



P A R E N T N E W S L E T T E R



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

www.mehermontessori.org

december 11



We hope you all will have a wonderful holiday season and that everyone returns to school on January 9th, happy and ready to continue learning. The children usually come back after vacation excited about what Santa brought, eager to show off their new clothes, etc. However, some of the younger children get a little upset about returning to school. For them it can be like the first day of school all over again with clinging at the door, eyes full of tears, etc. Please be patient and help them get over their fears. We'll do all we can to help them get back in the swing of things.

Holiday Celebrations

On Friday, December 23rd, classroom parties will be held. The primary and elementary classes have their own special flyer about when their Christmas parties will be.



Gift Exchange

Don't forget! Children will be exchanging gifts in their classrooms on Friday, December 23rd. Gifts should not be worth more than \$10.00 and be suitable for both a boy and a girl. Please do not make them gender specific. Gift tags can say whom the present is from, but not whom it is for. Gifts should be at school no later than Tuesday, December 20th.

From Mrs. Muñoz

To all our Meher families, I wish you a wonderful and safe holiday season. May you all be blessed with lots of love and laughter. Enjoy each other and the special time with family and friends during this time of year. I look forward to starting off 2012 with great energy and happiness. Your children are very special to me and you should all be so proud of their hard work and accomplishments. I am amazed to see their growth that has taken place in this short time since the school year began.

I wish to thank my staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the children and wish them all a very special holiday break.

God bless you all and happy holidays.

Love,
Mrs. Muñoz





Mrs. Thomas and Wildhaber's Class

Happy December Everyone!

The stockings are hung in the hallway with care,

In the hopes that the parents will soon see them there.

The snowmen are nestled all snug in the hall,

While glances from Santa Claus come from the wall.

The holidays are fast approaching! As you drop off or pickup your child from the classroom, please take a moment to appreciate the holiday arts and crafts they are working so hard on, adorning our walls. The children are very proud of them. In addition to holiday crafts, our class is busy rehearsing a small holiday performance, as a special treat for all the parents who join us for our Christmas Party on the 23rd. Santa will be there, you know. We will have a sign-up sheet for snacks and refreshments in the sign in book soon.

Before we continue on with December and all the joyous occasions it brings, allow me to give November its proper farewell. Our Thanksgiving feast went well. We

had just a little bit of food left over that we were able to serve as an afternoon snack, which means there was no excess to waste. So that was just perfect. A lot of our parents were first time helpers, and we appreciate the time and effort they took to make The Feast an enjoyable time for the children. Thank goodness we had our veteran parent helper, Mrs. Lo, to show all the first timers what to do.

November also brought us 100% participation for School Shirt Day for two months in a row! We will have a pizza lunch on December 23rd to celebrate. Let's aim for three months straight and hit 100% participation for December 16th's School Shirt Day.

We had three birthdays in November. Andy Chen and Meghan Williams both turned 4 and fabulous. And Mrs. Thomas and I surprised Mrs. Suh,

and the class, with a Red Velvet Cake for her birthday. We appreciate Mrs. Suh's patience, devotion, and love with the children (and us), and wanted some small way to show her how much she means to all of us.

As we moved into December, a new student joined our growing class.



We would like to welcome Amanda Gonzalez to our Meher Family. She is adjusting quite nicely to the hustle and bustle of our classroom. With all the holiday spirit in the air, it is amazing to see the continued focus of the children on their work. It is very common to see one or more children writing their letters on a chalkboard, or paper, at any given time. We are even beginning to see some cursive. Once again, the counting chains have become quite popular. Andy Chen is already quite adept at the 7 long chain!

We would like to take this time to remind the parents that we hope the spirit of giving extends to The School's Food Drive and Toy Drive. There are so many people that need a reason to believe that good things will happen to good people who have fallen on hard times. It can be as simple as 1 gift for their child to unwrap on Christmas morning, or 1 meal they can enjoy as a family. We see the bins filling up. We're off to a good start, but let's do even more.

Have a wonderful holiday vacation,

Mrs. Thomas
Mrs. Wildhaber
Mrs. Suh





DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS
The Shops at Montebello

**HELP OUR SCHOOL EARN
\$250 TO \$2500!**

It's easy! Just shop and log receipts from The Shops of Montebello from September 15, 2011 and May 15, 2012 to support our school. Bring receipts to Guest Services, located on the lower level in Center Court to earn ten points per dollar spent (five points for purchases made at JCPenney, Macy's and Macy's Home). All receipts are returned immediately.

