



Tuckahoe Montessori School

Monthly Newsletter

January 2013

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School Delays and Closings

TMS announces weather related school delays and closings on

WRIC [Channel 8](#).

Family Announcements

Happy New Year!

Occasionally, I like to use this space to explore some of the larger implications of Montessori education, and what better time to broaden the conversation than the start of a new year?

"When the children had completed an absorbing bit of work, they appeared rested and deeply pleased. It almost seemed as if a road had opened up within their souls that led to all their latent powers, revealing a better part of themselves." — Maria Montessori

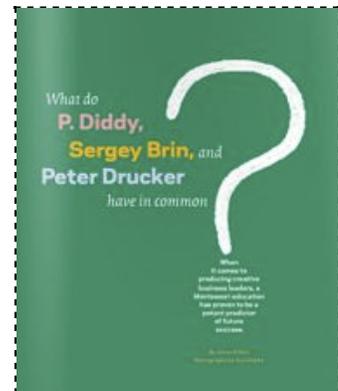
From *Tomorrow's Child*, v.21, no.2

a significant impact. The other factor prompting deeper explorations is the sense that a Montessori education may be "right for the times" all the time.

As national attention has been turned toward questions of education priorities and how our education culture compares to those of other nations -- [this recent slideshow from Business Insider offers a great overview of the highly successful model in Finland](#) -- the Montessori Method is being "discovered" by the popular media.

A quick Google search will reveal that Montessori has been discovered with remarkable regularity over the past decades. The difference now is that the discovery is the result of a large scale questioning of education, by parents, teachers, and business leaders. And in the words of leadership expert, Steve Denning, "[W]e don't need to invent a new system. It's already there. Montessori has been doing this for more than a century."

Over the last few years, more and more parents are taking the time to explore the specifics of the Montessori Method. The stunning shift in the availability of information, and the increasing speed with which the curious can find articles and videos on Montessori have had



Click the image above to link to article from Korn/Ferry *Briefings* and *Tomorrow's Ch*

The unique and widely lauded education method, created more than a century ago by an Italian physician and education visionary, is built around the concept of self-directed learning, mixed-age classrooms, collaboration, creativity and social responsibility.

From *Tomorrow's Child*, v.21, no.2

Congratulations to the Bruns family! Georgia in our toddler program became a big sister over the holiday. From the Bruns family: "Wallace Joseph Walter Bruns was born in the early afternoon of 12.21.12. He is long, happy, healthy, and anxious for Montessori in eighteen months".

Congratulations to the Burke family! Marisa in the Toddler Program became a big sister and the family is overjoyed! Madeline Gloria Burke was born on January 2nd.

Dressing for the Season

We will be outside so please dress your children appropriately and label gloves and hats with their names.

Book Fair Update

Thank you all for helping to support the TMS Book Fair at Barned & Noble. A number of parents purchased book for the school at the fair. Those books are being cataloged and added to the collection for the entire school to enjoy!

In addition, items purchased by parents and friends of TMS students during the book fair helped the school acquire credit toward further book purchasing. The school is able to spend 150.00 toward new books for the library!

Look out for these titles and more in the TMS Library later this month.

[Bear Despair: Stories Without Words](#) by Gaetan Doremus



[Sky Tree: Seeing Science Through Art](#) by Thomas Locker

Last month, the executive placement firm Korn/Ferry published their own discovery of Montessori in their internal publication, **Briefings**. In conjunction with The Montessori Foundation's **Tomorrow's Child**, they have agreed to make the full article available to the Montessori community. The article is [available here](#) or by clicking the image above. I *highly* recommend it. The writer, Glenn Rifkin (along with photographer, Asia Kepka) offer insight into the strengths of Montessori education and the increasing number of entrepreneurs who, when asked about their success, credit their years in Montessori classrooms.

Let me know if you would like to discuss the article. Wishing you all a wonderful January!

-- Ms. Amanda

Parent-Teacher Appreciation Party: March 21st from 6-8 p.m.

We've begun planning our parent-teacher appreciation party! For parents interested in being involved, the planning committee is forming and we are also seeking a family to host. If you would like to be a part of this highlight on the TMS calendar, please contact Ms. Amanda.

