



# PBMS Newsletter

## November, 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009



### November 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>2</b> Observation Week 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> →	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Open House 9:30am	<b>6</b> Upper Elementary Assembly 9:15am  Pizza Day
<b>9</b> Book Fair Week 9 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> →	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Pizza Day	<b>13</b> Parent Teacher Conferences  <b>School Closed</b> <b>Day Camp Open</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Reading Day   Pizza Day
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> School Thanksgiving Celebration  <b>11:45 Dismissal</b> <b>No After Care</b>	<b>25</b> <b>School &amp; Office</b> <b>Closed</b>	<b>26</b> <b>School &amp; Office</b> <b>Closed</b>	<b>27</b> <b>School &amp; Office</b> <b>Closed</b>
<b>30</b> Classes Resume				

**\* Parent Education Day - Saturday, November 7th 9:00am – 1:00pm**

### ~ Maria Montessori Quote

Education is not something which the teacher does. It is a natural process which develops spontaneously.

### Tuition Payments Due – Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>*, is the due date for the 2<sup>nd</sup> tuition payments. Please refer to your payment contracts for the amount due. There is a 5% late fee, of the amount due, added to payments received 3 days past the due date. There is a \$50.00 fee for payments returned due to insufficient funds. Please, call or e-mail the school office if you have misplaced your payment contract.

## **Observation Week – Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

On *Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>*, parents are invited to come and observe the exciting learning that is going on in our Montessori classrooms. If you have not already signed up for a time slot, please do so. The sign up sheets are located in the front entrance of the school. Please make sure to arrive on time and to leave when your observation time is over, so other parents can have their turn.

## **Open House – Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

PBMS will be hosting an Open House on *Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>* 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.

## **Upper Elementary Assembly – Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**

You are all invited to the Upper Elementary performance on *Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>* at 9:15am in the Kelley Room. We have a special performance based on Asian studies. Come and witness the new moves learned.

## **Parent Education Day – Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**

In order to accommodate parental needs, a Saturday Parent Education Day from **9:00am to 1:00pm on November 7<sup>th</sup>** is planned. This is a great opportunity to learn about the Montessori philosophy and work in the classrooms with the materials your children use on a daily basis. The schedule of is as follows:

- 9:00am – 9:30am – arrival time (refreshments in the Kelley Room)
- 9:30am – 11:30am – classroom lessons
- 11:30am – 1:00pm – potluck lunch in the Kelley Room

This event is for adults only. This is the first time we are organizing this event. We will run the event only if 20 people sign up. The sign up sheet is posted in the front entrance of the school. Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Book Fair Week – Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**

The week of *November 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>*, PBMS will be holding its biannual Scholastic Book Fair. This is a popular event enjoyed by all our students. Each class will have an opportunity to visit the Book Fair and fill out their own wish lists. Family and friends are invited to come and shop for some quality books. There is no waiting to place an order. Purchased items may be brought home that same day. This is also a good opportunity to donate books for your child's classroom.

The Book Fair will be open on:

- Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:30pm to 5:30pm
- Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 2:30pm to 5:30pm
- Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:30pm to 5:30pm
- Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> (parent teacher conference day) from 9:00am to 1:00pm

## **Parent Teacher Conferences – Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**

Parent teacher conferences will be held on *Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>* for Primary and Elementary students only. Parents will be required to sign up for a conference time. Sign up sheets will be available by **Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**. 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 13<sup>th</sup>**

- 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, November 4<sup>th</sup>**.
- Payments for Day Camp need to be made before **Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**.

## **Reading Day – Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**

In celebration of Reading Day on *Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>*, students are welcome to bring in their favorite story book to share with their classmates. Please make sure all books are labeled with your child's name. Students are also welcome to come dressed as their favorite story book character.

## **Thanksgiving Celebration – Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**

*Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>*, will be our whole school Thanksgiving Celebration. All the classes will gather in the Kelley Room to share in a Thanksgiving feast with food prepared by each of the classes. This celebration is for students only.

## **11:45 Dismissal – Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**

*Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>*, will be an 11:45 dismissal. There will be no After Care.

## **School & Office Closed – Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**

The school and office will be closed for Thanksgiving from *Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> through Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>*. Thank you for all you do for your children as you support their learning with us. We wish all our families a Happy Thanksgiving!

## **Sally Foster Update ~ Karyn Stenzler**

Once again we have had a very successful year involving our Sally Foster fundraiser. Thank you to all who participated. This year we are pleased to report that the total sales were approximately \$4,801. This means that PBMS will earn half in profits. Another \$80, in cash, was contributed to the school by some families.

The delivery date to the school for students who submitted paper orders will remain the week of November, the 9th. More details will follow about the exact pick-up date.

Don't stop shopping, Sally Foster continues. Please remember that you can still order on-line, or ask family and friends for their support. Just remember to enter the PBMS code #0506908 so that the school receives the credit.

The top seller was Hannah Phan in Mrs. Singh's class. Hannah sold \$418 worth of items. Great job Hannah!

The most popular item sold was the Pecan Carmel Stars.

If you have further questions about your order, please contact me, Karyn Stenzler at 202.285.1656.