Questions? Call 1-800-539-3273 or visit shopsatmontebello.com.

EXTRA CREDIT POINTS

Earn 50 points per dollar spent at these new stores September 15 - October 15:
Daniel's Jewelers, Express, Gap, Gymboree, Hollister, Justice, NY & Co., PacSun, Things Remembered, The Children's Place and Vans.

Ms. Muñoz' Class

Hello to all parents, family and friends. Oh my how fast this year has gone! I truly cannot believe that 2011 is coming to a close and that 2012 is almost upon us. This has been a wonderful year and I look forward to all that 2012 brings.

December is always a very busy month but one that I enjoy greatly. Our class is filled with Christmas, Christmas, Christmas. In the spirit of Christmas and giving it is nice to use this time to think of all those less fortunate than we are. Each year our school has both a toy drive and food drive. For the

food drive, our school collects non-perishable food. We donate this food to St. Paul's Lutheran Church who then distributes it to families in need.

For the second year in a row our toy drive will benefit the West San Gabriel Boys and Girls Club. This is a place very close to my heart as I am an alumni and former Youth Of The Year. Please support this cause by bringing a new unwrapped toy.

For our class gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift that is ok for both a boy and a girl. Please make sure your child's name is on the outside. The gifts are due by Tuesday, December 20th. Thank you.

This month our School Shirt Day is on Friday, December 16th. Please help your child wear their shirt on this day. So far we have earned 100% this whole school year. Thank you so much for your support.

I'd like to give a huge "Thank You" to Kaya's Grandpa. For the second year in a row he has donated a beautiful Christmas tree to our classroom. The children, Ms. Martinez and I had a great time decorating it as we listened to Christmas music.

During the month of December we celebrate four birthdays. Nathan turns 4 and Alyssa, Sophia B, and Jordan turn 5. Happy Birthday to each of you.

This year our Christmas party will

take place on Friday, December 23rd. That day we will be having a pizza lunch for the children for earning 100% on School Shirt Day in November. Our Christmas Party will be in the afternoon. Everyone is invited to join us. Santa will be making a special trip to each classroom and after his visit we will be having a party with cookies and other goodies.

A sign up sheet will be placed on the sign-in book soon.

O u r school's Winter Break will be D e c e m b e r 26th – January 6th and we will return to

school on January 9th. I hope you all have a fun and relaxing holiday and vacation.

I would like to thank Ms. Cynthia Martinez for being an amazing assistant and for all her hard work for the children. The children and I are so fortunate to have her in class with us. She is also a wonderful and dear person and makes each day extra special.

Ms. Muñoz
Ms. Martinez



Mrs. Rivera's Class

November slipped away fast with vibrant activities to remember. Our Parent Conferences went successfully and I would like to thank all my parents for taking the time to talk with me and seek advice or guidance to help their child become a good learner in class. Your continuous support and trust in the learning process of your child will inspire your children to achieve their goals smoothly through the years. Let us continue to be focused, energized and mindful of care for our children's needs most especially when it comes to their learning. We will again sit down to discuss their progress in class sometime in May.

Two weeks before the Thanksgiving Party, I read to the children a "Thanksgiving" book shared with us by Mrs. Ruvalcaba. In this book the children learned the history of Thanksgiving and how it was celebrated before and now. At this point Mrs. Gonzalez took the initiative and inspired the children to create our "Tree of Thanks." In this Tree you will find the different shapes (which the children punched) and colors of the leaves; and on it are written the different things that the children in our class are thankful for. This Tree of Thanks can



be seen in the door adjacent to our classroom and daycare no. 1. These leaves went home with the children after the party. Thank you so much Mrs. Gonzalez for the wonderful values that the children learned and assimilated through their actions.

The Thanksgiving Party was festive with so much food to eat and share with everybody at lunch time. The children sang their Thanksgiving song (A rhyming song) with "gusto", musical instruments and body movements. After saying their Thanksgiving Poem, the children and their parents enjoyed the food that had been prepared for everybody. Thank you so much to all my

parents who in one way or the other contributed to the food, helped set up and clean up the classroom and gave other things needed for the party. We are all pleased and highly appreciative of the planning and supervision done by Mrs. Gonzalez to make the party run smoothly and the effort by our parents to make the party a memorable one for the children. The children's goody bags were filled with toys, school stuff and projects for Thanksgiving. Another thank you goes to Mrs. Ruvalcaba for the afternoon games spent with our children. There were a total of 3 games played, namely: Musical Chairs, Pinning the Turkey and Passing the Turkey. A cup of ice-

cream and carrot cake was served after the games that afternoon.

