

Lakeshore Campus Newsletter



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Dear Parents,

I feel fortunate to be part of a great community of learners. Each day I'm able to watch children grow and achieve. I'm able to work in different classrooms, subbing, doing evaluations and observing both children and teachers. Our classes often have parents helping with reading, working on materials, sharing cultural backgrounds, special interests and volunteering when needed. All of our efforts as teachers and parents together, enable us to build a stronger school. Research shows schools with high parent participation and involvement are making greater academic and social progress. Thanks for helping to promote and encourage students and staff to work to their full potential.

We are building a strong team that will inspire children to work towards a higher level of learning and strong community awareness.

This is such an exciting time for MDS, we are looking forward to many events this spring. We will have our Open House on February 26, from 4-7 to begin our enrollment for our 2010-2011 school year. This will be the first opportunity for new families to submit their applications. During the week of February 16th, enrollment paperwork will go home with your child. Please return your enrollment papers by February 24th. We have been overwhelmed, and excited from calls and tours for next year. Thanks to so many families for sharing and supporting our program to friends and family. Our best advertising is through you!

There will be a Parent Meeting scheduled for February 18th at 6:30. We will plan for our 1st annual Spring Program and Silent Auction. We are looking for parents to help in all areas to promote a successful Auction. Please come with ideas and areas of interest to share.

Always remember if you have a concern or question, bring it to me right away. This way it can be addressed immediately.

Ms. Theresa



Your fundraising dollars at work as the kids enjoy our brand new 30ft parachute which is now available to all classes!

A Place for Everything

Adapted from Brittney Walker from Raising Arizona Kids Magazine (Jan. 2010)

Clutter becomes overwhelming when kids have too many toys. Weed through toys regularly, letting your kids identify items that no longer interest them. Have them help you organize a garage sale so they can profit from their effort or donate to help the less fortunate. It is suggested to do sweeps before birthdays and holidays to make room for the inevitable barrage of gifts.

Eliminate some of the choices by separating toys into bins that you rotate weekly, monthly or yearly. Your kids will be excited about toys they haven't seen for a while and it reduces the number of items they have to keep track of on a daily basis. The same rules apply to clothes, shoes and school papers. Less is more! The mountain of papers that come home from school each day is overwhelming and it's hard to know what to save and what to toss.

"You want to be a blessing to your kids, you don't want to be a burden," says Susan Stewart of El Mirage, a professional organizer and owner of Perfectly Placed. "If you saved everything they did at school and gave it to them at graduation, they would end up with 12 bins of paper. That's not a blessing." Stewart advises going through backpacks daily, keeping only five or six special things a year and saving them in a binder where they are easy to store and view.

Kids love to display their artwork but papers tacked all over the wall can create a cluttered feeling. Stewart urges parents to create a gallery with a bulletin board using decorative borders from a teacher supply store. Put it in the hallways or on another wall that works but keep it low so your children can hang and admire their work. Then make a rule: When a new piece of art goes up, one comes down.

Organizational tips from moms and experts

- Compartmentalize as much as possible. Use dividers, organizers, bins and shelves to create a place for everything you own. Toss or donate anything that doesn't fit in.
- Group toys by type and keep them in separate containers or baskets: balls, blocks, small figures, LEGOs, ect. (Use the same strategy for socks, underwear and folded items)
- Label toy bins with pictures of the contents so that any child (or adult!) can quickly find the right places during cleanup.
- Use a container that is the right size for its contents. If a container is too big, it will attract clutter.
- Stack shelving units no more than one or two levels high going around the room so that the top is at your child's height. That way, the larger toy (like a Matchbox garage) can sit on the top with related pieces in a bin below it.
- Rows of coffee tables can preform the same purpose as a sophisticated shelving unit. Put larger toys on table top and shove boxes underneath.
- Lower the bar in the closet. This gives children easy reach to take clothes off and put them back on hangers.
- Do you have a treasure collector? Provide a tackle box or Ziploc containers to store all special items under a bed or in a nightstand. Hanging show organizers also work.
- Keep stuffed animals under control with a toy hammock or a toy box. Have a limit to the amount of stuffed animals out at one time, then rotate them periodically.

A Place for Everything (Cont'd)

Organization - the Montessori way

Walk into a Montessori classroom and you're struck by the attention given to organization. Materials are arranged neatly on shelves, at a child's eye level and in deliberate order: small to big, short to tall, simple to complex, concrete to abstract. Each individual material has a specific spot, and each child is expected to return it to its proper place.

Maria Montessori was a physician and educator who spent much of her life observing children, basing her educational methods on children's ability for self-directed learning. She found that adapting the child's learning environment to his or her developmental level - particularly from ages 3 to 9 - and presenting accessible materials to capture his or her interest, sparked a love of learning and encouraged independence.

Children at this age crave a sense of order. This age is a crucial time to establish sound organization habits and routines. This helps sow the seeds for future levels of responsibility, like homework.

School News

Spelling Bee

The Elementary Classes had their Spelling Bee on January 11th & 12th. We are proud of every student in Elementary...they each participated & tried their best. This year's winners were:

- 1st Grade - Ryanh Morales & Bethany Adams
- 2nd Grade - Luciano Mendez & Emmanuel Prado
- 3rd Grade - Amber Faizi
- 4th Grade - Minerva So
- 5th Grade - Leia Dyste

Overall School Winner - Ryanh Morales. Ryanh will advance to the District level and have the opportunity to represent our school on Feb. 19th.

Congratulations to all our Elementary students.



Facebook

We now have a page on Facebook (Montessori Day Schools - Lakeshore). This is a way for you to stay in touch with events going on at our school and current/past MDS families.