## **~ Maria Montessori Quote**

The first duty of the educator, whether he is involved with the newborn infant or the older child, is to recognize the human personality of the young being and respect it.



### **Primary Room 4 & Toddler Class ~ Ms. Joan**

October has been another great month. We enjoyed our Mammal lessons tremendously and look forward to studying Reptiles. Bingo will be getting quite a work out as we study the characteristics of vertebrates. The children are settling in beautifully in their routines. They now remind me to do the calendar in the morning circle, if I "forget". Music lessons have been so much fun! Children recognize low notes from high notes on our xylophone and they recognize which 2 notes mean to jump, which 2 notes mean to tip-toe quietly, and which note means to stop.

The awareness of numbers, colors, and beginning sounds is progressing well in our class. It's amazing to hear students count with some of the Math materials!

In November, we are going to explore books with the use of puppets and other types of characters and share books of poetry. We have already portrayed the story of the three bears. The children took turns being the different parts in that story. We are also focusing on the meaning of peace and getting along with others. This fits in with the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

### **Primary Room 2/3 Class ~ Mrs. Singh**

“One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child.”

~ **Maria Montessori**

October was a busy month, with the children getting used to the routines of the classroom. The Grace and Courtesy lessons that were introduced this month were getting/waiting in line, asking for help, rolling a mat, greeting and listening. As you are well aware, Grace and Courtesy is the cornerstone of a Montessori classroom. This is what distinguishes a Montessori child and makes her stand out in a crowd.

In Geography, the continent of North America was introduced to the children. We are working with the puzzle map and coloring in blank maps of North America.

In Science, we introduced vertebrates and non vertebrates. It was fun watching my students find their own backbones after the lesson was over! We are now learning about Mammals.

In Practical Life, Autumn and Halloween related activities are on the shelves. The different objects and colors fascinate the children. Pumpkin washing has been a very popular piece of work. We are slowly introducing water activities in this area as the children are learning to use the material properly. When Dr. Montessori designed her Practical Life, or Everyday Living curriculum, she found that children were learning more than how to perform simple daily tasks. They were learning the important skills of concentration, coordination, control, independence, and order, which laid the foundation for all later learning in the Montessori environment.

In Art, we are learning about shapes and paints and doing different Autumn projects. Cooking was fun when we made yummy Jell-O and chocolate pudding. The songs of this month were “Leaves are twirling...” and “Five little pumpkins ...”

Next month we are going to continue working with North America, Mammals, animals in Autumn, Thanksgiving projects and Native Americans.

## **Kindergarten Class ~ Ms. Jasmine**

The Kindergarteners are learning about the continent of North America with follow up work about animals of North America. Children learned about the seeds and seed germination and had fun planting their own seeds. Animal studies involving – vertebrates/ invertebrates, and mammals is ongoing. Thanks to all the Grandparents and friends who made our day and visited our room to watch us work.

## **Lower Elementary Class ~ Ms. Verma**

Montessori presents the Big Picture to the 6-9 year old children to arouse their interest in various aspects of life and culture. The child's imagination and curiosity are at the most 'Absorbent' at this age. Keeping this stage in mind, the Great Lessons are presented to the children. The History of Communication and Language, from pre-historic times to the Egyptians, Phoenicians, Sumerians, Greek and Romans, was presented to the Lower and Upper Elementary students. The children in Kindergarten were also invited to this Lesson.

Our class has been studying the parts and types of plants and trees as they enjoyed germinating acorn seeds and observing them daily. We also introduced parts of the seed and roots as we enjoyed experiments on different types of roots such as carrots and potatoes.

Students were introduced to the geographical constructs of the northern and southern hemispheres and the seasons of the year.

The Lower Elementary students have been introduced to nouns and articles. They will be studying these parts of speech in detail.

Next month, Lower Elementary students will learn to tell time. They will work on dynamic addition and multiplication. We will also symbolize nouns and adjectives in sentences.

## **Upper Elementary Class ~ Mrs. Grover**

As part of their Grace and Courtesy, the Upper Elementary students have a myriad of responsibilities. At the start of the day, they greet our student and families, then organize lunchtime jobs and routines in the Kelley Room and organize special events. The Grandparents' Day event was hosted by the Upper Elementary students, as they cook/bake, set up, socialize and practice 'hostess' skills beyond their years. Over the years, we have had many PBMS parents, comment on the extremely positive responses they receive for their child's public behavior!

Math work depends on each child's needs and this past month, we have looked at decimals, fractions and estimating. Math material has been multiplication with the checkerboard and the peg board, division with the racks and tubes and squaring and cubing.

In Language, we met up with kinds of sentences and kinds of paragraphs! We also worked with various kinds of metaphors and poetry based on the Asian formats as well as seasonal words like *gore*, *blood*, etc. Our creative work is displayed on the notice board, near the girl's restroom.

Cultural studies have included mapwork of Asian landforms, Zoology and Botany Nomenclature, bacteria, viruses, and cell and microscope studies! We drew a cell-city to extend our cell-studies. Please do come to our assembly on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am. We have a wonderful program lined up for you, if the hours of rehearsals and costumes are anything to go by!