

Important Dates in April

Open House – Thursday, April 8th

PBMS will be hosting an Open House on **Thursday, April 8th** 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.

Stuffed Animal Day – Friday, April 9th

All students are invited to bring their favorite stuffed animals in on **Friday, April 9th** to come and share the school day with us. Please make sure all stuffed animals are labeled with your child's name.

Volunteer Breakfast – Friday, April 9th

We would like to show our appreciation for all the support and help we received throughout this school year by inviting all our wonderful volunteers to join us for breakfast on **Friday, April 9th** at 8:30am in the Kelley Room.

Upper Elementary Standardized Testing – Monday, April 12th – Friday, April 16th

Each spring, Paint Branch Montessori School administers the Education Records Bureau (ERB)

Comprehensive Testing Program to grades four through six as an annual independent evaluation of students' progress. Records are used in conjunction with written progress reports and parent-teacher conferences to obtain a clear picture of a student's academic standing and to plan appropriate programs.

All Upper Elementary families: please make sure your child is well rested, has a good breakfast and arrives to school on time during testing week.

Kindergarten & Primary Room 4 & Primary Room 2/3 Assembly – Friday, April 16th

The students from Mrs. Singh and Mrs. Joan's classes invite you to their performance on **Friday, April 16th** at 9:15am. They are very excited to show you all the hard work they have put into this special show.

Upper Elementary Echo Hill Trip – Wednesday, April 21st – Friday, April 23rd

The Upper Elementary students will be leaving on **Wednesday, April 21st** to spend 3 days and 2 nights at the Echo Hill Outdoor School on the Eastern shore of Maryland. Echo Hill provides students the opportunity to explore the natural world in their 300 acres of forest, meadows and swamp land. Students

will participate in a wide variety of environmental studies and adventures.

Earth Day Celebrations – Thursday, April 22nd

In honor of Earth Day 2010, PBMS students will participate in earth friendly activities on **Thursday, April 22nd**. Activities will include cleaning the school grounds and making posters displaying the many different ways we can take care of our environment.

Kindergarten & Lower Elementary Field Trip – Tues- day, April 27th

The Kindergarten & Lower Elementary students will be going to Lake Artemisia on **Tuesday, April 27th**. They will be eating at the lake and should **bring a bag lunch**. Students will be back at school in time for afternoon dismissal.

Field Day – Friday, April 30th

The Primary 4 year olds, Kindergarten and Elementary students will participate in Field Day from 1:00pm – 2:45pm on **Friday, April 30th**. Students participating in this event should wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. We will need volunteers to help with this event. Please call or e-mail Ms. Rebecca if you can help on this day.

Important Notices:

End of the Year

We will not be adding any days to the end of the school year. The last day of school will be June 7th.

Shoes

Students should only wear closed toed shoes and socks to school.

Parking

Parents should not be parking in the back. This is an agreement that has been made with the neighborhood.

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Kindergarten & Primary Room 2/3 ~ Mrs. Singh

Maria Montessori

Quote:

"The greatest sign of success for a teacher... is to be able to say, "The children are now working as if I did not exist."

March is a great time in the school year. The children are well settled in the routines and all the previous months hard work can be seen in their choice of the materials and the use of it. The red rods, geometric solids, colored beads, sandpaper letters and other Montessori materials are spread all over the room with the children absorbed in their use which is a delight to see.

The parent child night was as usual a great success. The children brought out their favorite materials to show to their parents. Their use of it was a source of joy and pride for the adults in the room. The little siblings also joined in the fun. It truly was a

wonderful night. Conference day the next morning was a good one to have because we could talk about the progress of the children right after seeing their wonderful work. Thanks to all the parents for showing up for both the days.

The Talent Show was a blast! These little people constantly surprise and impress you. This time we had our fours and fives in it too! The confidence with which they performed was awesome! The parent turn-out was very impressive. There were a couple of little broken hearts when the little people didn't see their parents. We missed the parents

who didn't show up. Don't forget the Primary Assembly coming on April 16th, it's another opportunity to see the little ones perform in front of an audience!

Thanks to Ms. Pressman, Elijah and Jonah's grandma for coming and reading to us. We loved it!

In April, we will be studying South America, Vertebrates- birds, plants, Spring and famous musicians. We would to have parents share anything related to our topics of study in April.

Lower Elementary ~ Ms. Verma

The main highlight of the month for our classroom was the assembly in which the children presented a play based on a folk tale from Japan. We rediscovered some natural and spontaneous actors in our group. The presentation ended with a Sri Lankan song, sung by our melodious singers. Thank you, Ms. Sudarma for your help. It was delightful to see many parents attend the assembly.

The addition of cooking classes to our weekly routine has added a new flavor to our classroom learning experiences. Over the past few weeks, the children have enjoyed making fruit salad, stone soup, and veggie burgers. All of us from the Upper and Lower Elementary classrooms thank Mrs. Smith (Megan's grandmother) for taking the time to share her Filipino recipes and culinary skills with us.

The young scholars in the Lower Elementary classroom have been working extensively on 'Personality of the Week' letters on an ongoing basis.

We have enjoyed sharing our hobbies and interests with each other. We discussed proper and common nouns, and reviewed articles, adjectives and verbs and learned the function of prepositions and pronouns in sentences. All this helped the children to punctuate their letters correctly. Then we symbolized the friendly letters for the parts of speech with Montessori grammar symbols. These letters will be a treasure to keep! We also learned to make various compound words with the help of a dictionary.