Remember, start lining up your babysitters for this fun parents-only event on March 21st from 6-8 p.m.

Special Dates This Semester: Conferences, Break, and Family Events

Here is an overview of the next few months of events that may require special planning: conferences, Spring Break, and Family Events where a parent or caregiver is asked to attend.

Monday, January 21
Parent-Teacher Conferences: No Classes for Students

Monday, February 18
Presidents Day
School is closed.

Friday, March 15
Staff Development Day
School is closed.

Friday, March 29
12:00pm
School Closes Early Noon

Monday, April 1- Friday, April 5
Spring Break

Tuesday, April 23
11:30am
School-wide Picnic for students and families
Afternoon & Elementary classes will resume following picnic.

Monday, April 29
Parent Teacher Conferences: No Classes for students

Friday, May 10, 2013
End-of-Year Family Field Trip
No classes

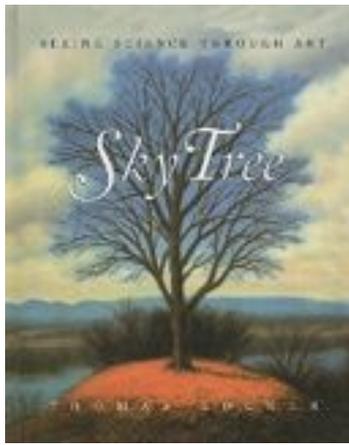
Friday, May 24, 2013
11:00am
School Closing Ceremony: All Classes

2013-14 Enrollment

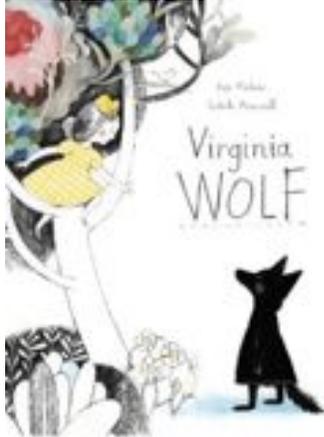
If you have not already done so, please complete the brief form [at this link](#) before your parent-teacher conference. In order to have your 2013-14 packets ready on Conference Day, we need forms filled out for each child.

Thank you to all the parents who have already completed their online form.

Transitions



Virginia Wolf by Kyo Maclear



January Birthdays

Primary:

- January 8 - Madin's Birthday
- January 17 - Electra's Birthday
- January 17 - Stephen's Birthday
- January 25 - Reese's Birthday
- January 27 - Emerson's Birthday

Elementary:

- January 11 - Avery's Birthday
- January 17 - Callie's Birthday

Congratulations!

Ms. Amy has just announced that she is getting married! Congratulations to Amy and Barry from all of us here at TMS!

Calendar

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

December Classroom Memories & January Discoveries

2013 brings some exciting transitions to our toddler and primary classrooms: We welcome John Loftin, Electra Cimino, Stephen Cimino, & Sarah Browne into the Afternoon Program. These students are all turning five in the coming months and have aged into the afternoon program which extends their day in the primary classroom until 2pm.

We welcome Patrick Browne and Spencer Paris to the Primary classrooms. Patrick and Spencer were five day toddlers who have moved up to Ms. April and Ms Holly's classroom's respectively.

New Families in our Toddler Program: We welcome the Ackerly, Appleton and Boyd families to the toddler classrooms. Sean Appleton is joining the classroom 5 days a week and John Ackerly and Corin Boyd will be joining the two day program. Please welcome them to the community!

Goodbyes: We also say goodbye to the Lilly family. Nicholai's family relocated to Plano, Texas.

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/>

From the Toddler Classroom



In January, our toddlers will focus on dinosaurs, Asia (with Japan as the country of focus).

The children will also increase their familiarity with the geometric solids, discovering and exploring more shapes and learning more names.

January will also be spent working on the students' second set of sounds.

From the Primary Classroom



During January and February, our classroom study topics are the solar system and dinosaurs. We take two months to look at these topics because they are true favorites of the students. By spanning their study over two months, the children can delve deeper into each topic.

In addition, we will be presenting the continent of Asia throughout the month, culminating with Continent Day on Friday, January 25.

At the end of January and continuing into February, Primary students will also study polar animals, Antarctica, and rocks.

