



Tuckahoe Montessori School

Director's Note

Happy Fall! It is truly my favorite time of the year! The smells, sounds and sights of fall are things I encourage you to take time to experience with your child. Take a nature walks around the neighborhood to encourage them to use their observation skills and memory. We want to remember; what did the leaves look like last time we passed this tree? Who has built a nest there? What animals do we see in our neighborhood? What birds do we hear?

We are looking forward to speaking with each of you about your child's progress at January conferences.. Before conferences, we encourage you to come in and visit your child's classroom. Please give the office a call to set up a date.

In addition to conferences, we are pleased to begin a new developmental screening process called the Ages and Stages Developmental screen (ASQ). The ASQ is a wonderful, validated tool in which parents are given a questionnaire to evaluate their child's development. Based on the observations of the people that know their children best,

their parents, the school will score your assessment. The assessment is completely optional. Dr. Montessori was a pioneer in that she developed an educational method which correlated with the developmental planes of a child. With this foundation, we feel that proper development is essential for children's education success. After the ASQ screen, if concerns do arise we will begin more intensive work in the classroom as well as make any referrals necessary. Attached to the newsletter is a consent form. Please complete the consent form for each child you would like screened. This January we send home the screening forms to all children under 5 whose parents have completed the consent form. The screen will be scored and the results will be discussed at conference time.

*Lastly, I would like to remind you all of a book, *The Blessings of a Skinned Knee* by Wendy Mogul. I heard Ms. Mogul speak last year and found her insights refreshing. I think often of Ms. Mogul's WAIT (Why Am I Talking) tip. With this concept, it encourages parents to simply put the instruction or expectation forward and move on; no need to keep talking and explain. As our children age*

they become great at negotiating and I think often we as parents feel if the child makes a valid argument that we need to consider them, honor them, and give in. The problem is that this creates the premise for the child... "if I negotiate and press hard enough; I can win". But sometimes they don't as no matter what they try to negotiate the answer is still no. This creates a disparity which can prove very confusing for the child. Parenting is a journey so try the "WAIT" concept and see if it is a tool your family can use. Stay consistent in your expectation of your child, explain to them when you are asking something new of them, and your children will thrive.

If you have any questions or concerns before conferences, please give the office a call. At this stage of development it is so important to be aware of your child and we consider you, our parents, partners in helping us insure that your child is on track academically and developmentally, so your feedback and questions are always welcome.

~ Mrs. Amanda

MONTESSORI PEARL

At TMS, we use several techniques with the students to foster their grace and courtesy skills, one of them is the use of touch to get an adult's attention. In the classroom, if the student needs an adult's attention, the student is to come over and touch the teacher on the leg or back.

If the teachers are talking, they give the students hand a touch or squeeze to acknowledge them and when they reach an appropriate break in their conversation they address the student. This is a great technique to implement at

home. If you are on the phone or talking with a guest, encourage your child, rather than yelling for you, to simply touch if they need you.



Happy Birthday!

- Aidan Ministri
- Bladen Kidd

OPEN HOUSE

Kindergarten and Elementary School at TMS!

Join us for an presentation on the Kindergarten and Lower Elementary programs and tour of the Lower Elementary Classroom.

Please feel free to invite friends that may be interested in the program.

When: November 14, 2011 at 8:45 AM

Where: The Small Dining room; 1st floor



Europe Day

Our first Continent Day celebration was Europe. The parents planned a wonderful day! We send a big thank you to all of our parent volunteers. Ali Haefner and her mother Patti Rackl created bird houses inspired by the Spanish artist Gaudi. To explore the geography of Europe, the Shelley family highlighted Denmark and Norway thru the creation of Viking ships which then sailed thru northern Europe. In artifacts, Irene Cimino and her mother in law shared some wonderful treasures of Greece and Switzerland. The students were able to create a flag from the country as well. In games, Emma Spivack and Meredith Hayes taught the children some songs in French including Frere Jacques and head shoulders knees and toes. Finally, in food the children had a wonderful time at an English tea. Complete with a visit from the queen of England, as played by Langdon and Kennon Tollett's grandma!

To end a wonderful day, the children heard about some fun European facts from our Lower Elementary students. Thanks again to our parents for their great ideas!

Parent Coffee

What a wonderful morning! We were so excited that so many of you stopped in for a quick coffee last month. As the next couple months are quite busy, we will resume our coffees in January at the home Tiffany and Joe Connor. Mark it on your calendar January 24th at 9AM.



