

PAINT BRANCH MONTESSORI

December Newsletter



Important December Events

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”

~ Anne Bradstreet
(American Poet)

Pajama Day - Friday, December 10th

All students are welcome to participate in Pajama Day. Roll out of bed, no need to get dressed, just come to school in your warm, comfy pajamas.



Along and Potluck dinner on *Thursday, December 16th* from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in the Community Hall. Bring a dish to share and come and join in the holiday fun. The sign up sheet will be e-mailed next week.

Half Day - Friday, December 17th

Friday, December 17th, will be an 11:45am dismissal. There will be no After Care.

Winter Break - Monday, December 20th - Friday, December 31st

The school will be closed *Monday, December 20th through Friday, December 31st* for winter break. Classes will resume on Monday, January 3rd.



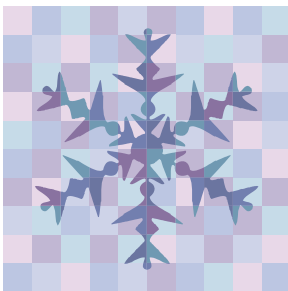
Holiday Sing-Along & Potluck - Thursday, December 16th

We invite all our families to join us for our Holiday Sing-

Class Room Holiday Celebrations - Friday, December 17th

Classroom celebrations will be on *Friday, December 17th*. Sign up sheets for food items to bring will be e-mailed to each class by December 10th.

Happy New Year!



Adopt A Family



This year we are pleased to announce that we have again registered with the House of Ruth to adopt a family for the holidays. The wishlist made by our family, was e-mailed on Thursday. All gifts must be **new, unwrapped** and must be brought to the school by Tuesday, December 14th.

We are looking for a volunteer to deliver the gifts to the House of Ruth administrative offices on Thursday, December 16th between 9:00am to 7:00pm, Friday, December 17th between 9:00am to 6:00pm or Saturday, December 18th between 10:00am – 1:00pm. Please let us know if you can help out.

The address is:
House of Ruth Administrative Office
2201 Argonne Drive
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Winter Clothing

Reminder:

We need all students to have cold weather coats, hats and mittens for outside play. We will go out every-day unless it is below freezing.

Please make sure your child has a complete change of clothes, including socks in their backpack. Please check this daily.



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Primary Room 1/2 News Ms. Sudarma, Ms. Hamdi & Ms. Magda



Thanksgiving holidays are always exciting for families! As the Paint Branch Montessori family, we had a great Thanksgiving feast and it brought all of us together as a family. After the break, we were delighted to see the smiling faces of all our children as they returned with great energy and joy.

As the theme for our class was *Turkey*, all the kids were involved in making a turkey with their foot and hand

prints. We read the story "Stone Soup". The story taught the students the important lesson about giving and sharing. We all did the hands-on activity of making the stone soup and all the students enjoyed it.



and about polar region animals. As the winter holidays are coming up, we will have the winter celebration and that will be our last event for the 2010 year. All the kids have shown significant improvements over the past few months and I'm personally impressed with their great achievements. We all wish you a happy and prosperous New Year!



For December, we are planning on learning about the Arctic region

Primary Room 4/5 News Mrs. Singh & Ms. Joan

"One kind word can warm three winter months."

~ Japanese proverb



I hope everyone had a delightful and filling Thanksgiving! The children came back with stories of some mighty delicious sounding meals and lots of wonderful family time! It's great to be back together. Everyone was very eager to get back to work and be with their friends!



In December, we will begin our cultural approach to learning about the holidays. Since

children learn more by participating in the subject being taught, we will experience, in a celebratory and informational way, the holidays of Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. The customs of each of these holidays will be presented in a secular way. We want the children to be



aware of the differences in how people celebrate. There will be no strong emphasis on any one part of these holidays, but the children will have hands-on experience with Menorahs, Christmas trees, Kwanzaa candles, etc. If any one would like to come in and share something about these holidays, or a different holiday, please talk to Ms. Rebecca. Any new source of information is welcome!



Our travels this month are to the cold regions of the Arctic and Antarctica. There will be some fun lessons on how animals can survive in such cold environments!

