



# Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 16, 2011

MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF CELEBRATION

ISSUE TWO

## Soaring Toward Autumn

Today we end the first 3 1/2 weeks of the school year, and we have a lot to be thankful for. The children are well into the routine of the day, we have explosions in learning happening at all the different levels, the sense of community amongst each classroom grows stronger every day and we are starting to branch out to help the children develop a sense of belonging to the whole school as older children are starting to volunteer in the younger classrooms, giving all a chance to get to know each other. Thank you for all you do on a regular basis as part of the "team" working for your child's education.

## MSCF

Our MSC Foundation will be holding a training session for volunteers to get everyone ready for upcoming events. Thank you to all of you who have signed up to help. The training session will be held at MSC / Lower Elementary classroom, on Monday, 9/19, at 6:00 p.m.

## Parents Night Out

We are looking forward to our first Parents Night Out tonight. The teachers have a variety of fun activities for the children to enjoy while their parents enjoy some time to themselves. The scheduled dates for the upcoming months are:

- Friday, October 14th
- Friday, November 4th
- Friday, December 2nd
- Saturday, December 10th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

## Porch Sale

Thank you to all of you who have donated items for our upcoming Porch Sale. If you have additional items or know of anyone who does you can drop them off at the school.

## Focus Group

As mentioned at our Community Meeting earlier this month, Simon Lia, father to Andrew, (Yellow Room), has volunteered to host a Focus Group session for all parents who are interested in communicating and working with each other to help strengthen the dialogue with the school. The first session will be held on Monday, September 19, 2011, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., in the Upper Elementary classroom at the school.

## Training For Volunteers – Listening To Children Read

Several of you have let us know that you are interested in volunteering in this capacity and we look forward to working with you. In order to insure that we are all on the same page in this endeavor, we ask that you attend a short workshop on how we address reading instruction and support in our Montessori environment. The training will be held this coming Tuesday, September 20th, at 9:00 a.m. in the lobby of the school. Please call the office to let us know if you are planning to attend so we can prepare seats for everyone. Also, please note that once you have attended one of our training sessions you do not need to repeat it. Schedules will be posted outside the Yellow, Coral and Lower Elementary classrooms by next week.



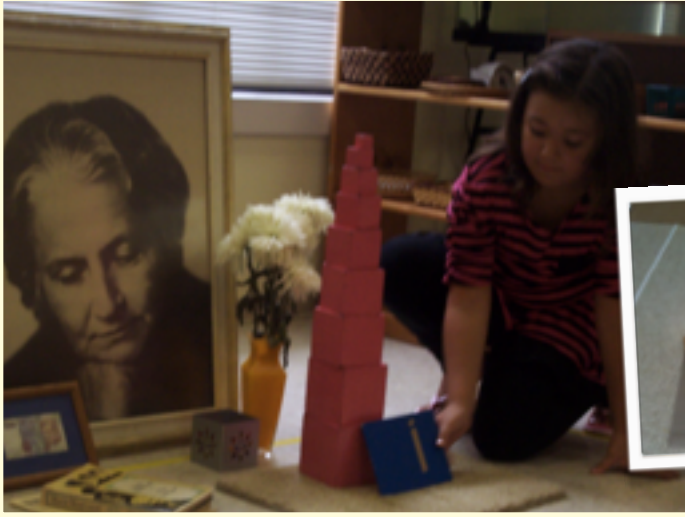
## Important Dates To Keep In Mind

- Monday, 9/19, 5:00 p.m. – Focus Group, MSC / Upper Elementary classroom
- Monday, 9/19, 6:00 p.m. – MSCF Volunteer Training Session
- Tuesday, 9/20, 9:00 a.m. - Training for volunteers to listen to children read, held at the school.
- Friday, 9/23, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. – Chips N' Dips, Heritage Hall
- Monday and Tuesday, 9/26 & 27, 8:30 to 5:00 – Crucial Conversations Workshop, Heritage Hall



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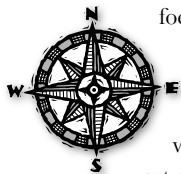
*At work in the Coral Room*

*The Yellow Room's Birthday Celebration for Dr. Maria Montessori.*

# The Joy of Meaningful Work

## Coral Room

It's hard to believe that we are already almost a month into the school year. The children are all adjusting well and are very excited to be getting new lessons. We are currently working on directionality and how to use a compass. The children are having a great time labeling the room with the different directions (N,S,E and W). We have also started talking about the different types of apples and looking at parts of an apple. In the upcoming weeks we will be



focusing on the fall season, the changes in the leaves and changes in the weather. We will be working on a different art project every month - this month we will be stamping with apples.

