



PBMS Newsletter

October, 1st 2009



October 2009				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2 Pizza Day
5 Sally Foster Due	6 Open House 9:30am	7	8 Pizza Day	9 Teacher Professional Day No School
12 Columbus Day School & Office Closed	13	14 Picture Day	15	16 Favorite Color Day Pizza Day
19	20 Chevy's Restaurant Night	21	22	23 Grandparents & Special Friends Day Pizza Day
26	27	28	29	30 Fall Celebration & Pumpkin Patch Day Pizza Day

~ Maria Montessori Quote

“Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed.”

Sally Foster Is Due – Monday, October 5th

On *Monday, October 5th*, Sally Foster orders must be turned into the school. The school will still earn profit from any on-line orders placed after the due date. Please encourage family and friends to order some quality wrapping paper. Our school on-line account number is **506908**.

Open House – Tuesday, October 6th

PBMS will be hosting an Open House on *Tuesday, October 6th* at 9:30am. If you know of any family, friends or neighbors looking for a school, please let them know about our Open House. They should call the school office to reserve their spot.

Picture Day – Wednesday, October 14th

Stone Photography will be coming to Paint Branch Montessori School on Wednesday, October 14th. These are not your average school photos. The photographers from Stone Photography take their time to get the best shot from all our students. Class pictures and individual pictures will be taken on this date. The photographer has asked us to communicate the following information to you:

- All students will have their picture taken (both the class picture and the individual poses).
- Payment for the pictures is collected from all students before the date of the shoot.
- Parents will have two days to review the pictures when they come in and may return the **unopened** picture packet if they are not satisfied. The check previously submitted will be returned to the parent.
- Weather permitting; the pictures will be taken outside in a nature setting.

The packet includes the following items:

- (1) 5 x 7 Class Photo
- (2) 4 x 5 Individual Photos
- (4) Wallet Size Photos

The cost of the packet is \$47.00 and all checks should be made payable to Paint Branch Montessori School. Please submit the payment by Thursday, October 8th. If you have any questions, please call the school office.

Favorite Color Day – Friday, October 16th

The whole school is invited to participate in Favorite Color Day on, *Friday, October 16th*. Come to school dressed in all your favorite colors.

Restaurant Night – Tuesday, October 20th

Our first restaurant night will be on *Tuesday, October 20th*. The event will take place at Chevy's restaurant in Greenbelt, Maryland. Chevy's will donate 20% of the proceeds from this night to our school. A flyer with more details will be e-mailed closer to this event. This is always a very fun night and a great opportunity to meet up with school families!

Grandparents & Special Friends Day – Friday, October 23rd

On *Friday, October 23rd*, we would like to invite all PBMS Grandparents and special family friends to come and observe the wonderful Montessori learning that goes on in our school. The event will begin with classroom observation time from 10:00am to 10:45am. A special tea will be served in the Kelley Room from 10:45am to 11:45am. We look forward to sharing this exciting morning with you. RSVP by Monday, October 19th.

Fall Celebration & Pumpkin Patch Day – Friday, October 30th

Friday, October 30th, will be our Fall Celebration and Pumpkin Patch Day. Family and friends are invited to join us for our assembly in the Kelley Room at 9:15am.

Following the assembly, the Kindergarten and Elementary students will go to the Hillhaven Assisted Living Center and parade through the halls singing Halloween songs for the residents. Family and friends are welcome to attend this event.

Pumpkin Patch Day activities will begin for the Toddler and Primary students, following the assembly.

The festivities will end with classroom parties. Sign up sheets for the classroom parties will be posted by Wednesday, October 21st. Classroom parties are for students only.

The costume theme for the Kindergarten and Elementary students is Asia. The costume theme for the Primary and Toddler students is Story Book Characters.

PBMS Costume Policy:

- We have a “no weapons” policy for all costumes.
- Toddler and Primary students should have costumes without masks. It is very difficult for the younger children to walk while wearing masks.
- All Toddler and Primary students should bring a change of clothes to school on the 30th.
- For the Toddler and Primary students, please be sure your child’s costume is easily removable for them to be able to use the restroom.
- Please remember that students will be parading around in their costumes all morning so walking shoes are recommended.

Box Tops For Education ~ Karla Kramer

For the 3rd straight year, PBMS is participating in Box Tops for Education. My name is Karla Kramer, and my son Lucas is in his 3rd year at PBMS as well - in Primary 2/3. I am the coordinator for our Box Tops for Education fundraiser again this school year and I'm excited to raise as much cash for the school as we can through this relatively easy fundraiser. Here's how it works.

1 - As PBMS parents, you and your children collect and cut out the Box Tops for Education labels on qualifying items. Several times during the school year, I will send an email reminder to ask you to turn in all of the box tops that you have collected. I submit them en masse to Box Tops, and the school gets a check a couple times a year. The more we collect, the more we make. Last year we made about \$150.00.

