



Tuckahoe Montessori School

Monthly Newsletter

December 2012

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TMS at Barnes & Noble!

On **December 5th**, Barnes & Noble will host a TMS Book Fair. Throughout the day, when parents, grandparents, and friends of TMS shop at the Libbie Place Barnes & Noble, a portion of their purchase price is given to the school and will fund the continual growth of the TMS Library and materials for the classrooms.

December is here!



This month we are looking forward to so much: discovering world holidays, learning new dances and songs, and of course, preparing for the International Feast!

With all this preparation and excitement during the month of December, the staff takes great care to preserve the students' sense of "regular days," too. The build-up to the holiday season never eclipses the importance of the children's work. Their work is the gift they give themselves each day.

What a tremendous privilege, seeing them so invested in learning, so proud as their concentration deepens, their interests widen, and their confidence grows. In the spirit of gratitude that marks the season, *thank you TMS parents*, for all you do to inspire your children and those who work with them.

As the bustle of the holidays grows, keep in mind an essential Montessori tenet: the beauty and quality of the environment is more important than the quantity of items in it. [This post](#) from the blog *My Montessori Journey*, is a fantastic guide for parents seeking high-quality toys and activities that inspire children to use their imaginations and creativity, the best possible way to keep gifts in use for years instead of months or weeks.

Wishing all of you a wonderful December!

-- Ms. Amanda

International Feast!



The highlight of December is our International Feast. This year the feast takes place on **Tuesday, December 18th at 11:00AM** in the Fellowship Hall.

Each family makes a dish from a country that they select and the feast is a great opportunity to try small samples of a wide variety of foods. Just follow [this link](#) to sign up for your chosen country. As you plan your dish, remember that this is a feast for parents and students so please provide enough so everyone gets a taste!

2013-14 Enrollment Survey

As we to plan for the upcoming school year, we are asking parents to complete the brief, informal survey [at this link](#). It will just take a few moments. Thank you!

Scheduled Events

9 AM: Parent Coffee in the BN Cafe.

3:00 PM: Storytime

Ms. April, Ms. Holly, and TMS parent Annie Coffey will be reading to the children present. Annie Coffey -- mom to current student Ready Coffey in Ms. April's class as well as former TMS students Searlait, Olivia, and Georgina -- is a passionate activate for reading aloud. It is a treat to have her coming to read at Barnes and Noble and is sure not to disappoint. Her enthusiasm, expressive use of voices, and engaging questions make stories come alive! We hope you all can join us!

School Delays and Closings

TMS announces weather related school delays and closings on

WRIC [Channel 8](#).

December Birthdays

Toddler:

Ms. Teresa (12/3)
Ava (12/14)
Patrick (12/28)

Primary:

Judah (12/4)
Violet (12/4)
Ian (12/5)
Ava Virginia (12/14)
Cole (12/18)
Stella V. (12/24)
Stella G. (12/31)

Elementary:

Ms. Amy (12/14)

Calendar

Please Note: The [online version of the TMS Calendar](#) contains all updated scheduling information.

November Memories



North America Day Highlights and Looking Forward

What a fabulous day!



The Primary students visited Hawaii, Greenland, the Zuni Nation in New Mexico, and Mexico. At their Food Station, the students joined a Hawaiian Luau! They sampled skewered pineapple, ham, and cheese and made their own leis.

In Artifacts, they were transported to the Zuni Nation. The Bettler family has lived with the tribe for the past nine years and Amani and Eann are now students at TMS.

Amani, one of our elementary students, and her father, John Bettler, shared a Zuni harvest festival with the students, who made anklets and practiced a Zuni dance.

In Geography, our young travelers learned about the northernmost parts of North American including Niagara Falls and Greenland. They were given explorer packs complete with a compass sticker to guide them!

In Games, the students played La Gallinita Ciega (The Blind Hen) a Spanish version of Marco Polo and made their own colonial toy.

In Art the students made Mexican pinatas.

The remaining Continent Day volunteers are listed below. If you have not signed up for a day, or have signed up but don't see your name listed, please confirm with Ms. Amanda.

Coming Up: Asia: Read, Sharrar, Sutton, Gareau, Bor, Valentine, & Lilly
Africa: Shigley, Lenczowski, Daughtrey, Clarke, Cimino, & Waite
South America: Hottinger, Gallagher, Paris, Porter, Whitlow, Bove, & Bazianos
Australia: Clark, Coffey, Downs, Hamilton, & Martin

Dates of future Continent Day planning meetings are listed in the TMS Handbook.

Outreach: Holiday Card Recycling



Recycle Your Greeting Cards and Help St Jude's Ranch for Children!