Enrichment Activities

Spanish: The students have been enjoying our Spanish classes with Senora Corrina. Corrina has been teaching the students the good morning song in Spanish, numbers, days of the week. Corrina utilizes an immersion approach for her classes. By using a story that is familiar to the students, they are able to associate the Spanish-English without "drilling" it.

Music: The students have been having so much fun in music. We send congratulations to The have enjoyed the many ways Ms. Gambil can make music with the bells, her recorder, her voice, and the piano. Some of our afternoon students have even share their piano talents with the class. The students begin with hearing high and low sounds and rhythm patterns.

Science: The afternoon students have been studying Chemistry with Mrs. Chris. They are learning about the three states of matter, chemical reactions, and atomic particles. Next month they will be working with mixtures and solutions. Many of the experiments they are doing can be replicated at home, so feel free to ask for specifics if you would like to be a scientist along with your little scientist. Coming up next semester will be an exploration in Physics and Biology.

Art: The students have enjoyed completing several projects with Ms. Pam. Their first study was on portraits in which the completed self portraits in the style of Modigliani. They then moved on to creating their own landscape with towers with Viennese artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser.



November Events!

We have a wonderful November planned for the students: The whole school will be traveling to James River Park on November 11th. We will meet at Belle Isle at 9:15am where Ralph White will show us around the island and lead us in a restocking of the river with fish. After the restocking, we will picnic as a school on the island. We will have afternoon classes after the trip.

The Virginia Historical Society will be coming to share with us about Pocohantas and the Powhatan Indians. The Virginia Historical Society has many wonderful educational opportunities

and we look forward to having them with us.

On the 18th, we will celebrate North America day. Our parent group is preparing wonderful day!

Our Thanksgiving celebration takes place, Wednesday, November 23rd at 11:00 AM. After the presentation, the students will enjoy a meal they prepared themselves and we will share desserts with parents and guests. As part of the celebration, the students will be cooking and polishing silver platters from which to serve their fine cooking! The school will close at noon that day so there will not be afternoon classes.

Toddler News

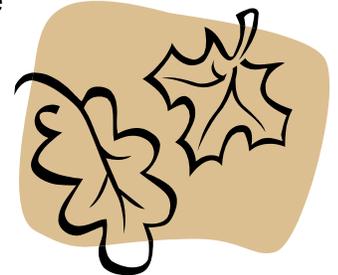
Fall is here! The students have learned about the transition of seasons, as they worked with fall leaves, read books, and charted daily weather during morning group. October was a great month for the toddler classroom as the students grasped on the concept of having a work cycle and ownership of their work! They are walking in a line and participation in group is really increasing! A special treat for the students was when Ms. Beth shared her guitar with the students. They had many song requests! The toddlers are also having their

first cooking day this month as they will prepare their Halloween treat; pumpkin muffins. We hope you all will join us on the west corner of the lawn for a picnic at 11:00 AM on Oct. 31st.

In November I will be introducing to them to their continent North America! In addition to our continent study; we will introduce mammals, land and water forms; island and lake, and hibernation. As the cold weather season closes in, we will work on perception as the

students practice on putting on and taking off jackets and hats, **INDEPENDENTLY!!**

As always, if you have questions please give us a call at the office or email.



ELEMENTARY NEWS

This month the students' have been focusing on various subjects in the classroom. Every child will start using their individual work plan from November.

Science: It's Pumpkins, pumpkins pumpkins, everywhere! The children got a chance to learn about the parts of and lifecycle of a pumpkin after our trip to the pumpkin patch, plus it was so much fun to carve out our pumpkin. The students have been learning about the classification of animals in detail focusing on the types of Vertebrates. Our focus this month was on matter and its states. In Nov. we will be focusing on invertebrates and the class of each organism.

Language Arts: The children are focusing on their word study and parts of speech. Right now they have been working hard on sentence analysis and will be focusing on syllables next month. Spelling is becoming a big hit to the elementary students. They enjoy their read aloud every day.

Math and Geometry: Most of the students have mastered their static and dynamic addition and subtraction using their charts, beads, and bead frames. We are focusing on their memorization facts. The students love learning about different triangles and angles; Fractions and polygons so much. Next month focus will be on circles.

Social studies: This month we have been learning about different land and water forms; focusing on each form in detail. The students are working on North America and USA focusing on the oceans, the position of their country in the earth, this month. Learning about the history of writing and to see how every alphabet was derived from drawings from the ancient people and

to see different form of writing in different languages was interesting. Next month we will be focusing on the colonial period, Native Indians and the settlers.

