



# MONTESSORI OF PLAINFIELD

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## Key Dates in September

- September 1st —Tuition Due
- September 5th —Labor Day NO SCHOOL
- September 6th -Sweatshirt & T-Shirt orders due
- September 13—Morton Arboretum field trip permission slips and money due.
- September 16—Scholastic book orders due
- September 21st—School Pictures (Miss Heather & Miss Kelly)
- September 28th—School Pictures (Miss Mari-Ann)

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## Tidbits From The Teachers

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! We are sure there are several emotions everyone is feeling as we send our youngsters to school for the first time or maybe this is their last year, as they are now kindergarteners. Regardless of which milestone you are approaching with your young student, it can be a very exciting yet an anxious time. As your children's second teachers and caregivers we are quite aware that these first couple of weeks can be difficult for both you as the parents and for your children. We would like to express our sincere dedication in making yours and your child's transition as smooth as possible. As most of you already know we are committed to open and honest communication with our families, as it is only in the best interest of our students that we are all working as a team toward the success of your children's social, emotional and educational growth.

During the first couple of weeks we will focus on learning the rules of our classrooms, reviewing classroom materials, making new friends, reconnecting with our old friends, and having lots of fun! Our kindergarteners will quickly become aware of their new leadership positions in their classes as they are now "the big kids". Our new students will be learning to observe and ask for assistance from their peers as well as their teachers. The beauty of multi-age classrooms makes this all possible.

Our best words of wisdom to share with all of you are:

- ◆ Quick good-byes are best
- ◆ Consistency is essential when it comes to attendance
- ◆ The tears are usually short lived
- ◆ If you have a question or concern please talk to us right away
- ◆ We truly love what we do & care about them as they were our own!

## Morton Arboretum Field Trip

Our first field trip this year will take place on **Friday, October 7th** at **Morton Arboretum**. It is the 1,700 acre home to plants from 65 countries around the world.

With miles of beautiful trails, there is a flurry of nature and activity to explore.

Our day will encompass a self-guided tour of the Arboretum's Children's garden. This space is four acres of delight. It is a safe place for children to make a connection to nature through interactive exhibits. Included are a Canopy Walk, the Adventure Woods, a Secret Stream, a

Curiosity Garden and the Bloom, Zoom and Sprout Garden.

More detailed information will come home in next weeks family envelopes.





# Miss Heather's Kindergarten News



Welcome back and welcome to All-Day Kindergarten. As we begin our year there is always excitement and energy. Just as often there is a touch of hesitation and a little sprinkling of fear. Do not be alarmed if your student who has been jumping out of the car full of confidence for two years suddenly says, "I don't want to go to school". Staying for lunch and being an all-day student can be a big change, however, the transition will take place and your student will be just as confident as ever in their new role as a leader. I will be with them every step of the way as they adjust to their new day. The first few weeks we will focus on our time together for lunch by introducing the ground rules and procedure for eating as a class. Each week there will be a team of two students who will be responsible for setting tables and washing dishes after lunch. Some will love it and some will not, but part of being in a community is caring for each other!

At lunch time we set the tables with plates, silverware and napkins so you do not need to pack these items. Our class does have a microwave, and I often heat items for the kids. \*\*\*Guidelines\*\*\* Please do not send in frozen meals like kid cuisine or similar items. They take a long time to cook! If you can use a thermos for ravioli, soup or spaghetti please do so. They work well and I always check to make sure things are still warm enough. If you live with a big fan of mac-n-cheese please prepare it and send it in a microwave safe container to be heated up. These take about 30 seconds to heat. Do not send the containers of "easy mac"- they take 3 minutes to prepare, This year we have 15 kids for lunch. We all unpack our food from the lunchboxes and everything gets warmed up and we all begin eating as a group. So the moral of this story is the reheating time can get out of control quite easily, and 15 hungry kindergarten kids may revolt if they have to wait too long for lunches!! I have never had an issue with heating things for the kids in the six years I've had this class, and with your help lunch this year will be just as successful as ever

After lunch we move onto our work cycle for the afternoon, where work takes place individually and in small groups. For the first month we will concentrate on getting to know each other, re-discovering favorite materials and new presentations. I will take the kids outside often in the first few weeks, as it is a great way to head off the nerves and apprehension of staying for a longer day. Always remember that I am available anytime for questions or concerns. Send me a note, send me an e-mail [ox56@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ox56@sbcglobal.net) or call me as often as you need to! Kindergarten is exciting for everyone- me, the kids and you too!

## Extended Day

### Science Discoveries

For the youngest of children, science is about trying to understand the world around them. Children are natural scientists. Observe them as they watch and ask a million questions about people, animals, weather and everything else that goes on in their environment. Children and scientists do two similar things: they investigate and find answers. During the upcoming year we will focus on these two very important phases of science. As with all Montessori areas of study the process of investigating and doing will take priority over just learning a bunch of facts. Learning how to find answers is more important than the answers themselves. This philosophy plants the seed for "the love of learning" that is so near and dear to all Montessorians!