The older children in our class are busy reading, writing the words in cursive and spelling words that come into their minds. They love to use vocabulary words: humongous, ferocious, viper, ill, contagious... to mention a few learned from the series of stories I have read to them. They enjoy using those words in a sentence. In Math, they are moving on with their mathematical operations. In Language, some of the older children are reading story books found in the classroom. They love to analyze and put into sequence a particular story. The younger children are moving along with their psychomotor skills and socialization. They love to work with some of the sensorial materials. Most of them enjoy the independence of working as they step in the classroom everyday. As each child settles down in their work I play instrumental music (piano) to enhance their concentration.

During our circle time, the children have the opportunity to share the materials they bring to class for a "Show and Tell." This is done every 2nd week of the month. Some of these beautiful Show and Tells are Grandma's beaded craft which was a gift given to close family members,



a Dinosaur History Book complete with pop-up pictures, art projects, and a musical book, to mention a few. At this point I would like to give thanks to Carol and Luis Cadena for a mother and son Show and Tell in class. Luis talked about his wonderful first experience in playing soccer. He made a collage about his soccer

team and discussed it briefly with ease, good tone of voice and most of all answered questions raised by his classmates. He informed them of the importance of joining a sport and ended his talk by showing the class his winning game on a laptop brought by his mom. If any parent

would like to share something in class together with your child for our "Show and Tell Time" please feel free to see me before/after class or simply leave me a note and we'll discuss it.

The children with the supervision of Mrs. Gonzalez were busy with their Christmas projects and decorations to be posted on our doors. Each child needs to punch the following decorations: snowman, snowflakes, gingerbread man and Christmas tree.

Our Food and Toy Drives have started this 5th of December. The Food Drive will end Wednesday, December 21st while the Toy Drive ends the 16th of this month. These special activities are done once a

Library News

year to share the extras we have in our homes and help our brothers and sisters celebrate a merry Holiday Season. Thanks to all our parents and children who generously are participating in these drives our boxes and bins are getting filled.

We have been having a 100% School Shirt participation since the beginning of the school year. We hope to maintain that success for the entire school year. Once again, "Thank you!" in advance.

Happy holidays to all and thank you for being such wonderful supportive families. Have a safe holiday and a Happy 2012!

Love,
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Gonzalez
Mrs. Ruvalcaba



Food Baskets

Food baskets for the needy! We are preparing boxes of food to give to our landlord, St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The church has an ongoing program for giving food to the needy. It is especially appropriate in the Holiday season to give some food to those less fortunate. Please send a food item to school with your child for our food baskets. We will then present each classroom's box to the Church for them to divide into food baskets and distribute to the poor. Last day to donate food is Wednesday, Dec 21st.

We have lots of interest in the Library and are pleased to see it used more and more! Currently there are 121 books checked out. If you believe that your child has books to return we can make a printout of what is due.

Last month we started a Book Recommendation project, and the 9 students who wrote them received a prize. This month we will choose a new winner on December 22. These are the books recommended by our students so far:

**Diary of a Wimpy Kid
Attack of the Mutants
The Invention of Hugo Cabret
Sharks!
If You Take a Mouse to the Movies
Smile
The Great Waldo Search
In the Forest**

We wish you all wonderful and warm holiday season!

**The Library Staff,
Mr. & Mrs. Lew,
Mrs. Cadena
and Mrs. Page**

Mr. George's Class

We are encouraging the children to work with the Math and Grammar materials when they first enter the classroom... unless they are called to a lesson by Mr. Barrameda or myself.

In history, my newcomers studied the Egyptians and wrote the names and pictures of the card material.

My middle group completed sheets on the study of inventions and housing in chronological order. They are also learning the 13 American colonies by writing the names and dates on the U.S. map.

My third year students are studying the Space Age from 1957–1975. We looked at some of the important events during this time frame. The children wrote four famous quotations using the picture cards. These were from John F. Kennedy's speech on serving the country and sending a man to the moon, from Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous speech in 1963: "Don't judge a man by the color of his skin but by the content of his character." The fourth famous quote came from Neil A. Armstrong as he landed on the moon: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

In grammar, my newcomers are working on the Adjective Box using

the parts of speech symbols. They also are doing types of adjectives. My middle group changed nouns to adjectives i.e. house → house painter. They are also doing verb phrases and the three main tenses. My advanced group is working on reports: They finished their reports on Pathfinder Ranch, Meher Montessori School, Winter Wonderland and the Atomic Age.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving Party. For me, the party lingered on for three days.

