



PBMS Newsletter

February 2nd, 2010



February 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2 Open House Haiti Fundraiser Bake Sale	3 Haiti Fundraiser \$1.00 donations & Bake Sale Continued	4 Haiti Fundraiser School Breakfast	5 Haiti Fundraiser Carry Out Dinner & 1 st Raffle Drawn Pizza Day
8	9 Haiti Fundraiser Special Student Lunch	10 Haiti Fundraiser Loose Change Donations	11 Valentine's Celebrations Pizza Day Parent Child Night	12 Parent Teacher Conferences No School for Students Day Camp Offered
15 School & Office Closed in honor of President's Day	16 Elementary: Field Trip National Geographic Museum	17	18 Elementary: County Reports Presentation 1:00pm	19 Spanish Assembly 9:15am Pizza Day
22	23	24 Art Show Opening	25 Art Show	26 Multicultural Day Pizza Day

~ Maria Montessori

"The work of education is divided between the teacher and the environment."

Haiti Fundraising

The grade six students and the PBMS community are going to host some special events to help the earthquake victims in Haiti.

Schedule of Events:

- Tuesday, February 2nd & Wednesday, February 3rd – Bake Sale
- Wednesday, February 3rd – All students to bring in a \$1.00 donation
- Thursday, February 4th – School Community Breakfast
- Friday, February 5th – Carry Out Dinner
- Friday, February 5th – 1st Raffle Drawn
- Tuesday, February 9th – Special student lunch
- Wednesday, February 10th – Donate loose change

Valentine's Day Celebrations – Thursday, February 11th

On *Thursday, February 11th*, each classroom will hold its Valentine's Day celebration. Classroom party sign up lists will be posted inside the school entrance starting on *Wednesday, February 3rd*.

If your child is going to hand out Valentines, we ask that they bring enough Valentines to handout to each student and teacher in their class. **Please do not bring any candy.** If your child wants to bring in a goody bag for their classmates, please make sure that each student receives the same items. It can be very upsetting to the children if only certain students receive a special gift.

For ease of handing out cards, please do not address the Valentine cards. Students should simply sign their names.

Listed below are the number of students and teachers in each program.

Toddler & Primary Room 4 – 15 students & 3 teachers (Ms. Joan, Ms. Sudarma & Ms. Magda)

Kindergarten & Primary Room 2/3 – 27 students & 3 teachers (Mrs. Singh, Ms. Jasmine & Ms. Hamdi)

Lower Elementary – 6 students & 1 teacher (Ms. Verma)

Upper Elementary – 10 students & 2 teachers (Mrs. Grover & Mr. Parsa)

Parent Child Night – Thursday, February 11th

On *Thursday, February 11th*, PBMS will be hosting Parent Child Night from 6:00 – 8:00pm. This is always one of the favorite times of the year for the students and their parents. Primary, Kindergarten and Elementary families will be invited to their child's classroom where students will present their favorite Montessori material.

In order to accommodate all the students, we will have two sessions of 45 minutes each. You will receive an e-mail on *Monday, February 8th* informing you of the time you have been scheduled to come in with your child. Siblings are welcome to attend this family event.

Parent Teacher Conferences – Friday, February 12th

Parent teacher conferences will be held on *Friday, February 12th* for Primary, Kindergarten and Elementary students. Parents will be required to sign up for a conference time. Sign up sheets will be available by *Wednesday, February 3rd*. School will be closed but we will be offering Day Camp. Please note we do not have the facilities to look after children if they accompany you on Conference Day. Day Camp may not be used to drop off children while you attend your conference.

School Closed/Day Camp - Friday, February 12th

- The Half Day camp will run from 7:30am to 12:30pm and will cost \$45.00.
- The Full Day camp will run from 7:30am to 6:00pm and will cost \$70.00.
- The sign up sheet will be posted on *Wednesday, February 3rd*.
- You must sign up and pay for Day Camp by *Wednesday, February 10th*.
- We need to have at least 8 students sign up in order to run the Day Camp.

School & Office Closed – Monday, February 15th

On *Monday, February 15th*, the school and office will be closed in honor of President's Day.

