

AROUND THE HOUSE



OUR COMMUNITY

December is a fun month for me. By this time in the school year, I can see a new confidence in our students. School is clearly their place. They find comfort in the routine and the prepared environment. They have experienced success in their learning.

They have grown emotionally and found joy in being a friend. Watching this growth is a gift. It is a wonderful gift! It is a special gift that is only received by educators and parents.

As this is the season for not only gift receiving but also gift giving, I call upon Maria Montessori's words that the "The greatest gift we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence."

I wish many merry moments for you and your families this holiday season.

Thank you for your support! Danielle Giuseffi, Director
~Office Hours: Monday-Thursday; 7:30 to 11:30~

THANK YOU!

... the PTO for all their support!

...the School Board for all they do for our school.

...Micah and Stacie Lande for putting together our school directory.

...Shanna Miller for raking and raking and raking our leaves.

...Tony Atterberry for hauling all of the bags of leaves to the yard compost.

...Gavin Ryder for being volunteer extraordinaire and helping with outside projects.

...Morgan Olson and Brittany Malott for helping to wrap holiday gifts.

...for all of the contributions to the Harvest Feast. It made for a delicious meal enjoyed by all.

...for the gifts from Small Hands for our classrooms. We are thrilled with the new materials!

MONTESSORI MINUTE

The holiday season naturally induces feelings of goodwill and peace. Maria Montessori knew that peaceful living should be a core part of curriculum. She recognized that the child must find inner peace before being able to be peaceful with others. This comes with learning to identify and name personal feelings (e.g., "I feel upset when..."). Peace in a Montessori classroom does not mean a classroom without conflict. Conflict is a welcomed opportunity for students to practice the skills needed to resolve it.

At home, you can be a role model for peaceful living by explaining how and why peace is important. You can ensure the conversations and content (TV shows, movies, video games, books) you share promote peace. You can talk as a family about your child's place in time, culture and relationship to others.

Children can collaborate and accept each other. Children can understand that human beings are fundamentally the same and that externalities do not define a person. Wishing you and your families peace & harmony this holiday season!

"Peace is what every human being is craving for, and it can be brought about by humanity through the child." – Maria Montessori

FROM THE PRIMARY CLASSROOMS

Preschool students will be learning about migration and hibernation. We will review the seasons and learn about winter. We will learn about rectangles, ellipse, and ovals. The children will be working on a parent gift that will be coming home the last week before break. Also, slippers will be sent home over break to be washed and checked for size and condition. Your child may need their slippers replaced!

During December, Kindergartners will be learning about holiday traditions around the world along with understanding the difference between wants and needs. Also, the students and I will be reading a variety of fiction books and discussing beginning, middle, and end; as well as main character and setting for each of the books. The Kindergartners will take these concepts and in turn will work together to create a narrative story. In the previous years, the children have read this story to their families during Montessori Show-n-Tell night; this year I will send home a copy of the story to each family. Furthermore, the students are doing a great job consistently learning their new sight words and learning to fluently read their books. Thank you for helping your child to succeed!

Sincerely, Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Atterberry, Mrs. Verchio, & Mrs. Gibson

FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASSROOMS

Happy Holidays from Lower Elementary! The children enjoyed sewing turkeys with Mrs. Santoli for our Harvest Feast center pieces! It was great to see the older children assisting with the younger children and sharing their "tips" on threading a needle! The 1st and 2nd graders are building words like crazy and are really using these skills to sharpen their reading skills! It is so fun to hear them read new books! 3rd grade is busy learning all parts of speech: noun, verb, adverb, adjective, pronoun, conjunction, and preposition! They are using these tools to make their fictional stories more exciting!

All of Lower Elementary is working on learning nonfiction features. This is helping them to better use our nonfiction books as they will begin working on a small research project about an animal of their choice. Third grade will begin learning how to use the keyboard for the laptops so they may type their final copy of their research paper! We will share our research of each of our animals after we come back from Winter break! In the next month 2nd graders will be working on their subtraction and addition facts by using all of our Montessori works, such as, addition strip board, addition chart with and without numbers, subtraction strip board, subtraction chart, with and without numbers. These will help them in memorizing these facts. Third grade is working on the memorization of multiplication facts by using the Montessori multiplication peg board, multiplication chart, and long bead chains. They will also be making multiplication flash cards to use at school and at home for help in the memorization of these facts. The last two weeks before Winter break all of Lower Elementary will be learning about how different countries around the world celebrate the Holidays!

Thanks for sharing your children with us! - Mrs. Pena and Mrs. Santoli

In addition to their regular studies, the upper elementary students are planning for several projects in the spirit of the season! One is a community service project in support of Children's Home Society in Rapid City. The students want to get some of the items on their wish list, either by spending their own funds or through fundraising within their circle of family and friends. Another project is decorating a Christmas* tree with their wishes for the world, their communities, their families and friends, their classmates, and themselves. The students will also come up with a wish list for the classroom to include items that they feel they need or would like to have. Who knows, maybe magically some of the items from their wish list appear under the tree!
*This is with the knowledge that all of our current upper elementary students and their families celebrate Christmas:-)

Best wishes, Parastou

Dec 3rd , Dec 10th and Dec 17th - PTO Playground Playdate, Wilderness Park @3:10

Dec 15th – CHM Board Meeting @ 6:15 p.m.

Dec 17th – Pajama Party

Winter Break – NO SCHOOL – December 21st to January 1st; Classes Resume Monday January 4th