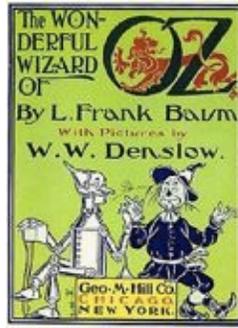
From the Elementary Classroom

A new year and more opportunities for independent research in the Elementary



Program! The children have really developed as researchers over the last months and that momentum is carrying them into some fascinating directions. They are using the creation of lap books to structure their research and writing, and well as providing a framework for presentations to fellow students.

For parents not familiar with lap books, [here is a great introduction](#) from Scholastic.



In January, the class read-aloud will be L. Frank Baum's classic *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

Looking forward, remember our **Grandparents' Tea is scheduled for Friday, February 15 from 11-12.**

This was such a delight last year and we're looking forward to continuing the tradition!

In recognition that many of the grandparents are coming from out of town and families may want to spend the afternoon together, the school day will end following the tea. Students can leave school with their grandparents or other special guests or parents can arrange to pick

them up once the festivities are over.

Art at TMS

The Artist of the Month is Wayne Thiebaud. For parents who would like more information on Thiebaud and his work, we recommend [this link from the National Gallery of Art](#) and this video of the artist (at right).



Wayne Thiebaud - CBS Sunday Morning



Studio at TMS



Creativity is something with which every child is born. It can be defined as an idea taking physical form. It motivates action and can utilize materials such as clay, paint brushes, and glass blowing tools. What is most useful, though, is mental and physical activity and *time*.

When we respect and foster creativity we help children develop the lifelong abilities to observe, develop opinions, express themselves and draw conclusions;

creativity and creative expression provides a framework that supports all parts of a child's education.



The Art Studio was introduced at TMS during the 2011-2012 school year. With Montessori principles in mind it is designed to give Primary children the same structured freedom-of-choice in open-ended, free flowing art as they have in their regular classrooms. Our intention is to provide an environment and materials to foster the innate creativity within each child.

Over the last months, there have been many time sensitive projects, such as invitations, Thanksgiving costumes, props, holiday gifts, etc., that the children have been making in the Studio space with parent volunteers and myself. By the way, hooray for volunteers - thank you so much!



As the new year begins, the Studio will once again be a place of free exploration within an ordered artistic environment. I will make sure that every Primary child has the opportunity to investigate the space and equipment and understand the expectations of the Art Studio so can approach their work with confidence.

You may see a small water color painting or a collage come home with your son or daughter. These are simple beginnings that will give your children the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the Studio. We will explore the possibilities for coordination with and extension of the art presentations and work the Primary teachers offer in their classrooms.

Throughout the year the classrooms have lessons about individual master artists. I will carry these lessons further with exploration of some of the basic elements of art in relation to those masters: color, line, space, shape, and texture.

This year there is a school-wide focus on handcrafts such as sewing, knitting and quilting and Studio will be a place where the children can explore that work further. I look forward to continuing to each and learn from your children.
~ Mrs. Jane

P.S. If there are any parents or grandparents with experience in quilt making, I would love to talk to you! Call the school or my number is 337-5164.~ Ms. Jane



Continent Day Information

Asia: Sharrar, Sutton, Gareau, Bor, White, & Valentine

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.

"What a wonderful feast!"

Thank you to the students, parents and staff who, together, made the International Feast such a happy occasion!

Spanish at TMS



¡Próspero año nuevo! The new year brings the continuation of our December studies.

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."

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

Chinese in the TMS Elementary Program



Our beginner students will continue to work on Lesson 4 -- Colors -- which includes red, pink, yellow, green, blue, black, and white. Students can say the colors in Chinese, now they will work on recognizing the characters. In the middle of the January we'll start lesson 5 - Fruits.

Our experienced students will continue to work on Lesson 4 - Clothing - which includes pants, skirt, sweater, shirt, shoes, and socks. Students are able to say which clothes they have and the color of the clothes they have. They will continue to work on these vocabulary words. In the middle of this month they will learn lesson 5 about daily necessities.

Every student is making good progress on their pronunciation and rhyming songs. Chinese characters can be challenging, but students are willing to learn and practice writing them. I am proud of each of them!

-- Hui

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