



JANUARY 2010

Crystal Lake Montessori School
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Events

School Resumes

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Parent Group Meeting

Thursday, January 7, 2010, at 8:45 a.m.

Mad Science Presentation-All Invited

Thursday, January 7, 2010, at 9:45 a.m.

Call in for Conferences

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Re-Enrollment Begins

Friday, January 15, 2010

Martin Luther King Jr. Day- No School

Monday, January 18, 2010

Elementary Presentation Night

Thursday, January 21, 2010, at 6:00-8:00 p.m.

All School Conference Week

January 25-28, 2010

Market Day Pick-Up

Wednesday, January 27, 2010
10:30-11:30 a.m.

No-School Conferences

Thursday & Friday January 28 & 29, 2010

Re-Enrollment Due

Thursday, January 28, 2010

Open Enrollment Begins

Monday, February 1, 2010

Features

From Ms. Penny & Ms. Pam

Classroom News

Mustang Connection

Parent Group

Market Day

From Ms. Penny & Ms. Pam

Dear Parents,

We hope all of you had an enjoyable winter break. Thank you to all of you who sent greetings and gifts to the CLMS staff. It is always so nice to be appreciated in so many thoughtful ways. **Happy 2010!**

We would like to give a special thank you for our smooth, shiny, refinished gym floor. During our winter break, the Parent Group paid for the supplies, and Mr. Jerry professionally refinished the entire gym floor. It looks amazing!

Our **Elementary Presentation Night**, on Thursday, January 21, is a wonderful evening for elementary students to share their favorite activities with their parents, and also a great opportunity for Early Childhood parents to see what the Elementary curriculum offers. We will have a video about the Elementary program starting at 6:00 p.m., 6:30-7:30 p.m. will be the Lower Elementary presentations, and Upper Elementary presentations will be from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The overlap is scheduled so that younger students and parents may also attend the older students' presentations.

Re-enrollment for the 2010-11 school year will begin mid-January. You will receive re-enrollment information in the mail, and enrollment will begin on Friday, January 15. The **re-enrollment deadline is January 28**, as we open enrollment to new students on February 1st. Please call the school office if you have any questions.

Winter Parent/Teacher Conferences will be the week of January 25-28. To schedule your conference, please call or stop by the front desk starting Wednesday, January 13. The school number is 815-338-0013. Please realize that conference schedules vary from class to class with teachers often arranging to come in for evening conferences as early as Monday, rather than the daytime during which classes are not held. Please be sure to call early if you need to arrange more than one conference, or have a tight schedule that week. Heather Madaus will be coordinating childcare for conferences. If you will need childcare, please make an appointment when you set up your conference and let us know if you are able to help with the childcare during conferences. Thank you.

We will be closed **Monday, January 18, to honor Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday**. Dr. King was a great peace-maker, and as a Montessori school and an International Peace Site, it is most fitting that we celebrate the birth of this non-violent civil rights leader who accomplished so much. Like Dr. King, Gandhi, and Montessori, we here at CLMS believe that it is essential to begin early in a child's life teaching respect, tolerance, appreciation of differences, and non-violent conflict resolution. We believe these values and skills will help make our communities and our world a better place.

Peace,

Ms. Penny & Ms. Pam



Parent/ Infant/Child Program

Welcome back to school. The start of the school year will inspire us to focus on our study of Montessori from the Start by Paula Polk Lillard. Our approach will be sure to provide insight into thoughts of Montessori theory as applied to our young ones. I have books available for checkout for anyone interested. We welcome adults and children interested in joining our group, as some of our classmates have moved onto the toddler level. Please contact the school with any questions or interest.



"Childhood constitutes the most important element in an adult's life, for it is in his early years that a man is made." - Maria Montessori

Toddler Program

Happy New Year! We look forward to returning to regular classroom routines and predictable schedules. It is always enjoyable to observe how our Toddlers feel stability and security from the sense of order provided by the routines and predictability.

Conferences will be the week of January 25th. Please call in on Wednesday, January 13, to sign up for your conference appointment.



Reminders:

When your child arrives in their winter boots, they will be asked to take their shoes out of their backpacks and put them on. Also, when your child will not be coming to school, please notify the front desk. Our Toddlers are very aware and concerned when a friend is missing.

Thank you and Happy 2010!

"Knowledge can be given where there is an eagerness to learn." - Maria Montessori



Early Childhood Program

Welcome back to school! We hope everyone had an enjoyable time during winter break and are now ready to start school again. January is usually a busy month for the children. They come back more confident and excited to see their friends and teachers. They are eager to learn new things.

In the month of January, we will concentrate on studying the continent of Asia and learning more details about birds. Audrey Wood is the author of the month. She has a very interesting and interactive website,

www.audreywood.com, that you may want to visit. You will see that her husband, Don Wood, and her son, Bruce Wood, write and illustrate books with Audrey.



Audrey Wood

We will continue to go outside when weather permits (18F or higher including the wind chill factor), so please make sure your children have boots, snow pants, gloves, and a warm hat with them.

We are always very grateful to the families who provide us with snacks and flowers, and help with laundry. We are lucky to have such generous and supportive parents.

Important Reminder! Our winter conferences are coming soon. Please make sure you call or come in to schedule yours on Wednesday, January 13.

Kindergarten Extension Class

January will be a busy time in the Kindergarten Extension class. With the new calendar year, we will be focusing on the calendar, dates, days, and months. We will also be looking at clocks and reading time.



