

MONTESSORI OF FRANKFORT

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Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2011

Key Dates in October

- **October 1st:** Tuition Due
- **October 7th :** Arboretum Field Trip—NO SCHOOL
- **October 10th:** Columbus Day—NO SCHOOL
- **October 11th:** Small Hands Catalog Orders Due today!
- **October 19th:** Parents Night: 6:30-7pm A-J
7 - 7:30pm K-Z
(alphabetically by last name)
- **October 21st:** Scholastic Book Orders Due
- **October 31st:** Halloween Celebrations—All classes. Parade at 11:30am

Tidbits From The Teachers



The Role of Practical Life in the Montessori Classroom

Between the two world wars and the turmoil of the 1930's, Dr. Maria Montessori became ever more concerned with the future of our world. Celebrated technological advances were achieved, yet perhaps even greater problems resulted from such 'progress.' Machines allowed us to build 'better' cars, highways, buildings and weapons, developing what Montessori referred to as a "supernature." (*Education and Peace*, Maria Montessori, page 67). In this "supernature," families moved to large, rapidly growing cities with modern technology to make their lives easier. As families abandoned their farms, the child was no longer given opportunities to contribute to the family through truly meaningful work.

Children Need to Feel Capable and Valued:

With this in mind, Montessori developed the practical life component of the curriculum. These activities are an essential factor in the Montessori classroom. Practical life provides a vital opportunity for the child to gain skills necessary to function within her culture, but perhaps more importantly, to feel capable and valued.

The Montessori Environment is Created to Meet the Child's Need to be Independent and Competent:

To facilitate the child to this end, the Montessori classroom meets the needs of the child because she is allowed to explore her surroundings and construct these practical skills in a safe, encouraging environment. The child is given freedom with responsibility, which is an important life skill in itself. Furthermore, Montessori developed materials and furniture appropriate to the child to support her on her journey for independence.

To educate the whole child, the Montessori classroom supports the child in developing the necessary practical life skills through the maintenance of the classroom environment, the development of skills, which build a sense of self-worth, and the acquisition of language and adeptness required to solve her own problems.

The First Plane of Development and Practical Life:

Montessori initiated the practical life component of her method beginning in the Toddler and Primary classrooms. In the First Plane of Development, the child is in a sensitive period for ordering her environment and strengthening her independence. To facilitate her in this process, Montessori developed specific materials, such as the careful scooping, spooning, pouring, washing and folding, to support the child to this end. These practical life skills help the child develop fine motor skills, as well as increasing her independence and concentration in preparation for more challenging work.

Closing:

With the acquisition of practical life skills, the child becomes independent, while attaining important life-long skills. Montessori addresses the necessity for practical life experiences in the classroom and states, "Today we might define this goal as the preparation of children to live successfully in their world, by which we mean the future, rather than live primarily in ours, which is the present and the past." (*Montessori Today*, Paula Polk Lillard, page 3). Therefore, through practical life experiences, the child is provided the skills necessary not only to function within her environment, but also feel capable and successful in her world. The child's desire to learn new skills and her eagerness to contribute has enabled her to not only feel valued, but to be valued as well, even while existing in the "supernature." By gaining practical life skills, the child enables herself to generate useful contributions in the classroom, at home and in her community.

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PARENTS' NIGHT

Our first Parents' Night will be held on **Wednesday, October 19th from 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

The children eagerly look forward to this opportunity showcase their classroom to parents and siblings.

In order to keep things from getting too crowded, we are asking families to come at assigned times based on their last names:

6:30-7pm A-J

7 - 7:30pm K-Z

(alphabetically by last name)

We hope to see you all there!

Extended Day Updates

Science & Geography Club



This month our Science and Geography Club will be studying the great State of Illinois. The children will learn interesting information, important symbols, people, places, agriculture and fun facts. Some examples we will cover are: "Why is Illinois known as the Land of Lincoln?", "What is our state bird?" , "Did you know the Ferris wheel was invented here in Illinois?"

At this beautiful time of year, we will then discover the simple composition of leaves. We will end the month of October creating a leaf booklet using the colors of fall.



Art Club



In October, the Art Club will learn about the artist Pablo Picasso.

He was one of the most famous modern artists working in many different styles. Many of his works concentrated on the art technique of collage. This form of art is an artistic composition of various shapes, colors, textures and materials glued to a surface.

This is such a fun time of year for the children with falling leaves, pumpkins and Halloween. We will use these themes in our collage creations!



