



Tuckahoe Montessori School

Monthly Newsletter

November 2012

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School Delays and Closings

TMS announces weather related school delays and closings on

WRIC [Channel 8](#).

Happy Fall!

It is truly my favorite time of the year! The smells, sounds and sights of Autumn are even more memorable when experienced alongside a child.

Once the storm has passed, this is the time of year to take nature walks around the neighborhood (now free of mosquitos and humidity!) and to encourage children to use their observation skills and memory.

What did the leaves look like last time we passed this tree?
Who has built a nest there?
What animals did we see?
What birds do we hear?

Ralph White, our guide when we visit Belle Isle each year, made a great point when I asked him about late-Autumn talks with children. Rather than focus on hibernation, he said, parents and teachers can highlight what children see and notice most -- the shortening days and the shifting colors of the leaves.

You might ask if they have noticed that they are still out playing when it is getting dark. Point out that the trees get their "food" from the light, and there is less light as we move toward winter. The trees, working to get the last bit of food they can for the season, suck the food from the leaves. The leaves change color, dry out, and are then shed so the tree can use its energy to get through the time when there is less light. In the first days of Spring, it will be the trees, with their new buds and bits of green, that let us know that the days are once again growing longer.

In the spirit of the season, I'm happy to share [this amazing short film](#) with you, too. It was created by filmmaker and painter Jeff Scher, who described the process of making the film [here](#). Thanks so much to Annie Coffee (Ready's mother) for passing this along to me!



Wishing you all a safe next couple of days and a wonderful November!

November Birthdays

Primary

Nov. 9: Ms. Sara (Ms. Holly's Class)

Nov. 22: Bladen K. (Ms. April's Class)

Elementary:

Nov. 14: Ms. Amy

Scheduling Notes

Nov. 4th, Carnival of the Animals performance at the University of Richmond (an optional cultural event for interested families)

Nov. 7th, 8:30 am: Parent Education Morning (Mathematics and Sensorial Materials) in the small dining room. In this workshop, Ms. Amanda will review the key equipment used in the sensorial and math areas of the classroom. We will discuss the correlations between the two areas.

Nov. 9, 9:30-12:00pm
James River Field Trip and Picnic: All Classes

NOTE: There will not be formal classes after the picnic.

Nov. 13, 9:30-10:30 am
TMS Visitors: Richmond History Center Powhatan Indians

Nov. 16, 9-11am North America Continent Day

Nov. 21, 11:30am-12:15pm Thanksgiving Program and Feast

Looking Toward December:

Dec. 5th: Barnes and Noble Day

Pumpkin Patch Memories



-- Ms. Amanda

Thanksgiving Feast!

Our Thanksgiving celebration takes place on **Wednesday, November 21st at 11:30 AM** in the Fellowship Hall.

After their holiday presentation, the students will enjoy a meal they prepared themselves and we will share desserts with parents and guests.

The presentation is brief so please arrive on time and give yourself extra time for parking (Note: Parking is available along the length of Monument Avenue in front of the school).

To prepare for 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 for primary or elementary students and no lunch bunch.

Thanksgiving Outreach Projects

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 fulfill our donation to the Central Virginia Food Bank (now a part of the FeedMore organization that also includes Meals on Wheels).



We will be asking them to bring in change from home and add it to a jar at school beginning on November 5th.

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.

Once the collection is organized, the students there will be an in-school store from which students can purchase and assemble donations.

In addition to the collection of change, the **school-wide food drive will be held on Monday the 19th, and**

Tuesday the 20th. Please bring your can goods to the playground during pick-up and drop-off. If you are interested in helping us take the collections to the Food Bank please let us know.

We appreciate your support as we work to help the community!

Parent Volunteers

Thank you to Courtney Hurtubise, Julie Hottinger, and Joanne Whitlow. They will be helping the Primary students create Thanksgiving Feast invitations on Nov. 6th.

Also, thanks to Aimee Shaw, Irene Cimino and Meredith Hayes who have signed up to help with the costume creation.

If you would like to join either of these groups, please drop us an email. We use volunteers from 9:15 until 11.

Little Materials That Wander



As the children explore the classrooms more, parents may discover strange treasures in their little one's pockets. In the process of moving from one work to another, a child may tuck a material in their pocket for a moment and then forget about it.