2 - Shop at the Box Tops Marketplace from a variety of vendors, and they donate a percentage of your purchase to PBMS. Go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Marketplace> to see all the vendors this year. There are quite a few! To get started, go to the Box Tops site <http://www.boxtops4education.com/AboutBoxTops/>. Click Sign up now, and you will be guided through selecting PBMS as your school, and creating a user name and password. Once signed up, you can simply log in and start shopping.

For returning families, please bring in any box tops you have collected over the summer by 10/1 to the school office. For new families, start clipping. We'll have another collection before the holidays. There's a collection bin in the office.

Let me know if you have any questions via email (kkwashburn@hotmail.com) or phone (301 439-9460). Thanks in advance for all your support!

Hand Shaking Update

In view of maintaining good health for all, we are suspending ‘hand-shaking’ as of now. Hopefully this will reduce cross-infection. Please help us to keep the PBMS community as healthy as possible.

PBMS Parent Looking to Carpool

Anitha Menon who has a daughter, Anjeli, in the Lower Elementary is looking to carpool with another family living in the Laurel area. If you are interested, please contact Anitha at 301-497-4430 or menonanitha@hotmail.com.

Thoughts on a Rainy Day ~ Mrs. Grover

On a rainy Sunday afternoon when I was rushing to grab some stuff for the week, I heard a tentative ‘hello’. As I turned around to face the sound, the smiling lady said, ‘I’m Khari’s mom.’ And I said to her that of course I recognize her!! She was the parent of one of our very first group of 6th graders. He is now a junior at Pallotti, a prestigious, private, Catholic school in Laurel.

Our conversation turned to how she wants to do something for our school because she loves us...that is Mrs. Singh and I because we are the two sisters who were so good!! Mrs. Singh had the good fortune to teach Khari, when he was younger at another local Montessori School and then again in grade 4 at our school, Paint Branch Montessori.

What I heard next was how pleased they were with Mrs. Singh and me because we had done so much for her and the school. There was a brief discussion about how she could come to the Book Fair and buy books or attend other events and somehow ‘do something for the school’.

This is the legacy and the love we want to create with our work at PBMS.

Please do stop and chat with us as we live our lives in this common community. Be it Chipotle or Target or Safeway...do stop us and say hello!

We love to hear about our children’s’ successes as they move away from us.

~ Maria Montessori Quote

“We especially need imagination in science. It is not all mathematics, nor all logic, but it is somewhat beauty and poetry.”



Toddler Class ~ Ms. Sudarma

I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer. I welcome all students to our school.

Two to four year olds are in a Sensitive period of learning. So I am delighted to see how my toddlers are settling into their classroom routines.

We have worked with the materials for sensorial and practical life. My students enjoy building the Pink Tower and Brown Stair. We have been reading about plants and animals in our reading time.

Developing fine motor coordination by exercising and using hand muscles is of great importance for the Toddlers, as they prepare for writing. To this end, we do extensive work on sensorial exercises. Please encourage your Toddler to help and work with you at home.

We will start the month of October by learning about autumn and our projects will be about autumn and Halloween.

Thank you for your warm welcome into the PBMS family. Let’s make this a great school year together.

Primary Room 4 Class ~ Ms. Joan & Ms. Saira

We have had a wonderful September and now onto October! As we complete our first month of school, PBMS is ablaze with the sounds of happy children and the ever-changing beauty of our creek and surroundings!

I want to name Room 4's Primary Class, the 'Busy Beavers'. In four short weeks these 'Busy Beavers' have become accustomed to being in school, have learned their classroom routines, and have learned some new songs. Ms. Saira is teaching some of the songs in Spanish. Best of all, the children have had lots of time to interact with each other! Our class pet, Bingo, a painted turtle, absolutely loves all the attention he's getting from his eager admirers. When they come in to greet him (sometimes before the teachers!), he swims over to them, opening and closing his mouth in hopes of the food they like to give him. This is a daily job, and they all vie for this position. Fortunately, the job chart on the wall let's them know which day is their turn.

Our lessons on grace and courtesy are starting to take shape. I hear a lot of please and thank you from the children, as well as, excuse me, please. We practice walking in a line and walking in the classroom, along with good table manners at snack and lunch. Independence is beginning to come through in how they set up their own lunches and clean up after. Please give them the opportunity to do this as much as possible at home. It gives them such a sense of accomplishment. When they have a spill at lunch, they quickly get their napkin and start to mop it up. If and when this happens at home, please give them a towel and see how well they work!

My favorite season is here and we are beginning our lessons on leaves and the changing weather. We have a daily weather watch to see what kind of day it is. The reporters in the class let us know if it's windy or sunny. We will study animals as we classify them into – vertebrate or invertebrate, mammal or reptile. Above all, we are enjoying the learning process and enjoying making new friends!