Phonics Fun



This month the children will continue to work their way through the alphabet as we incorporate learning the sounds through group activities and also working on their handwriting skills. Our readers will be focusing on word families as well. Encourage your child to share what they have learned by finding letters and words they recognize in newspapers, billboards, etc.



Reminders from the Office

✍ **Family Envelopes** are sent home every Wednesday. We include various documents (i.e., monthly newsletter, Scholastic Book order forms, field trip information, etc.). Families are asked to remove the contents and return your envelope to school the next day! Paperwork gets lost if we do not have your envelope!

✍ **Tuition envelopes** are to be used for tuition only. All payments for other activities (book orders, field trips etc.) are to be made separately and returned to school with the corresponding paperwork.

✍ **Policy and Procedure Manuals** were received by all families upon enrollment with us. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the material in this manual. It contains important information relevant throughout the school year.

✍ **The Newsletter** is sent home at the beginning of each month. It contains important information including what is going on at school, upcoming events, changes in the school calendar, and holidays we are celebrating (in some cases, you will need to bring items to school). *Please be sure to thoroughly read your newsletter.* We would hate for you to miss out on anything!

✍ **Newsletter Sponsors** help us bring this newsletter to you each month. Please help support these local businesses. If anyone is interested in advertising, please contact Chris Ulreich at 815/272-3783.

✍ **Scholastic books** are a wonderful inexpensive way to share the love of reading with your children. Our school receives bonus points for all orders placed through us. We had a great response in September, and as a result were able to order some new books, CD's and materials for our classrooms. Orders for October will be sent home next week and are due back to school or online by October 21st. Happy Reading.

✍ **Portrait viewing** will be sometime in late October or early November. Keep an eye out for a note home with our assigned date and time!

✍ **T-shirts** are in & were sent home this week. Please remember to have your child wear his/hers to the Morton Arboretum if you are attending!