Country Reports Presentations – Thursday, February 18th

The Elementary students have been researching an Asian country of their choice and on *Thursday, February 18th*, you are invited to join us for their presentations. We hope you will come and support all the hard work our Elementary students have done in preparing their reports and displays. We will start our presentations at 1:00pm.

Spanish Assembly – Friday, February 19th

The Spanish Assembly will be on *Friday, February 19th* at 9:15am in the Kelley Room. This assembly will feature all our students. Family and friends are invited to come and see these talented linguists in action.

Art Show Opening – Wednesday, February 24th

Please join us for our Art Show Opening on *Wednesday, February 24th*, from 5:00 – 6:00pm. Refreshments will be served and you will have a chance to meet some of the artists.

Art Show – Wednesday, February 24th – Thursday, February 25th

Family and friends are invited to come and see the wonderful art projects the PBMS students have created. The art work will be on exhibit from *Wednesday, February 24th through Thursday, February 25th*. The show will feature items from all the PBMS students. Student's artwork will be on sale.

Multicultural Day – Friday, February 26th

This year, Multicultural Day will feature Asian countries. On *Friday, February 26th*, we will celebrate the rich heritage of many of our staff as we read, play games and organize activities for the PBMS students.

Communication

If you need to speak with your child's teacher regarding a classroom matter please call the office and leave a message and the teacher will return your call within 24 hours. If you have other school questions please address them to the office. Please do not talk with teachers when they are in Before or After Care or when they are doing arrival or dismissal at the front door. During these times the students are their number one concern. Please pay careful attention to this school regulation.

Medication

All medication must be kept in the school office. This also includes chapstick and lotions.

Babysitting Services

Ms. Magda, who is a Primary assistant in our school, can provide babysitting services as you need. Please contact her at 301-358-3832.

~ Chinese Proverb

“Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand.”



Teacher Updates



Primary Room 4 & Toddler Class ~ Ms. Joan

January's curriculum started out with books and conversations about winter. Before the holidays, the students put a dried corn cob outside for the squirrels. When we returned from the break, the children discovered the corn half eaten, which prompted a lesson on how animals need help finding food when there is snow on the ground.

In Geography, we studied Africa by locating the continent on the globe and learning how to put the puzzle map together. The African animals came 'alive' with the children's rendition of the animal sounds.

Science took us to Reptile lessons, our next group of vertebrates. Reptiles hold a strong fascination for the children, as there is something very thrilling about the sharp teeth of an alligator to the large size of dinosaurs of years ago! Our turtle, Bingo, helped with the lessons on reptiles. To show how reptiles have scales rather than fur, Bingo 'donated' some of his sloughed-off scales for them to see. We now sing the morning 'doa' song to Bingo!

Practical Life has more water pouring exercises to increase eye-hand coordination, pouring skills, as well as fine motor skills. One of the favorite exercise has been in the Sensorial Life area with a color mixing exercise. Each time a new color is made, the look of amazement on the student's face is priceless.

Language learning has taken a tremendous growth spurt. We are working on recognition of opposites with sound and picture cards and pattern making. Our favorite activities in language development are to role play the story of the three little pigs, and to act out the story of "Going on a Bear Hunt."

In music class, our 2 and 3 year olds stood up individually and sang their favorite song to the class! Even the quietest students took part!

We joined Mrs. Singh's class in cooking Somalian cookies with Ms. Hamdi. Thank you very much, Mrs. Hamdi! Nurah's dad played African drums for all of us. Thank you to Mr. Williams.

We'll be exploring Asia in February as we celebrate Valentine's Day and the Chinese New Year. A study of birds will be next in our study of vertebrates. If anyone has a particular hobby or interest in something from Asia and would like to share it with the class, please call the office.

Thank you to everyone for all the pennies brought in for the Pennies for Peace program. So far, the amount of \$45.00 has been collected. That was just one week of collecting! The container will be in the front of the school for a while. Please encourage your children to continue to help the poor children in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Room 4 has been bringing in their own pennies to the classroom and seem very eager to do their part. We will also do our part in helping in the activities to raise funds for the victims in Haiti. All of us appreciate everyone's efforts in these good causes! We are blessed by your support!

