



Dear Parents,

October, 2011

October is an eventful month at school. It usually has rather wobbly beginnings and then ends with a real gelling of independence and capability (Visit School Night) and awareness and joy in the sense of community we have built (Halloween party).

Although we have not yet had practice with snow gear, the really snowy weather of the winter season will be upon us sometime soon. We would like to thank you in advance for having your child well prepared for outdoor play. Winter dressing can be practiced at home in anticipation of that first big snowfall. We have a lot of fun on the playground at recess and warm outdoor clothes are a must. Reminder - please label your child's clothing.



We have been quite busy in the classrooms with cultural subjects and cooking projects. Our weekly cooking class involves the children in the art of careful measuring, following a recipe, the importance of personal hygiene, knowledge of assorted ingredients and tools, plus the joy of creating something delicious from scratch to share with others. Thursday cooking classes have been quite successful so far. This coming month we will make soup out of a stone! We had a somewhat meager harvest from our school garden this year but some of the ingredients for our Fall Harvest Vegetable Soup will come directly from the MCH garden. The potato crop was pretty good. We hope you enjoy the herb bread this week (bake at 350 degrees for about 10 minutes) and the spider cookies from the Visit School Night. Hopefully you have also enjoyed some MCH Mint Tea from our "tea factory".

Tree, leaf and seed work will be changing in November to rocks, fossils and dinosaurs in the Science area. The Cultural Geography area, which now holds our North America and Native American artifacts and activities, will be changing to Europe at the end of the month. The Art

area continues to be a popular place to visit, as well as Workbench and Practical Life. The social grace and courtesy lessons learned with "apple cutting" have been charming to behold. Luli & Danielle work hard in the Practical Life area and have had great success involving this group of children in preparing their own snack and thriving independently in this important and busy part of the environment.

All of the classroom areas have been active and engaging for the children--from Sensorial to Mathematics and Language. It has been quite amazing to watch the learning and concentration as these children work with the materials. At the Visit School Evening we hope you were able to have a glimpse of your child's activities in each of the areas of the Montessori environment.

Our Halloween party and parade at school was so much fun! I hope you had a chance to hear about some of it at home in between all of your own celebrations. The parade was just grand and this year and we are supposing that the Reading Buddies were watching from their windows across the road as we waved a "Happy Halloween!" to them. Please visit our website to view the photos of our exciting events at school.



Reading Buddies are well underway with Ms. Krista Betcher's 6th grade class coming over to pair up and spend a half hour of shared reading on Friday mornings. This is a wonderful collaboration we have with the Middle School, and we really appreciate these older students and how they form nurturing relationships with our younger students.

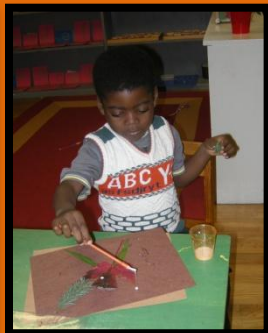


The Visit School

evening was also great fun. Watching the children show you our classrooms with such enthusiasm and pride gives us a thrill. It is so interesting to see what they choose to share or

demonstrate on that evening. We hope that you were pleased, as well, and we thank you for making the effort to come to school on that evening. The information you will receive at conferences will be more meaningful when you have been in your child's "shoes" at school for a bit. Feel free to schedule an appointment to observe in the classroom during any school day if you were unable to attend on the Visit Night or would just like to see MORE.

There is a lot of news to share, we realize, and we are grateful for your attendance at conferences on Friday, Nov. 4th when we will be able to share even more about your children and their successful beginnings here at Montessori Children's House. Please feel free to discuss your child's school life with us at any time.



Extended Day News:

Music class with Shana is thoroughly enjoyed by the Extended Day students. We thank her for sharing her talents with us in the afternoons here at MCH. Art Class with Angie is also humming along with a culmination soon of their month long focus on collage and beloved illustrator/author Eric Carle.

Our field trip to the Northfield Public Library--where we checked out books for the school about fall subjects and North America—was a great success. Thank you, Jami Reister, for accompanying us that day. We have had an explosion of mathematics work and story writing recently--so much big work going on with these older students with great levels of concentration. These characteristics of the 5 year old in the Montessori community serve as a wonderful leadership model in their morning classes. They are definitely up to the task and are enjoying this role, as well as their extended time together each day.



Birthdays we celebrated in October: big ones!

Riley Schwamb -- 5 on October 2

Johanna Meerts – 5 on October 13

Harper Miller – 5 on October 17

Olivia Rasmussen -- 5 on October 27



Welcome: New student Ryan Wade in the downstairs classroom. We are so happy you are here at MCH!



Congratulations: to the Tilley family (James – upstairs class) on the birth of baby Henry! October 28.



Oh, so cute, rabbits for pets: please contact the Klein-Borgert family at 612-819-3622 if you would like one!

Photo Orders: are coming soon—thanks!—this year everyone will receive a 5x7 class photo (hopefully at conferences). Special orders and Extended Day photos will be ready for ordering soon so they can be handed out before the Thanksgiving weekend.

Calendar:

Nov. 4 -- no school, parent/teacher conferences

Nov. 23 – Alumni Visit Day

Nov. 24 & 25 -- no school, Thanksgiving