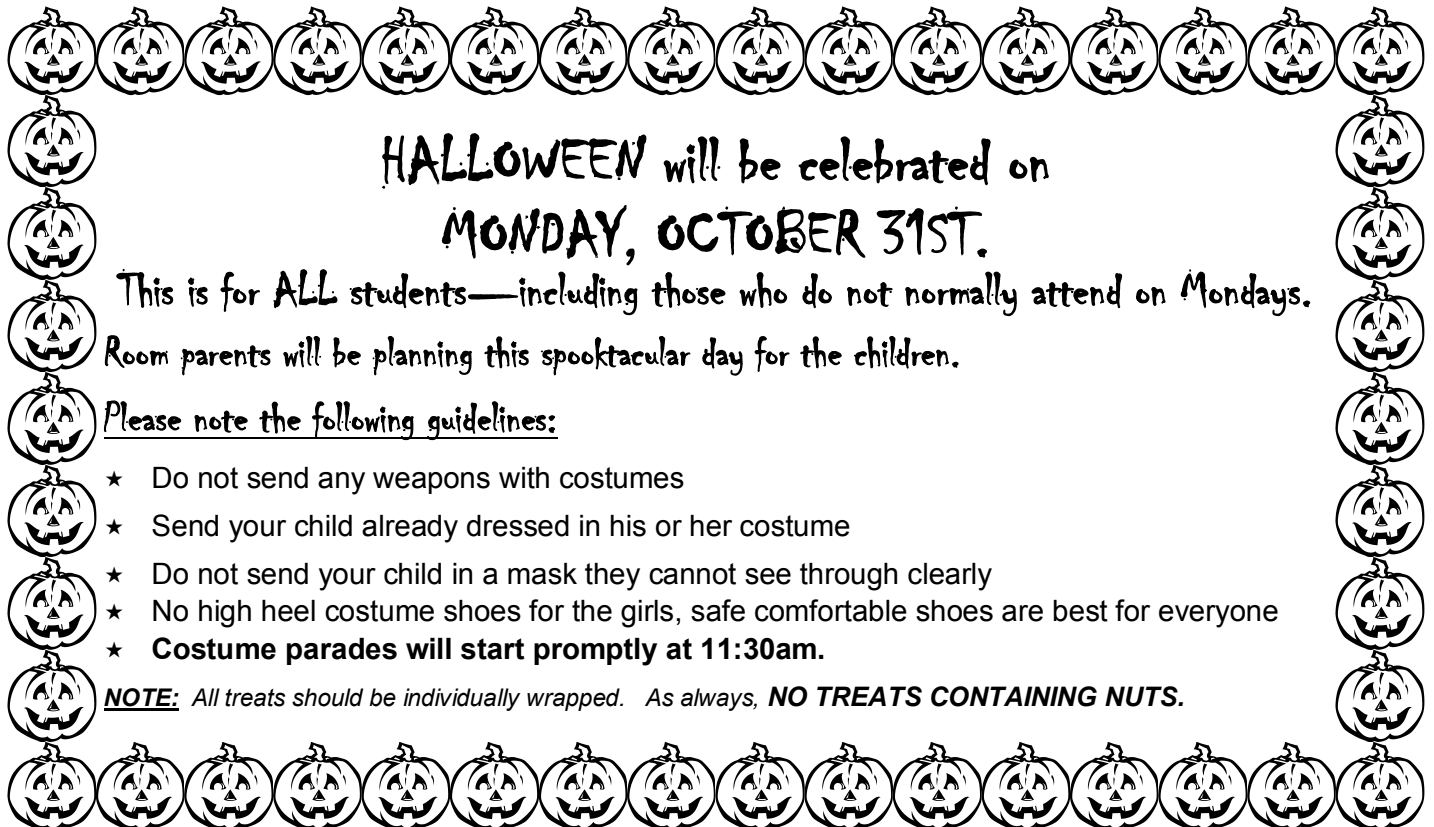
Small Hands Catalog

We will be placing a group order again this year through Montessori Services *Small Hands Catalog*.

Catalogs and order forms went home last week. Ordering early will ensure delivery in time for the holiday season.

All orders are due in by Tuesday, October 11th.

If you have questions about *Small Hands*, please call or e-mail Chris Ulreich at 815/272-3783 or cmu1203@comcast.net.



HALLOWEEN will be celebrated on
MONDAY, OCTOBER 31ST.

This is for **ALL** students—including those who do not normally attend on Mondays. Room parents will be planning this spooktacular day for the children.

Please note the following guidelines:

- ★ Do not send any weapons with costumes
- ★ Send your child already dressed in his or her costume
- ★ Do not send your child in a mask they cannot see through clearly
- ★ No high heel costume shoes for the girls, safe comfortable shoes are best for everyone
- ★ **Costume parades will start promptly at 11:30am.**

NOTE: All treats should be individually wrapped. As always, **NO TREATS CONTAINING NUTS.**

Scholastic Book Orders



Scholastic books are a wonderful inexpensive way to share the love of reading with your children. Our school receives bonus points for all orders placed and free book coupons for all orders placed online. We had a great response in September, and as a result were able to order some new books and CD's for our classroom. Orders for October are on their way home & are due back to school or online by October 21st.

Ordering online is easy. Log onto www.Scholastic.com/bookclubs. On the parent page, click the "Don't have a User Name and Password?" (or new user) link, then register for your own username and password. When prompted, enter the one-time **Class Activation Code: GVFMB**. Then you are ready to browse the online selection and order.

Important Update to School Year Calendar

We inadvertently left Veterans Day as an unscheduled day off. **There will be no school on Friday, November 11, 2011** to honor our Veterans as they are so deserving of this day.

Please mark your calendars.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

The teachers and children would like to extend a huge thanks to all t who donated items to our school during the month of September. Your generosity contributes to the success of our school. Thanks so much!

- ◆ ADDUCI Hand sanitizer, cotton balls, Kleenex, paper & baby wipes
- ◆ CHELLINO Baby wipes, paper towels & flushable wipes
- ◆ DEMPSEY Baby wipes, glue sticks & paper towels
- ◆ EBERS 2 rolls of paper towels, Zip-lock bags, scrapbook odds & ends, glue stick, copy paper
- ◆ HARB 2 boxes of Kleenex & 2 boxes of Zip-lock baggies
- ◆ HICKEY Pony beads, paper towels & glue sticks
- ◆ JARZEMBOWSKI Baby wipes, Zip-lock baggies & cotton balls
- ◆ KOTARA Glue sticks & Sharpie markers
- ◆ KUZLIK Kleenex, baby wipes, Zip-lock baggies & glue sticks
- ◆ PANGALLO Kleenex, paper towels, Zip-lock baggies, glue sticks & disinfecting wipes
- ◆ RIEDER Zip-lock baggies
- ◆ SANTIAGO Baby wipes & hand sanitizer
- ◆ SKOPEK Miscellaneous art supplies
- ◆ SOLIUNAS 2 boxes of Kleenex, 2 packages of glue sticks & baby wipes
- ◆ ZETINA Baby wipes, Kleenex, paper towels, Zip-lock baggies & Sharpie markers

Interested in Sponsoring our Newsletter?

This is a great way to advertise your business.

Our newsletter is read by about 30 families each month.

Please contact Chris Ulreich at 815/272-3783 for more information.