In the class room we have been painting leaves, making ghosts, decorating the classroom for Halloween, baking, and taking care of their own plant this month.

We are happy to say we got a new member in our classroom... and he is "NEMO" our clown fish!!!

Next month the students will be building their own longhouse and weaving nets using rope. Thanks to the fieldtrip to Henricus historical park. These items will be wonderful additions to our Thanksgiving Feast Celebration. Now the students are more focused on recycling after their visit to the Ashland paper mill!!!

We have two trips during November. We will travel with the school to James River Park for the fish restocking. We will be looking particularly at the different water and landforms that we can observe on our trip. Additionally, we will be visiting Agecroft Hall to learn about early medicine practices.



Thanksgiving Outreach Project

As we approach the holiday season, we will be talking to the children about the value of helping their community and giving to those less fortunate. This year, we would like the children to help by fulfill our donation to the Richmond Food Bank.

We will be asking them to bring in change from home and add it to a jar at school beginning on Wednesday. We do not want them to take the change for granted, however! We would like for them to earn the money by helping at home (setting the table, cleaning their play area, folding laundry, etc.).

As the money is collected, the children will help to count and roll the change.

Next, the afternoon children will take a field trip to a grocery store to buy the food. We appreciate your support as we teach the children about their community.

In addition to the collection of change, we are collecting canned and packaged foods for the Central Virginia Food Bank on November 18, 21, and 22.

Thanks in advance for your participation!

Parent Education

Thanks to all of our families who have attended our Parent Education workshop. We hope that you found it informative. We are looking forward to our next presentation which will be on Math and Sensorial Activities. This will be Wednesday, November 2nd at 6pm.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

We are in need of parent volunteers to help make Thanksgiving invitations for our upcoming Thanksgiving program. If you are able to volunteer on November, 8th from 9a - 11a please let us know.

The Thanksgiving program will be held November 23rd with a school dismissal time of noon for all students.

Also on November 29th from 9a -11a we will be making International Feast invitations, if you are able to volunteer



Classroom News!

We have an exciting November planned. In November, the classroom focus turns toward our early history, native Americans, the continent of North America, Thanksgiving, and fall. We will talk about sharing and giving as well and hope that this will be reinforced through our outreach project as well as our celebratory feast! The North American continent includes the Carribean and Central American in Montessori. Ms. Charlene, a native of Trinidad, is sharing some of her culture with the children this month. I'm sure they are going to enjoy the steel drum!!

In our studies of fall we will talk about leaves and acorns as well as mammals and the process of hibernation through a look at the North American Brown Bear. Ralph White will also talk about the changing seasons at Belle Isle. Have your students note about the shortness of the day and how that impacts the wildlife and

plants. Limited sun means limited resources thus the plants and animals have to adapt. We will also be celebrating the highlights of fall on Harvest Day which will culminate in a performance by the Richmond Gourd Orchestra. Library books will come home in your child's library bag on Fridays and we ask they are returned the following Monday. Please make sure books are returned, your child will not be able to check out another book until it has been returned.

Show and Tell is still on Fridays. If your student has items to share that are in concert with our classroom study, please send them in. As always, label your items and please, no toys or jewelry.

"Free the child's potential,
and you will transform him/
her into the world" ~ M.
Montessori

Reminders & Updates

Wish List: For upcoming TMS projects we are asking for your help. We need your Pinecones (medium-sized, fully open).

Thank you to the Driskill-Broome family for the donation of the world book encyclopedia in honor of Stella's birthday.

Toddler Classroom 12-13: Parents of future TMS toddlers. We will be surveying families to see about your needs/desires for next year. If your child is not on the waiting list please contact Amanda so we can be sure we have your child's name and birthday on the list.

Clothing: It is getting colder and we will be outside. Please encourage your child to dress appropriately and label their outer wear!

Open Snack: Both classrooms have begun open snack this month. With open snack, some children do not chose to have snack everyday so it is very important to send your child to school with a full breakfast!

Belle Island: All school field trip to Belle Isle on November 11th. We will be re-stocking fish at the quarry pond. Afternoon classes and Lower Elementary classes will be held.

Lower Elementary will be going to **Agecroft Hall** on November 15th for a presentation of 17th century medicine.

Harvest Day is November 17th, the Indigenous Gourd Trio will be here to perform for the students.