### Art Appreciation

Art is such a wonderful way for children to express themselves without the use of words. Children seem to be naturally drawn to beautiful things, whether it be nature or art. What better age to expose them to masterpieces of the great artists when they are so captivated by their beauty by nature. With both these ideas in mind, I will be introducing several artists and their work to the children. We will discuss the children's' interpretations of the different masterpieces. I will ask several questions to encourage them to really look closely at each art work. A simple explanation of the different techniques used by the greats will also be incorporated into our lessons.

Of course there will be plenty of self expression for the children as they experiment with new types of art media and techniques.

### Phonics Fun

Welcome to an exciting new year of phonics and alphabet exploration. Learning the alphabet and the sounds they produce will be taught through the use of songs, games, hands on weekly projects, cooking and handwriting practice. Using all five senses to help the children truly internalize this very important building block to reading will be our goal as well as having a fun learning experience.





## Reminders from the Office



To keep the numerous papers flowing between school and home we distribute **Family Envelopes** every Wednesday. If you do not receive your envelope, please inquire with your lead teacher. 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!

It is up to each family to read the **monthly newsletter**. The newsletter contains important information including upcoming events, changes in the school calendar, and holidays we are celebrating (in some cases, you will need to bring items to school, and we would hate for your child to be left out).

**Tuition envelopes** are distributed via the weekly family envelopes during the third week of each month. They are to be returned with payment no later than the 1st of each month.

**Tuition checks** should be for **tuition only**. All payments for oth-

er activities (book orders, field trips etc..) are to be made separately and returned to school with the corresponding paperwork.

If you donate supplies to our school, please remember to include your name with your donation. We want to make sure we thank everybody for their generosity.

**For the first month of school, we ask that you keep a sign in your car window with your child's name on it.** This will help make our dismissals go more smoothly until staff members become familiar with your cars

## Birthday Procedures

Your child's birthday is very special to us and we love to celebrate with them. We ask that on their birthday you send photos of your child from birth to current age. You may also send treats to share with the class. We do ask that you include small paper plates and napkins to make clean-up easy. Please note, however, that the cel-

ebration has to be limited to treats without messy frosting so as to keep clean-up under control. **As always, do not send any food items containing nuts.**

We also need to keep the celebration to a time limit to keep to our day's schedule of academics. Please no Piñatas or other elaborate celebrations. If your child is

having a party at home and may only invite some of his/her classmates, please give any invitations to the teacher to discretely distribute in the family envelopes.

Thanks for your cooperation!



## Orders In September



**SCHOLASTIC**

**Scholastic books** are a wonderful inexpensive way to share the love of reading with your children. You may order online, or by the traditional paper method. Our school receives bonus points for all orders placed through us. Orders for September will come home soon and are due by September 16th.

**Sweatshirts/**

**T-Shirts** will be ordered again this year. If possible, we like to have all students wear our school shirt during field trips. Order forms are included in your family envelope and are due back to school by September 6th (so we'll have our shirts in time for our first field trip!). Parents are welcome to order also.



**Picture Days** will be September 21st for Miss Kelly's and Miss Heather's classes and September 28th for Miss Mari-Ann's class. Permission forms will be sent home a week or so prior to picture day, these must be returned to school. Ordering portraits is optional, but if you would like your child in the class photo, they need to be photographed that day.

# Dr. Maria Montessori



Maria Montessori was born in Italy in 1870.

Dr. Montessori was the first woman to receive a medical degree in Italy, and following grad-

uation she became director of a school for the mentally disabled in Rome.

While at this school she formulated her philosophies, principles, and methods for the education of very young children. She achieved startling results and the children under her tutelage passed many exams given to normal children.

Her system of education, which proudly bears her name today, is widely acclaimed by educators and psychologists. Dr. Montessori lectured and wrote numerous books on learning and the child until her death in 1952.

Today, in Montessori schools all over the world, her teachings are an inspiration to educators and parents who believe in the overwhelming educational influence of the first six years of a child's life.

## *Recommended Reading:*

- \* Maria Montessori Her Life and Works, *E.M. Standing*
- \* The Montessori Method, *Maria Montessori*
- \* Secret of Childhood, *Maria Montessori*
- \* Absorbent Mind, *Maria Montessori*
- \* Essential Montessori, *Michael Olaf*

## Montessori 101 Resource for Parents

The link listed below will take you to a PDF file that is an amazing resource for parents of Montessori students. It has basic information that every parent of a Montessori student should know. Montessori 101 was written to help parents begin to discover and reconfirm what Montessori children know—Montessori works!

[http://www.montessori.org/sitefiles/Montessori\\_101\\_nonprintable.pdf](http://www.montessori.org/sitefiles/Montessori_101_nonprintable.pdf)

*Interested in Sponsoring our Newsletter?*

*This is a great way to advertise your business.*

*Our newsletter is read by over 60 families each month.*

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



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