Kindergarten & Primary Room 2/3 ~ Mrs. Singh

“The child is truly a miraculous being, and this should be felt deeply by the educator.”

~ **Dr. Montessori**

The children came back from their vacations ready to get back to work exploring new practical life and sensorial activities. They also got into enriching their vocabulary by learning the names of different materials in the classroom like the geometric solids, geometric boxes and the brown stairs. The concept of big and small, thick and thin, big, bigger and biggest was reinforced with the work with all the materials. The children are also working with the sandpaper letters, which is a great visual and concrete phonetic learning of the alphabet. Some students are even using the movable alphabet to make three letter phonetic words! The older children who have recently discovered their reading abilities are busy reading sight words and blends. It is a delight to see them read. This explosion into reading is every Montessori teacher's dream for her students!

In Math, we are working with the number rods, cards and counters, colored beads, the golden beads and addition strip board. For those who are ready, we are working with the division and multiplication boards. Time was introduced at circle when we learned about the minute and the hour hands.

In Cultural, we are learning about reptiles and to make the learning more concrete, we brought “Bingo” in from Ms. Joan's room. The children loved it! Our continent this month is “Africa” and we had Nurah's dad play awesome music for us with a variety of African drums. We also sang to the beat under his direction. Her mom came in wearing a neat African outfit and they shared some cool pictures of Kenya with us. Thank you Mr. and Ms. Williams for the fun time. Thank you Ms. Agormeda (Teddy's and Davynn's mom) for the African meat pies. Ms. Hamdi made Somalian cookies called “Mendesa” with the children. They were scrumptious! We are also learning about winter and the weather.

Game day was a big success. Some of the little people preferred to do their regular work instead of playing games, which was really cute to watch. David's dad brought in awesome Lego creations. Thank you Mr. Simon for sharing the Lego creations with us!

Our unit of study next month is Asia. The Kindergarteners went to a Chinese buffet to taste Asian cuisine which was a great grace and courtesy lesson. If any one has anything related to Asia they can share with us or cook with us, we would love to have you come to our class.

Lower Elementary Class ~ Ms. Verma

We have moved on from studying the states and capitals of USA to exploring the countries in Asia. The research on Asian countries will be presented as a final project on February 18th, 2010. The students learned Chinese art and enjoyed Chinese cuisine. We would welcome any kind of activities related to Asia in the classroom.

We discussed various aspects of “peace” as we talked about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and researched famous African Americans. We also studied parts of a fish, an amphibian and reptile. In Math, work is ongoing with subtraction, word problems and multiplication. The children studied functions of verbs, synonyms and antonyms. They enjoyed learning the function of verbs in sentences.

We will be making personal timelines in the near future. Each child needs 6 – 8 photographs with their names written on the back. Other work will involve exploring various land and water forms, lines, shapes and curved figures, measurement and subtraction with stamp game. We have also been reinforcing recognition of coins on an ongoing basis.

In language arts, we will study suffixes, compound words, contractions, proper and common nouns. We also plan to study parts of a bird and mammal. As the Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day approach, we will be involved in lots of fun projects.

Upper Elementary Class ~ Mrs. Grover

Since the last update, we have been usually busy and active with our curriculum.

Asia is a very fascinating continent to study. We have done intensive map work, cooked, attended a live performance of Mulan, read and listened to Asian mythology and stories. A cross-curriculum Montessori approach to studying Asia has included Chinese brush painting (with Ms. Betty Guyot, grandma of Julia and Genna Guyot and mother-in-law of Ms. Rebecca!) We also practiced poetry writing, country reports and calligraphy.

Computer work has been about researching countries, latitudes and longitudes, animals and also making our own travel brochures. A special Travel Fair is set up for Thursday, February 18th at 1:00pm for student presentations. Please do attend, you never know one of our Asian countries might be your next travel destination!

Math, Language and Science have been ongoing. While we study Asia, we also continue to work on American history. We studied the formation of the Colonies and African American luminaries. The poetry of Langston Hughes is our top pick, with Mayo Angelou a close second. We also attended a play about Martin Luther King Jr's life in honor of his birthday.

We are getting ready for the study of Cycles in life and the Human Body. Also, more field trips are planned, so stay tuned.