Hopefully, we will continue to be able to play outside in the snow and do snow, ice, and water experiments indoors.



We have a new animal in our classroom, Sparky Griswold, a Dwarf Hamster. We are learning how to properly feed and care for him. Although he is nocturnal, sleeping during the day and playing at night, we are able to hold, pet, and care for him during our afternoon time.

Lower Elementary Program

Westward Ho! Our study of the United States with an emphasis on Pioneers has made for an interesting month. The children were inspired by MCCD speaker "Pioneer Ben" to dive into individual research of the westward expansion. Our visit to the One Room Schoolhouse was an eye-opening experience to the different way of life that the children of old had.



Another highlight this month is Presentation Night. The children choose a material from an area in the classroom and present it to their parents and other visitors. This is such a special night, as the children are the teachers for the evening.

In January, we are embarking on our next continent study, which is Antarctica! We will focus on the geography and animal life of the continent.

As the month moves along, temperatures will continue to decrease. We do try to go outside as much as the weather allows. Please continue to send your child with full outdoor wear, which includes boots, snow pants, gloves, and hats. Labeling all of your child's items is very helpful.

At the end of the month, we have our 2nd parent/teacher/student conferences. We look forward to meeting with parents to discuss your child's progress. We always appreciate your ongoing support!

Book Buddies



Several times a month each Upper Elementary student buddies up with a Lower Elementary friend to read with each other.



Upper Elementary Program

Welcome to 2010! We hope that you had an enjoyable winter break full of joy and peace.

In December, the Upper Elementary students and teachers had a wonderful time experiencing a guided tour of Africa's culture prior to investigating the Evolving Planet exhibit at Chicago's Field Museum. It was a full day of excitement, exploration, and learning.

Both classrooms have been hard at work creating large collage puzzles of the South America and Europe continents. The students are also expanding their writing skills through creative focus on scientists, fictional islands, and postcards from other countries. Our science focus has



included a study of colder than cold and acid vs. base. As we enter a new year and a new month, January is traditionally a busy, but very productive, month for our students. For example, students are working towards completing their goals before their conferences, which take place during the last week of January. Our students will also be establishing new goals that they will focus on achieving during the remainder of the year.

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, January 21st. That evening will be Presentation Night. This is a wonderful opportunity to see students taking on the role of a teacher. Students will choose a Math/Geometry, Language, or Culture work and practice prior to their special night. As teachers, it is so rewarding to see the excitement in our students' faces as they present a lesson. Please come ready to learn!

Also, students are encouraged to start thinking about a Science Fair project and egg drop contraption. This year's Science Fair will take place on Friday, February 26th.

Finally, as a friendly reminder, if it is not too cold, we will go outside for recess. In order to play in the snow, students must have snow gear (i.e. snow pants, coat, boots, hat, and gloves). Please send these items with your child in a book bag or large, sturdy bag.



Middle School

Our students enjoyed our first trip to **Nature's Classroom** in the middle of December. Although it was cold and snowy, the students had a great time. There were three other Montessori Middle Schools: two from Chicago and one from Indiana. All of the students enjoyed getting to know one another and are eager to see each other again in April.

After returning from Nature's Classroom, we finished the **Natural World Power Cycle**. The students learned about waves as one form of energy and were able to relate that knowledge to their experiences with actual waves in North Carolina.

As we return from Winter Break, we will begin **Social World** and discuss Human Power in the form of creating change in our world. Our students will be studying various social injustices.

Market Day News

Hi everyone! Welcome to Market Day! A special thank you to all of our volunteers who help out each month, with an extra thank you to all of those who keep coming back to every sale! You are the best!

Note: Anyone interested in helping can come to any sale. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Profits Earned:

We earned \$262.18 from December's sale. We have earned \$955.82 so far this year. Way to go CLMS! Remember, all profits earned from Market Day help supply our children's classrooms with learning materials.

Next Sale Date: Wednesday, January 27.

Thank you,
Lisa & Nikki

Parent Group

Happy Holidays!!

Boy, this year has gone by so fast. We can't believe it's 2010. This year will be even better! Our school Book Fair was fantastic. The turnout was amazing. Thank you to all the parents who contributed by purchasing great books for our children and teachers classrooms and to Kim Gibson and all of the volunteers that set up, worked, and cleaned up the book fair. Other very successful recent projects include: Art to Remember (thank you chairperson, Patty Meier, the teachers, the artists -our children-and the parents that purchased items), and Spirit Wear (thank you chair people Reta Jankowski and Hayley Moore).

We wish you all a Happy New Year!

Wendy, Cheri, Julie and Carol

Mustang Connection

Our appreciation goes to Meg Anderson for organizing and publishing the "Mustang Connection," a directory of businesses and services owned and operated by our CLMS families. Thanks also to all those who participated



by listing and for the "good deals" offered to our families and the school. While we fully support this networking, we do need to mention that the school does not endorse or guarantee the quality of any of these services or products. We hope you find this directory useful and a nice way to build community among our families.

Dinner Dance/Auction

Think Spring! April is just around the corner.
The date to remember is

Saturday, April 10, 2010

A Special Request for Paper

Reuse-Reduce-Recycle, We recycle whenever possible, therefore we can always use donated paper and envelopes. If your company has changed the address or logo, we will welcome the unwanted paper and/or envelopes. Thank you

Fun in the Snow