In January, TMS will be collecting greeting cards of all types (Holiday, Thank You, Birthday, Sympathy, etc). Simply save them as you receive them over the next month and send them with your child **January 9-11, 2013**. They will be sent off to St. Jude's to be

recycled into new cards. The best part is that the recycling is done with the help of the children at St. Jude's! They take the front of the "old" card and attach it to a new backing for resale.

The fine print:

Please be sure the backside of the front of the card has been left plain of personal greetings.

Hallmark, Disney or American Greeting cards cannot be not accepted.

For more information

<http://www.stjudesranch.org/shop/recycled-card-program/>

A Note from the Room Parents



As many of you are aware, here at TMS we choose to show special teacher and staff appreciation a few times a year: the Holiday season, Teacher Appreciation week (which occurs in the spring) and on each Teacher/Staff Member's birthday.

During the holidays, we recognize the many gifts TMS teachers and staff share with our children and families. Like last year, the room parents are coordinating a "group" gift that will be divided among TMS teachers and staff. What is different this year is that we are including the Toddler, Primary & Lower EI teachers, Spanish & Music teachers and Ms. Amanda for a total of 16 gifts.



If you would like to participate we ask that you send in your contribution through the TMS Carpool line **on or before Friday, December 14th**. Please mark your envelopes to the attention of Sarah Hamilton. You may send cash or a check.

Please know that this is voluntary and you are in no way required to participate. But if you are like us, this is an easy way to let your TMS Family know that we are thankful for the love and kindness they show our children.

We plan to give the teachers their gifts at the International Feast.

Thanks so much and we wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday.

Sincerely, Your Room Parents: Aimee Shaw, Sarah Hamilton, Vicki Browne and Lauren Rogers

From the Toddler Classroom



This month, the Toddler Classroom will be humming with activity! Our youngest students will be baking holiday cookies and making granola to top yogurt.

Throughout the month, the class will be discovering world holidays as they review the continents. They will also be working on a special gift! Look out for it soon!

Already, the children are caught up in the shine and sparkle of the holidays!

From the Primary Classroom



December is the month when the children's works are framed by seasonal discovery and explorations. For example, primary students' "parts of..." work becomes "Parts of a Reindeer"!

Students' geography work will revolve around explorations of holiday celebrations around the world. In Food Preparation, students will get the chance to make St. Lucia buns and they will use greenery to create St. Lucia wreaths as they learn about

international celebrations.

The children will be stringing cranberries and popcorn, making salt dough ornaments, and practicing all their wonderful songs and dances for the International Feast.

Ms. Sarah be the children's guide through traditions, stories, music, and food of Hanukkah. They will learn about the making of latkes and will get the chance to spin dreidels!

We're looking forward to so much fun and learning in the coming weeks!

From the Elementary Classroom



In addition to all their individual work, this month the Elementary class will be reading and memorizing poetry (look for a sample of their work at the International Feast), reading *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, and, like the Primary students, will have a chance to explore the traditions of Hanukkah with Ms. Sarah.

During their library visits, the Elementary class are beginning a unit of study on the plays of William Shakespeare. Beginning with prose interpretations, then moving on to the plays themselves, the class is already caught up in the potential for dramatic discovery! Beginning with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, they will continue to explore sections of plays through

the winter.

The class is very happy and proud of their preparations for the International Feast and are looking forward to sharing in the celebration!



Spanish at TMS

Splat el Gato



At the Primary Level, we will be reviewing "Numbers 0-10" and continuing on to "Numbers 11-20." We will also learn new "Food" vocabulary. These new words will also be integrated into the Toddler Classroom on a daily basis by Ms. Teresa.

At the Elementary Level, we will review these same topics, as well as "Classroom Objects."

A "Practice Spanish in the Home!" vocabulary sheet will be coming home the first week of December. We will also be reading, *La Oruga Muy Hambrienta*, to reinforce counting and food. *¿Se lo comió un oso?* and *Splat el Gato* will also be read to review food and classroom objects.

"Cinco Patitos" and "De Colores" will be continue to be sung in addition to the Good Morning and the Goodbye Songs.

--Sra. Stefani

Art at TMS



Throughout the month of November, the students have explored a number of artists and genres. Most recently, they took a close look at Paul Klee's mesmerizing piece, *Cat and Bird*. Together they then read Géraldine Elschner's book, *The Cat and the Bird*, which was inspired by Klee's 1928 oil and ink creation.

The children were also inspired! They created their own interpretations of *Cat and Bird*, blending chalk pastels to develop their understanding of Klee's visual style, as well as exploring some of the interesting interpretive possibilities the subjectivity of modern art allows.

Chinese in the TMS Elementary Program



~ Everyone is doing so well!

During November, the first-year Chinese students completed their animal lesson and then moved on to learning colors, which they will continue during December.

The second-year Chinese students had so much fun learning about food that we spent some time in November working on ordering food in a Chinese restaurant! During December, the theme of their lessons will be clothing.

-- Hui

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