Sincerely,
Mr. George
Ms. Bayon



Mr. Page's Class

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday, and that things are back to normal for you after those crazy wind storms. Luckily, our school didn't miss a beat and the kids are working as hard as ever. After doing a mind-map to brainstorm ideas on a science or activity topic they learned about at Pathfinder Ranch, each child worked with teachers and classmates to compose an outline for a structured report complete with an introduction/conclusion and body paragraphs with topic sentences and supporting details. The focus was on structure and organization, but many students went further to embellish their sentences. Once these outlines were also approved for spelling and grammar, students were ready to independently write a final copy and draw illustrations and put it all together as a colorful poster. These marvelous projects, which show much dedication and effort, are hanging up in front of the school on the patio.

The four children who chose to work together researching fish

put together a presentation of their work and have been giving this thorough presentation to the classes and staff. Each group member delivered an exceptional presentation that they planned out and practiced individually and as a group, and they showed off their large, beautifully done poster. Our staff members were very impressed with the quality of the presentation, including the vocabulary used by students, the groups' ability to memorize what they wanted to say, and the fact that this whole project was largely carried out by the students themselves.

In mid-November, we held Parent Conferences and were able to tell parents how much we enjoy their children and care for them. Another benefit of these conferences was being able to show parents their children's work as well as their daily journals where they record everything they do during the day. We had great conversations and exchanged useful feedback. Thank you for your continual support of us, and of your children's learning. Another great event during November that involved parents was the Thanksgiving Party! We

STUDENTS DO A MIND-MAP TO BRAINSTORM IDEAS



had this on Wednesday, November 23. Parents provided food and volunteered their time to help, and we had lots of family members attend. We also had the joy of having two former Meher students, Taylor Yoshida and Isabella Liu, attend the party, and Isabella was a guest in our classroom all day.



The microscope was introduced in November and students naturally love using it to inspect things in their environment. They've looked at all sorts of things including leaves they collected, rocks, and soap. Students record the name of each specimen, the setting they

pick for the magnification of the lens, and then what they observe. It's essential that our students are curious, and continually observe their surroundings. Before being allowed to use it, students learned the parts of the microscope and how they work together.

We again had 100% participation for School Shirt Day and had a pizza party that coincided with Sofia Martinez's birthday. It was a double celebration!

Mr. Page
Ms. Tenold



The following was contributed by two of our students, Samantha Gonzalez and Anthony Ruiz:

The class has been doing work on the history of North America and how scientists believe that all of our continents were together in one super continent called Pangaea. 250 million years ago it broke apart into the continents we know and then drifted into the places they are today. Then about 40,000 years ago during the Pleistocene Ice Age, the Mongoloids in Asia in search for food migrated across a land bridge to North America. The land bridge was uncovered by the sea receding because of the ice age. These people who we call Paleo-Indians gradually inhabited North and South America.

We have also been doing heraldry. What we do is draw a coat of arms and write about it. A coat of arms is a symbol for a family or a company, or some kind of group. The drawings on the coat of arms symbolize the person or the people's values. Each one draws a coat of arms and writes about what the picture means. They will also write about the history of heraldry.

Every day after we come in from recess Mr. Page reads from a book to the class. We call this read-aloud. The book we've currently been reading

is called "Island of the Blue Dolphins" by Scott O'Dell. The book is about an Indian girl named Karana who gets left on an island.

Mr. Page has been working with a group of kids on cubing. They started by working with different materials with squaring and they've built up to cubing. With cubing they first did passing from one cube to a successive cube. Then they moved up to passing from one cube to a non-successive cube. Now they are cubing a binomial. When they were squaring, they squared a binomial, trinomial, quadrinomial, and polynomial.

Recently Ms. Tenold gave us lessons on how to use the microscope in our classroom. We can get any specimen and study it under the microscope. We enjoy exploring different things we can't see with the naked eye.

Our classroom pet tarantula was recently named Oscar. We believe it's a male because Mr. Page said that the male tarantulas have little hooks at the ends of their feet. He is a Chilean Rose tarantula. We have another pet. He is a guinea pig named Steve. Steve loves to eat, sleep, and popcorn. Popcorning is what guinea pigs do when they are excited. His favorite food is salad.