Our group has also enjoyed various experiments on mold, plants and mixtures, looking at bacteria under the microscope and pretending to be scientists researching earthworms. We studied parts of a bird and mammal too. The students also explored parts of a straight line, parts of a triangle, kinds of triangles, kinds of polygons, abbreviations of units of measurement, inches, feet, a yardstick, subtraction with stamp game and colored beads.

We are waiting anxiously for a few pictures of each child (one for each year from the time of their birth to the present year) so that they can make personal timelines. Please make sure your child has their set of pictures ready to bring to school. Since we will be cropping/cutting these pictures, please feel free to send in copies of photographs, if that is what you want to do.

We have planned some fun and exciting lessons involving cooking and science experiments for next month. The children will be studying adverbs, conjunctions, contractions, syllabification, multiplication with various Montessori materials, clock, money, measurements, adding fractions, the Presidents of USA, land and water forms, parts of a flower and fruit. We have enough to certainly keep each of our bright sparks very busy in April!



Haiti Update - Raised a total of \$1357.00

Carry Out Dinner raised \$425.00

Dollars for Haiti raised \$170.00

Dollars for Haiti raised \$62.00

Lunch for Haiti raised \$170.00

Raffle raised \$104.00

Bake Sale raised \$322.00

Loose Change for Haiti raised \$104.00



Toddler and Primary Class ~ Mrs. Joan

I hope everyone enjoyed their Spring Break! Room 4 celebrated the first day of Spring by taking down the hanging snowflakes and wearing pretty yellow paper flowers. The children made dyed butterflies which will hang from the ceiling upon return to the classroom. All of us are eagerly awaiting the arrival of painted lady butterflies.

During March we studied fish by "fishing" for different kinds of sea life from a glass fish and learned the difference between fish and our turtle, Bingo. The children were very curious if Bingo breathed underwater like fish. Geography took us to Europe. We enjoyed green jello and green lemonade for St. Patrick's Day and learned why green is the color associated with Ireland. While studying about wind, our Toddler and Primary children excitedly observed that it can be both cloudy and windy or sunny and windy at the same time.

Currently, I am doing a big project on bugs. We have had lessons on the life cycles of a lady bug as well as the butterfly. There are a number of insect and bug books that the children read each morning with fascination. We are always on the look out for bugs when we go outside. There is a lot of excitement when there is an ant in the classroom. As time goes on, there will be all sorts of bugs (mostly

the plastic kind) all around the classroom on each of the shelves. I am awaiting the arrival of ants for an ant farm so the children can observe how an ant works and lives.

I want to thank Mrs. Singh's 4 and 5 year olds, who are in my afternoon class, so much for their wonderful participation in the puppet show. We changed the words of the familiar song, "A Little White Duck" to "A Little Dragonfly," and used bugs instead of the usual animals. We had a good time practicing for it, but the performance at the Talent Show was definitely the most fun of all!

We will continue to study bugs throughout the next couple of months. In April, we will start learning about birds. Our thanks go to Derrick, Darius' Dad, for offering to come to the classroom this month to help us plant. Thanks, also, to Lyla's Grand mom for graciously offering to donate some plants from her herb shop in College Park, off of Berwyn Rd. In Geography we will study South America.

Happy Spring!

Upper Elementary ~ Mrs. Grover

We have been very productively employed with studying the Human Body. In order to start, we started with studying our senses. Many 'jelly bean' lessons later, we learned that the amazingly complex brain, eye, ear, tongue, etc. are so very well created to perform their individual as well as part-of-a-system functions. So far, we have studied the Digestive, Respiratory, Skeletal and Muscular Systems. It seems the upper elementary students cannot have enough of our lessons!

Asian studies involved extensive map work and historical backgrounds of East Asia and West Asia. We also cooked Filipino food, Bengali (W. India) food, thanks to Ms. Ila Gupta and rolled our very own 'rotis' from scratch!

Language studies were all about adverbs and symbolizing sentences and paragraphs.

A large part of our current research has involved analysis of primary and secondary sources online about the Ancient Indian cultures of Harappa and Mohenjodaro. In extending our cultural studies, we are working diligently on Asian paper mache animals and Harappan clay terracotta figurines.

The Talent Show was organized and run by the grade 6 students with help from their other upper elementary classmates. We had a wonderful turnout of parents who thoroughly enjoyed the show. It was a great way to end the past term and go into the Spring Break!

This coming month, we will do our Standardized Testing for grades 4, 5, and 6. We will continue to look at the Human Body and all its fabulous Systems. We will also study more poetry, other parts of grammar, and writing paragraphs of different kinds. Math, Botany, Science Labs and all our usual Specials will go on as planned.

Maria Montessori

Quote:

"Our care of the child should be governed, not by the desire to make him learn things, but by the endeavor always to keep burning within him that light which is called intelligence."



April 2010				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 Spring Break School closed	2 Spring Break School closed
5 Spring Break School closed	6	7	8 Open House 9:30am	9 Stuffed Animal Day Volunteer Break- fast 8:30am Pizza Day
12 Upper Elementary Testing (all week)	13	14	15	16 Primary Assembly 9:15am Pizza Day
19	20	21 Upper Elementary Echo Hill	22 Earth Day Celebrations	23 Pizza Day Upper Elem. return from Echo Hill
26	27 Kindergarten & Lower Elem. Field Trip Lake Artemisia	28	29	30 Field Day 1:00pm Pizza Day