Grade Level News



Toddlers

Happy New Year to everyone! With this New Year we have had to say goodbye to our friends Jaydon, Lorelai and Finn as they moved up and on to the Primary classroom. We wish them well and good luck in this next phase of their life! However, we have had hardly any time to miss them because we were fortunate to have the addition of two new students in our classroom during January, with another starting in February! A special welcome to our new families. During January and moving into February, we have been practicing all 26 letter sounds along with writing letters A-H. Each

student has been learning how to recognize, trace and print the first letter of their name. In addition to our letter work, we have been learning the names of continents with the help of songs and music along with practicing writing numbers 0-5. The children have been so busy having fun and learning so far in this school year with more fun and learning to come!

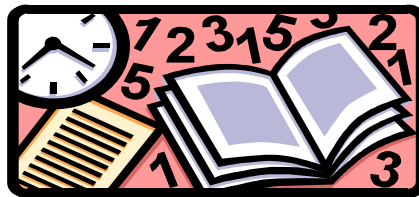
Primary I & II

We welcomed in 2010! The Primary classes have been working hard in all subject areas, showing increasing focus every week. This month we are exploring country names, animals and music of Africa. Ms. Mai has shared her stories and artifacts from Somalia and Ms. Jill has shared some from Nigeria. We learned about Martin Luther King Jr. and why this man was special enough to have a holiday named after him. We are also focusing on time and money with activities in each. Learning external body parts, reviewing bone names and learning some internal organs is helping set the tone for the Kindergarten field trip we had on February 2nd. It was a great show and I think everyone learned a little something about how our body works!

Reminders: Be sure to check the snack schedule and be aware of when your week to bring snack is. When it is your week, please have the entire list in by Monday morning as we use this week for snack for your child's entire class. Also, be aware of how many students your items will need to cover. Primary I has 35 students and Primary II has 22.

Jackets! Please be sure to take your child's jacket home daily as we have limited space for all the jackets brought to school.

Kindergarten Parents - "Memory Day" is on Mondays. Each student is sent home with a list on Tuesday in their homework folder to be practiced with all week. You may use many different fun activities to practice spelling words like using crayons in the bathtub or spelling in the dirt!



Junior Elementary

The Junior Elementary class is wrapping up a great month studying about the Arctic regions. One of the things we have been working on is a mural about Canada and the Polar Regions. This month we were fortunate to have a guest speaker, Ms. Julie, who had participated in a marathon in Antarctica. There she saw many penguins in their own habitat and she was happy to share her photos with us. It was a great culmination to a week we had spent focusing on penguins. Ms. Julie enjoyed seeing our penguins the class made in our Monart session. We have done several Monart lessons now producing many different animals including snowy owls, seals and hedgehogs. With each lesson, the children have become more confident.

Our author of the month was Patricia Polacco. Ms Mim, who helps us with reading, read one of Patricia Polacco's books to the class. The students are always so excited to read to her and this time she had the opportunity to read to them.

During January, our class enjoyed participating in the Spelling Bee! Everyone did wonderful and we are proud to have one of our students, Ryanh Morales represent our school in the district bee on February 19.

We were studying fairy tales this past month. The book reports the students have done on a fairy tale of their choice have been great. Also in the month of January, we were listening to songs by Rodgers and Hammerstein from their well-known musicals. We even were able to view more movie clips of the songs in class.

February will be our Poetry Month as we read and write poetry. Mexico and Central America will be our Geography focus. We are looking forward to our Bodyology field trip on February 3rd.

Senior Elementary

Artist: Latin American Art (Pre-Columbian Art...Maya, Inca, Aztec)

Composer: Latin American Composers (Steel drums)

Character: Honesty

Author: Jerry Spinelli (Feb. 1)

Language: Pronoun, Possessive & Sing/Plural

History: Egyptians

Geography: Mexico & Cent. Amer.

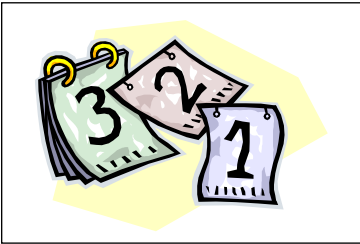
Science: Reptiles

Math: Patterning

Other: African American History

Field Trip: Orpheum Theatre: Bodyology (Feb. 3)

Bodyology is a 1 hour theatrical show that explores the inner workings of the human body along with the health practices required to care for it. The National Bodyology Tour is an exciting new Musical Show starring PBS's Slim Goodbody.



Upcoming Events

February

- 12 District In-Service – No School – No Extended Care
15 President’s Day – No School – No Extended Care
22 – 26 No Activities (except for Spanish & French who will make up for missed class on President’s Day)
24 Early Release at 11:30**
(Extended Care for students currently enrolled in extended day or all day programs)
*** DO NOT bring a lunch unless your child is staying for extended care.
26 Open House 4:00

March

- 9 Spring Pictures
15 - 19 Spring Break**
(Extended Care for students currently enrolled in extended day or all day programs)

*** Only students enrolled in the Extended Day or All Day programs are eligible*

Reminder: If you haven’t done so already, get your Fry’s grocery store card linked for the Cool Ca\$h Earning for Learning program. Go to www.montessoridayschools.org to print out a fundraiser form (or stop by the office for a copy). On your next shopping trip to Fry’s, present the form to the cashier for scanning. After this, every time you scan your Fry’s card, a part of every purchase you make will be automatically deposited in the school’s account. Once we reach a certain limit, Fry’s will send the school a check!



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