACH day. It is very important to make sure that your child is dressed properly. Many children have already been sick, and we would like to keep everyone as healthy as possible. With that being said, please DO NOT send your child to school with a flu, cold, or even the early stages of a flu or cold. This is in the best interest of your child and the other children and staff in this school. If your child is sick or becomes sick at school, either you or your emergency contact will be called immediately to pick them up. Thank you for your cooperation.

From now until Christmas holidays, we will be talking about the various celebrations: Kwanzaa, Chanukah, Ramadan, Chinese New Year and Christmas. If you have anything you'd like to share about these holidays, please let me know.

Parent-Teacher Interviews are on Friday, November 21. It is not necessary for you to bring your child with you for these. Also, for Preschool parents (3 and 4 year olds) these interviews are not required but if you would like to book an appointment please let me know.

Our next class trip will be to the Festival of Trees on Friday, November 28. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please see me. Thanks!

Big thanks go out to Alex's family for finding our much needed brown file folders. Thanks

also to Emma's dad, Adam, for all his help on School Picture Day.

Casa 2 would like to wish Happy 4th Birthday to Parker on November 23 and Zeda on November 24. Enjoy your special day!

Core French

by Madame Linda

Core French students are busy in November! All French classes learned vocabulary and did activities relating to Remembrance Day (Jour Du Souvenir).

Casa students are wrapping up a unit on numbers from one to ten (un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six, sept, huit, neuf, dix) and will soon be starting a unit on shapes (les formes).

Lower Elementary students are completing a unit on sports and physical activities and will be starting a unit on professions (les metiers).

Upper Elementary students have learned to write the current date. An example would be "C'est mercredi, le douze novembre, deux milles huit ". They have finished a unit on sports and physical activities and are beginning a unit on "Festival du Voyageur".

In both Upper Elementary and Lower Elementary the last French class of the month is set aside for playing French games.

French classes are now on Wednesday and Friday afternoons unless there is a field trip scheduled, and then Monday becomes the make-up day.

Music

by Miss Natalie



Greetings from the music room!

Rhythms and pitches are now transforming into song

and dance in the Casa classes! Students now have a body of musical repertoire that is being used to help them grasp the concepts of time, pitch, duration of sound, and volume. We are working to transfer these ideas to movement and dance in the classroom. Students are also being challenged to sing on their own.

The Lower Elementary class is settling in to a routine of learning songs-analyzing their pitches with solfege hand signs and names, and learning their rhythmic patterns. We are using games to learn note names on the musical staff, and are beginning to use instruments such as drums, "boomwhackers," bells, and different percussion instruments to create multi-layered textures to accompany our songs!

The Upper Elementary class has been doing a combination of written work- analyzing the pitch and rhythm of short songs- and learning songs, games, and movements that challenge their skills. We are beginning to play recorders and are off to a great start...the next several weeks should be a "hoot"!



"The training of the teacher who is to help life is something far more than the learning of ideas. It includes the training of character, it is a preparation of the spirit"

Maria Montessori