At the beginning of the school year, Mr. Page had the children of his class go into three different groups so it will be easy to call a group instead of calling one by one to be able to call small groups easily. The names of the groups are Herculaneum, Pompeii, and Lapilli. Each group has five children. Certain groups do different jobs. Each month the jobs change. Some kids clean Steve's cage, vacuum, clean tables, dry the drain board and many other jobs. The first thing in the morning what the children do is sit according to their groups in a semi-circle and have some group lessons. This helps bring us together as a community.



**WISHING HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TO ALL OUR MEHER FAMILIES!**

After School Art Class

Once again we have two filled classes—filled with aspiring artists, children who really enjoy doing art.

On Tuesday, December 20th, we will complete class number four of this cycle. Since this is December, we have some holiday projects in the works. The children in the first class are decorating wooden plaque Christmas trees to give to their families. The 2nd group of children are painting bells or ornaments made of wood to give to their families. Next week both groups will be making holiday cards. In early December the children did their own reproductions with oil pastels of Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Night" painting. Everyone learned a lot about how Vincent Van Gogh painted by doing this project.

We look forward to more interesting and fun classes in the 2012. The new cycle will start in late January.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Gilly Shaeffer and Linda Yoshida



Primary Daycare

Our daycare group is listening to stories, finger plays and songs about Christmas and Winter time fun.

Happy Holidays and a great New Year to one and all!

Mrs. Ruvalcaba



Elementary Daycare

Hello Everyone! There has been a little change in afternoon daycare. As you all may be aware by now, Meher has a newly updated library that is open from 3–5 Monday thru Friday. Every day we will be visiting the library from (4–4:30). This gives the children the opportunity to explore different genres of books, and also the chance to practice reading. When a child learns to read it broadens their imagination and boosts their confidence. There will still be an outdoor play period from (3–3:45) and at (3:50–4) a snack will be offered in our patio area. Snack time is optional and it is always your choice to have your child eat the snack that the school provides or a snack sent from home.

Thank you,
Ms. Bayon





ALTADENA NEWS

DECEMBER EVENTS

THANK YOU! – Our Thanksgiving feast was the best. The Parents, Grandparents and relatives all had a good time. We had so much food and so much to be thankful for. The highlight of the day was taking the canned food to the Church for the needy people of Altadena. The children loved taking the food to the Church and placing it on the Church's alter.



SANTA – Santa will arrive at the Meher Montessori School in Altadena on Friday, December 23rd at 10:00 a.m. The children will all get a chance to sit on his lap and have a picture taken with Santa. The staff will provide a luncheon after Santa leaves the School.

PARENT – TEACHER CONFERENCES – I loved talking to all my Montessori parents about the progress of their child. This always is an enlightening time to learn how your child is doing at home and how we can help their progress together. We as teachers and parents need to work as a team for the benefit of your child.



Happy holidays to all and thank you for being such wonderful supportive families. Have a safe holiday and a Happy 2012!

BIRTHDAYS – Avery Bigby – 4 years old and Mackenzie Helms – 4 years old. Happy Birthday!!

See you back at School Monday, January 9th!!!





THE BIG WIND STORM

1. ELLIS – “I did not have power”
2. LAUREN – “I did not have power and the wind blew the trees and I talked with my microphone and jumped on a pogo stick”
3. AMARA – “There was a tree that blew down in my yard. The Christmas tree blew down in Monrovia and I saw a trampoline on the freeway.”
4. SOL – “In the wind storm we went to a restaurant to eat”
5. JAZ – “In the big wind storm leaves came in our house and the lights went off and then on again”
6. MALCOLM – “A big tree hit Mommy and Daddy’s car and broke the windshield”
7. HOLDEN – “Grandma and I were walking and a big giant tree cracked someone’s house and it cracked the roof open”
8. LEILA – “No power! I had a flashlight and the fire place”
9. JORDYNN – “My Grandpa’s gate flew away”
10. AVERY – “The leaves blew and the power was off. We could not watch TV”
11. TEO – “My roller coaster is broken”
12. HARRISON – “I had no power and we lit candles and had a fire and it took a long time”
13. VERA – “I had no electricity and I went to my Dad’s School”
14. EMMETT – “It blew down the power lines. We used lanterns and flashlights”
15. ANDRI – “I was scared and I tripped over the stairs”
16. ALEX – ?
17. DARRELL – “I was scared and my Mom got a flashlight from the living room”
18. MACKENZIE – Absent





Happy Holidays!
2011



Thank you for your support!