

Director's Note

Our school's identity as a preschool which challenges students to flourish is well established. This year, we took on a new facet, a new developmental phase, as we opened our Elementary classroom. With our growth, we have re-evaluated our communication vehicles including our website and newsletters. Based on parent feedback, we are pleased to introduce two changes which we feel will help you, our parents, be more aware of the happenings in the classroom while also informing prospective families of who we are becoming a new exciting educational option for student into Elementary school!

First, the newsletters will now be issued by classroom (Toddler, Primary, Elementary) and include a calendar (see reverse) which will detail snack, library, and topics of study. The newsletters will be delivered in the tote bags and be available online. Second, the website is being re-designed. We will announce it formally in the coming days. A few features of the new site:

- ★ A redesigned calendar page; Parents with a Gmail account can subscribe to the calendar & import school events into their own schedules.
- ★ An Elementary blog featuring daily and weekly teacher updates and information on Montessori education
- ★ A Primary blog to communicate class highlights, photos, reminders, and upcoming events
- ★ Both blogs are password protected. Passwords will be provided when site is launched.
- ★ Parents can subscribe to receive new blog posts via email or can check the blog at their convenience.
- ★ Easy access to the TMS online library catalog
- ★ Printable forms for activity registrations, ordering classroom shoes and lunch boxes, etc.
- ★ Optimization for smartphone/ipad access

We look forward to a wonderful spring with your students!
We welcome your feedback on the aforementioned modifications
~ Ms. Amanda

CLASSROOM NEWS: We turn our focus to **Spring, Reptiles, Insects, Music, & South America** this March. We will also look at weather so begin talking with your students about the temperature and forecasts. Just today a student was discussing what season it was as they didn't need a coat; so how could it be winter if they didn't need a coat? March into April we will be discussing reptiles and insects their characteristics and their adaptations. This study will be enhanced thru several art projects as well as some live visitors. There will be ant farms, praying mantis, tadpoles, and maybe even some meal worms in the classrooms. The students love the chance to get up close and personal the these little creatures. To enhance our **South America** study, we will be making a replica of La Cammito in La Boca, Buenos Aires. The city is know for its colorful buildings and windows. The students will also have the opportunity to make and paint their favorite snake, watercolor some rainforest birds, and pin punch a golden Peruvian sun god. Our **Musical studies** will highlight composers as well as the many instruments used to create the music. This year we have two new groups coming to the school; The Richmond Symphony's Woodwind Quartet and the Richmond Youth Harp Ensemble. We are excited to welcome both of these groups who will share a concert with the students. Interested parents are welcome to come and share their musical talent. Please email the office to schedule you time to share your gift!! Dependent on the weather, we will also begin preparing the garden for a spring planting.

It is shaping up to be an exciting spring at TMS!

RECAP OF AFRICA DAY:

Africa day was celebrated in a wonderful way! In Food, The Whitlow and Akers-White families shared some wonderful food from Ethiopia. The students were able to smell commonly used spices and taste Injera, Ethiopia's spongy bread. In Art, the students heard the beginning of an African tale with Annie Coffey, Ready's mom, after which they were able to create a craft to represent their character in the story whether frog, rabbit, or caterpillar. The full story was read with amazing animation and some drumming for the students as a culminating event. In Geography, the students learned about the Natural Wonders of Africa such as Tabletop Mountain, Nile River, Sahara Desert, and Victoria Falls to name a few. After learning some facts, the student were able to use clay to create models of the wonders. In Games Heather Conn and her special guest, Rwandan native Robert taught the students some dance moves and games from Rwanda, including a version of hot potato! In Artifacts, the Vandesands shared some wonderful photographs and artifacts from their trip to Africa. They had many wooden masks as well as a SpringBox animal hide that were popular with the students. Thanks to all the parents for a fantastic day!

PARENT-TEACHER PARTY: Interested in helping plan the Annual Parent-Teacher Appreciation Party? Stay after drop off on Tuesday, March 6th and join in! We have the location and time we just need help with decorations, food, set up and clean up. If you did not receive your evite via paperless post please let the office know.

CONGRATULATIONS: The school extends congratulations to Ms. Karen for completing her **certification in Primary Montessori Education** through the Center for Guided Montessori Studies. Good Work!

SUMMER CAMP: If you have not returned your enrollment forms please do so by **March 20th**.