As you all know by now, sharing has started and the share list is posted on the classroom door. Also, we will begin having volunteers come in to listen to readers. The children are working hard to prepare and they are looking forward to feeling very accomplished as they read to you. The sign-up sheets with the reading schedule for our room will be available shortly.

## Yellow Room

We will be celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 through October 15th and will enjoy learning about Hispanic music, traditions, cultures and cooking and tasting different types of food.

We started food preparation in our classroom. The children are tearing lettuce to make a small salad for themselves. All our food preparation activities will help our own "Iron Chefs" to be ready to prepare our Thanksgiving Dinner in November!

As part of our tradition to welcome fall, we'll be learning about different kinds of apples: making art with apples (like stamping), tasting different types, learning about the different varieties and cooking with apples as well. We're planning to make apple sauce, apple pie, and will even attempt to make apple ice cream.

We encourage you to sign up to volunteer in our classroom. We have different activities available for volunteers, such as listening to children read, helping with sewing, and so on.



## Kindergarten Group

The Kindergarten Group has continued to explore and learn new ideas. Our

mapping work led us to label the parts of our body. Mrs. Saint Leger and some Lower Elem. Students joined us that day to help the teams read labels and discuss the activity. You may have noticed the maroon yarn around their RIGHT hands as we learned directionality within our bodies. We then made a compass with a needle and a magnet to help us find north, south, east and west in each room. Now the north on our maps faces north, whenever we work on them. The children can also join a friend to play the "Go 2 steps north" game. There are some interesting detours and baby steps involved to avoid shelves, people and walls. In Science, we studied and had interesting discussions on living and non-living items and creatures in our world. The K's became the experts and made a chart to help teach the younger children in the room. This week they began recording work that they do in their Journals. The challenge is to sound out or draw a picture of the work they finished. We discussed abbreviations and they have become quite creative in their use of them. This week we moved our group meeting place to the back lobby and found it perfect for our needs. The group has a wonderful learning energy and is always eager to learn new things



## Greetings from Lower Elementary!

We are having a great fourth week of school. On Friday, September 9, 2011, we started swimming. All of the children were very excited and had a blast at the swimming class. As a reminder, please make sure that all of the girls have their hair pulled back or bring a hair tie to pull their hair back before class, thank you. We are looking forward to having Andy's dad, Mr. Binau, come and teach us about all types of musical instruments. We are also planning a field trip to the Binau's house to take a look at their music studio. On Friday, September 9, 2011 Zorba, our turtle, went to the vet to have his beak trimmed. Dr. Honeckman brought in pictures from Zorba's day and explained to us what happened throughout the day. We were happy to have him back! Our first LE group project will be on the Fundamental Needs of Humans. The children will be cutting out pictures of people to show that we all have the same needs across the globe.

### LE Wish List:

- Printer
  - Pencil sharpener (hand crank)
  - Digital camera
- Thanks for your help and support!



## Upper Elementary News

We are well into our study of Ancient Egypt, with several projects in process. Some students are working on making square-based pyramids out of construction paper; others are researching about the clothing used during that time and designing pieces that they will make for themselves to wear; others are looking into the history of the Pharaohs to create a timeline, and so on. Our plan is to put all of the research and projects together into a "museum" setting and invite guests to come and enjoy the fruits of our labors. We will certainly keep you updated so you can mark your calendars.

Time management continues to be a skill we work on each day. The students are required to bring their planner to each lesson and we take time to enter due dates, which are highlighted for easy reference, and to make a plan for each day's work based on those due dates. We see this as an important life skill to develop and start refining, even at this age.



Please stop by to visit – our doors are always open!

## Adolescent Class News

**We're getting literary.** Students are really enjoying our first reading book, S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*. One student was so interested after reading the first chapter that he read the entire book in one night. We're having great Literature Circles in which students probe the deeper issues of family, friendship and inter-clique struggle raised by the book.

**Social Studies** As you probably know, we've started our first business--catered lunches, and students are adjusting well to their new responsibilities. They're serving lunch with a smile, following up on customer concerns, gathering information on how students like what's been served so far, and planning future menus. We recently visited a small business in downtown Celebration, where the owner took the time to advise us on issues like product selection, marketing, and customer service. We'll be visiting other businesses in the weeks to come, all as part of our study of Celebration as a model planned community.