Among the classroom materials that might find their way home, small cubes from the pink tower, beads from the bead frame, etc.

If your child comes home with an unexpected treasure and you suspect it belongs



in the classroom, please just send it to us in a baggie. If it does not belong to TMS, we will return it to you.

Continent Day Highlights and Looking Forward



Europe Day was a wonderful beginning to our monthly Continent Days!

Students made Paddington Bear hand puppets, explored the Giant's Causeway in Ireland, made Bavarian pretzels, learned about traditional clothing from across the continent, and relived the glory of the London Olympics as they participated in a relay of sporting events.

Looking beyond Europe, families who have signed up for **North America Day** are **Hayes, Julien, Brown, Gans, Bettler, & Shaw**.

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 Mrs. Amanda.

Asia: Read, Sharrar, Sutton, Gareau, Bor, Valentine, Lilly, & Read
 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.

Calendar

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

Commonwealth Parenting Classes

For interested parents, Commonwealth Parenting offers a range of classes during the month of November:

[1,2,3, Magic](#)
[Discipline Decisions](#)
[Transitions and Routines](#)
[Girls Will Be Girls and Boys Will Be Boys](#)

To register or for more information on classes or consultations, visit the Commonwealth Parenting Center [website](#).

From the Toddler Classroom

In November, the Toddlers will be introduced the North American Continent! In addition to our continent study; we will introduce mammals, land and water forms (such as island and lake), and seasonal changes.

We will have one-on-one and group sessions to focus on language, vocabulary, and math. The class will make cranberry sauce and corn bread!

As the cold weather season closes in, we will work on perception as they practice on putting on and taking off jackets and hats independently!



From the Primary Classroom

This month, we will be moving across the Atlantic to North America for our Continent Study. We will correlate these studies with our preparation for our Thanksgiving celebration. We will continue our study of leaves and the change of the seasons and how this impacts the animals in our area like the squirrels who are busy gathering nuts.

Students will also begin learning some basic sign language.

Throughout October we have been opening the remainder of the classroom. Now the younger students are working on learning their continents and have enjoying painting the continent stencils as an extension of the work. We have opened the bead cabinets and the students are beginning linear counting with the bead chains. The afternoon students are beginning the 45 layout lesson.

Additionally, we have been working with the students on creating phone books and matching their classmates names and photos to help them expand their sense of community.



From the Elementary Classroom

In addition to their individual work, during November, the TMS Elementary students will participate in a number of group activities:

knitting
paper making
bookbinding
geology
Work of Water
graphing
estimation
writing letters and thank you notes
and the determination of fundamental needs.

We're looking forward to an exciting month of learning!



Spanish at TMS



At the Primary Level, we will be learning "Numbers 0-10" and "Colors." This vocabulary will also be integrated into the Toddler Classroom on a daily basis with Ms. Teresa.

At the Elementary Level, we will review these same topics, as well as our "Shapes." A "Practice Spanish in the Home!" vocabulary sheet will be coming home the first week of November. We will also be reading, "La Oruga Muy Hambrienta," to reinforce counting. The songs that will be sung in class during the month of November include "Cinco Patitos" and "El Burrito Enfermo." Elementary parents will receive an email with audio versions of both songs so they can sing along with their little ones!

Here, too, is [the link to the photos](#) from our Dia de los Muertos celebration. Many thanks to Natalia Gans (Alissa's mother) for reading *The Day of the Dead/Le Dia de los Muertos: A Bilingual Celebration* by Bob Barner.

--Sra. Stefani

Art at TMS



The students finished their study of Kandinsky this past month. They created vivid works with his signature concentric circles as well as some Kandinsky inspired pieces with different shapes.

The month of November will find the TMS discovering the work of Dale Chihuly! In preparation, we're asking parents to **send in empty water bottles**. Your help as the students work towards their "glass" creations is much appreciated!

Chinese in the TMS Elementary Program



In the upcoming month, our experienced Chinese students are going to learn about food! We'll learn measurement words and words for common foods including chicken, soup, noodle, rice, beef steak, and hamburger. They will be learning how to use these in sentences.

The students who joined our class in September will learn animal words: tiger, panda, monkey, giraffe, and kangaroo. We'll learn some action words and put all of them into sentences.

Enjoy the beautiful Fall!
-- Hui



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