



Tuckahoe Montessori School

Director's Note

Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley grow! November was full of reasons to be thankful. In the spirit of the holiday, we thank all of you who donated can goods and participated in "good works" money collection for our food drive. I am amazed to report that the school collected over 500 pounds of food. The donations were used to support the efforts of FEED MORE. We will be collecting again for the backpack program in Spring.

As the holiday season approaches it is a busy time. At TMS we celebrate the season but also keep a consistent day. In your own families we encourage you all to reflect on the values you have chosen and make sure your decisions reflect those values. Keep in mind the Montessori tenet; the beauty and quality of the environment is more important than the quantity of items in it. As you are purchasing gifts, I encourage you to look at your child's interests now. Is it the gift that was advertised all last December or the train or the dollhouse that they can play and create with for hours? What do you enjoy doing as a family and what gift could be given to enhance your next time together at that family activity?

Montessori parents often wish to be flies on the wall to witness that wonderful work that their children are doing. I would like to share with you about two aspects of our classrooms is reflected in your child's work. First, our art work has two choices: one that is pre-cut and more predetermined for the younger student, and a second in which the student starts from scratch and cuts the objects they need and then creates the project. Second, work may come home "incorrect." We do not correct students work. Whether it be their continent maps, their addition with objects, or their number writing, we send home the work as it was completed by your child. You may see notes in the teacher's handwriting that displays the post completion review. This is a great tool to utilize as a standard of comparison for the amazing growth your child will experience during their time with us. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to give me a call. Conference sign ups will come out over the winter holiday. Wishing you a wonderful holiday season!

From your room parents:

ITS TIME TO SHOW OUR LOVE!

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

So, the Holiday Season is upon us. And it is in that spirit that 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 all 16 number of TMS teachers and staff. What is different this year is that we are including the Toddler, Primary & Lower El teachers, Spanish, Chinese & music teachers, Ms. Dawn, 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 MONDAY DEC. 12. Please mark your envelopes to the attention of Jennifer Kaufman. 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: Jennifer Kaufman, Tiffany Conner, and Aimee Shaw

Happy Birthday!

Judah Weinstein

Milind Murthy

Violet Julien

Cole Fisher

Stella Valentine

Shaan Agarwal

Ms. Eliza

Stella Gareau

Montessori for the Kindergarten Student & Beyond

Several of you have expressed the desire for information on the "kindergarten" year at TMS. Please feel free to contact the office for more information. We have a great group of folks interested in staying for that all important final year in primary. Conference time is another great time to ask your teachers or myself for more information.

School Year 12-13

It is time to think about next school year already! We will begin our re-enrollment process in January. At your conference, you will be given your new contract; however, all registration paperwork will be completed in May. The contract and \$600.00 deposit for 12-13 will be due February 1st.



North America Day

North America day was truly a wonderful tribute to our great continent. The children enjoyed a Cinco de Mayo celebration at the food station compliments of the Shaw and Starke families complete with make your own guacamole and piñatas! In artifacts, Jennifer Julien shared with the children many beautiful artifacts; Canada, Mexico, Trinidad, and some native American relics were represented. The petrified wood and the steel drum were hits. In art, Greta Daughtery-Kidd led the students in making some Guatemalan worry dolls out of clothes pins. The legend of the doll is that if you tell it your worries and put it under your pillow you will sleep well. In geography, the students learned about the migratory patterns of the monarch butterfly. Kate Gareau showed them maps of their migration after which they created their own butterfly. Lastly, in games, Vanessa Bearden led the children in a game of eye spy as if they were the explorers Lewis and Clark! Thanks again to all North America parents for making the day so special!



Montessori Pearl

When you ask your child to put on their coat do they ever just throw it on the floor?? Well, we at TMS teach the children to put there coats on themselves. It is a several step process. First, the children pull the sleeves out of their own coat. We often talk about the rabbit down the hole and then pull back. Second, they place their coat on the floor, with the collar/tag at their toes. Lastly, they put their arms in their sleeves and flip the coat over their head. As the weather turns cooler, it is great to practice this at home too!! Ask your child to show you how to do it today!

Classroom News!

In December, our classrooms will focus on the holiday traditions of different countries and learning how people around the world share with family and friends in the joy of giving. We encourage you to send in show and tell with your children that talks about the special traditions you have in your family around the holidays. It is a tradition for St. Nicholas to visit the students at TMS so we will see if he makes it this year:).

Additionally, the smells of the holidays are prevalent in the classroom with cinnamon stick shaving, orange punching with cloves, cranberry/ popcorn stringing, and identifying smells of candles in the mystery box. While you are baking this season, share some of the spice smells with your children and see how many they recognize.

December Events!

International Show and Tell:

Beginning next week, we will be have our international show and tell days. Please remember to send in a relic from the country from which your family will be bringing food.

International Feast! The highlight of December is truly our international feast. This year the feast takes place on Wednesday, December 14th at 11:00AM in the fellowship hall. You will received an email for signing up for a country from which to bring a dish. Please remember that this is a feast for everyone to enjoy so bring enough for parents and students to taste.

Lunch Bunch: In January, the second semester of our lunch bunch program will begin for interested three and four year old students. Watch your email for registration. This coming session we will offer a winter session of gymnastics as well as a spring session of soccer and gymnastics. Additionally, there will be ten spots for families interested in Chinese for

their students. Mandarin will be taught Ms. Penik our current elementary Chinese teacher for interested 4 & 5 year olds. There will be a class limit of 10.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

will be held January 16th. Conferences begin at 8:00AM. Sign-ups for conference times will begin on January 3rd. If you are aware of a prior scheduling conflict, please let us know and we will arrange an alternative date & time that works for your family and your child's teacher.

Closures: The school will be closed beginning Dec. 14th at noon and re-open January 3rd. As the inclement weather approaches refer to Channel 8 for our school closing announcement as well as an email notification.

End of Year Donations: Lastly, please consider TMS, a 501c3 corporation, as a recipient of your year-end charitable contribution. All donations to the school are fully tax-deductible