Primary Room 2/3 Class ~ Mrs. Singh & Ms. Hamdi

“Free the child's potential, and you will transform him into the world”

~ Maria Montessori

Welcome back to school! It has been so good to see all the returning children and parents again after the summer break! We are also having a good time welcoming our new friends to the classroom. Everyone has been working on remembering their classroom routines. Our returning friends have also been working very hard on helping our new classmates learn about the classroom.

We have been working on Grace and Courtesy lessons such as rolling a rug, walking around a person's workspace and remembering to say please and thank you. The children have been working diligently on being responsible for their own belongings. And everyone has been doing an amazing job of placing their lunchbox on the shelf.

The children are learning about table etiquette at lunchtime as they sit down to a formal lunch with tablecloths and placemats. We are also slowly turning into a 'green' class room with the children recycling their drink bottles, pudding cups etc. It's very cute to see them look for the green triangular recycling sign on their disposables. Parents please do follow this up at home too. Cleaning after lunch is also something the children are learning to do with great enjoyment!

In Geography, we started discussing the world by introducing the concept of air, land and water. Along with the continent song, the children are also learning the names of the seven continents.

In Science, we have been discussing living and non-living and the special qualities and differences between animals and plants. We have also talked about seasons and weather.

In Practical Life, we are working with season related objects, like apples, leaves, and seeds. The children have received lessons on pouring and transferring activities in particular. They are also enjoying eating individual snack. Our focus this month has been the Practical Life area where we have been reinforcing the work cycle. We have presented a variety of activities to strengthen fine motor control. They have been learning to use scoops, spoons, ladles and tongs. Practical Life teaches children to be independent and successful in their daily living skills, as it prepares them for later writing and other hand-brain related activities.

In Art, we are learning about colors and lines along with lessons on art materials and art procedures. Music, Cooking and PE have also started in full form.

Next month we are going to focus on North America, vertebrates, autumn, more grace and courtesy and Halloween.

Kindergarten & Lower Elementary Class ~ Ms. Verma & Ms. Jasmine

“Any child who is self - sufficient, who can tie his shoes, dress or undress himself, reflects in his joy and sense of achievement the image of human dignity, which is derived from a sense of independence”
~ Maria Montessori

A very warm welcome to everyone from all of us in the Kindergarten and Lower Elementary room. As time progresses, the class is settling to the routines of the day. After doing lots of fun-filled back-to-school activities and grace and courtesy lessons, the children were ready to get to work.

The year began with a BIG BANG, literally. The children were fascinated and excited as the Great Lesson “The Big Bang,” was introduced to them. The story was narrated in a dark room where the children sat huddled together, ready for the suspense and drama to begin. A light was flashed suddenly and a black balloon burst as the glitter scattered all around, representing the Universe. It took a while for the children to come back to reality!

The follow up work for the Lower Elementary students included illustrating the Big Bang and writing sentences to narrate the story in their own words. Thus, art and language were interwoven with this great lesson. It was followed by lessons on galaxies with special reference to the Milky Way, the Solar System and the Timeline of Life on Earth.

We looked at the Earth as a sphere and talked about it being composed of land, water and air also known as lithosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere, respectively. The children have also been introduced to the structure of the earth. We also discussed the three states of matter and the children saw how these states can change their form with a change in temperature. We have been discussing the differences between living and non living and plants and animals. For our plant study, we went for a nature hike and collected acorns. The children loved seeing parts of the plant-roots, stem, seed, leaf and flower during their hike. We have also been talking of weather and seasons and have been looking for signs of early fall.

There is a lot of math and language material out on the rugs throughout the day. The lesson on fractions was a great hit because of the delicious lemon cake which was cut into fractions! The chains, golden bead material, strip board and movable alphabet are a treat to see when they are being used by the children.

The specials have started and so have the spelling books and math facts. We are hoping to have a great school year.

Upper Elementary Class ~ Mrs. Grover & Mr. Parsa

A year of epic proportions...five of our 'babies' will graduate!

We started off the new school year with a great deal of excitement at seeing each other. Besides our chatting and socializing, we had to face reality pretty soon. We are here to challenge ourselves in a myriad of ways and learn and learn some more!

We have the full complement of grades this year from grade 3 to grade 6.

Math took us to meet our old friends...math facts, then into word problems, measurements of weight and volume as well as decimals and geometry.

In Language, we worked with 11 kinds of nouns, as well as adjectives and 4 kinds of sentences. Our usual work with Reading Club, Language Readers, Social Studies/Communities is going very well. All these pieces of work involve reading practice, comprehension, and learning how to respond to different sorts of questions/scenarios/genres.

Cultural studies took us to the Big-Bang; follow up lessons, Birth and Death of Stars, Solar System, Galaxies etc. We worked with the Timeline of Life, Asia, its mythology, its countries and capitals. We also cooked Thai Fried Rice and Pad Thai Noodles.

Our Specials are going well as the children get back into the PBMS routine of lots of work (and home work!) and oodles of fun.