We will also explore the world of reptiles! We have had a few non-living varieties visit the classroom. Bingo, our living painted turtle, will

make his way back to the classroom after the winter holidays. He may come in and spend a day with us this month so we can study a reptile up close. He's looking forward to coming in as much as the children are excited about having him return to the classroom. I am looking for a table with the dimensions of at least 40" L x 20"W and sturdy enough to hold a 60 gallon tank. If you have one or know of where to find something like this, and would be willing to lend or sell to me, please give Ms. Rebecca a call and I'll get back to you about it. Thanks for your help!





As a friendly reminder, please have the children bring in their hats and gloves or mittens (preferable mittens for younger children) every day from now on. It is cold outside and we are trying to keep everyone healthy for the holidays. Also, I have noticed that these items have not been marked with their

names. When the children drop them somewhere other than their own classroom, it makes identifying the owner of the item very difficult if they are not labeled. Thank you so much for your cooperation in this.

I hope everyone has seen the new playground equip-



ment! What a delight it is to see the children play on it! Many skills have already been learned and their sense of accomplishment is very evident by the smiles and announcements of "look at me!"

Happy Holidays to you all from all of us!



Elementary News

Mrs. Grover, Ms. Jasmine & Ms. Dana

The month of November was filled with further establishing our routines of becoming independent learners. I could list all the lessons we have done and that would not be a complete picture because you would not see the myriad ways our Elementary children learn and grow before our very eyes. In preparing to discuss our progress reports, we meet with our students to go over their personal impressions versus our goals and expectations for them, based on their own learning needs. It never fails to impress me that the candor, honesty, and integrity exhibited by our students is far beyond their age, in all cases. The event planning that the students do for Thanksgiving lunch for the whole school is amazing. Of course, as adults, we help them. From cooking for the Thanksgiving Lunch, to giving thanks, looking after the 'guests', and from setting up to packing up is their responsibility!! And I am so proud to report that,

each year, we have been very impressed by the way our students conduct themselves.



The holiday season is here but the fun and games continue alongside the rigorous

math mornings and the language, poetry, grammar, social studies, and science lessons. This month will take us to a theater show as well as pajama day and lots of seasonal learning associated with the various holiday celebrations. We continue to work with Verbs, Adverbs, directions, measurements of time/length, Personal time lines, various operations with math material, the Geometric Drawers, leaves, art creations and much more.

At each level, the Upper Elementary do more advanced and more independent work. They also help the younger ones with their work, as well as give occasional lessons!! Indeed the older chil-

dren are the best examples of how Montessori 'really works'. Please do drop in and see this magical learning environment, especially if you have young students here. I can guarantee, you will be duly impressed!!

From our family to yours, may your holidays be happy and joyful.



"The hands are the instruments of man's intelligence"

~ Maria Montessori



December 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2	3 Pizza Day
6	7 Hanukkah Assembly	8 Lower Elementary Field Trip	9	10 Pajama Day Pizza Day
13	14	15	16 Holiday Sing-Along & Potluck Dinner 6pm Pizza Day	17 Classroom Celebrations Half Day 11:45 Dismissal
20 Winter Break	21 Winter Break	22 Winter Break	23 Winter Break	24 Winter Break
27 Winter Break	28 Winter Break	29 Winter Break	30 Winter Break	31 Winter Break

Box Tops & Market Place

This is a friendly reminder that the holiday season is the perfect time to utilize the Market Place on the Box Tops for Education website for your holiday purchases. As you may recall, the Market Place allows you to earn box tops for education points when you shop online at your favorite stores. Some of these stores include: Barnes and Noble, Target, Babies R Us, and Best Buy (just to name a few!) Go to www.boxtops4education.com/Marketplace to learn more.

Also, I will be doing another collection of Box Tops for Education labels before classes are dismissed for winter break. Please bring in any Box Top for Education labels you have by Tuesday, December 14. Our October collection totaled- \$35.50! We are more than half way to achieving our goal of \$125 for the school year. You can leave your Box Tops for Education labels in the collection box, which is located by the sign in book or give them to Rebecca Guyot or to me - Jennifer Kole.

Thanks again for your support in our program! Happy Holidays!

~ Jennifer Kole