



2011 - 2012

MONTESSORI SCHOOLS

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PARENT NEWSLETTER



BE SAFE!

www.mehermontessori.org

october 11



Extra, extra read all about it! There's a lot happening now at Meher Montessori School. We have a number of important events occurring soon and some new activities that have just gotten underway.

Red Ribbon Week

Our school is celebrating Red Ribbon Week this year during the week of October 24–28. It is our annual opportunity to join with schools all over the country to promote healthy bodies and minds through a life without illegal drugs. The anti-drug message is tailored for each classroom given the age range and overall maturity level.



Halloween Day

Our annual Halloween celebration will take place on Monday, October 31st. Each class will have its own party and will join one of two costume parades. The primary children in Mrs. Thomas', Ms. Muñoz' and Mrs. Rivera's classes will have their parade from 8:45–9:00 a.m. The children come to school in their costumes, and will change to regular clothes after the parade.

The elementary children in Mr. George's class will have their



parade from 9:00–9:15 a.m. A flyer will be going home soon with more information.

Parent Conferences

Our first round of Parent Conferences will be at the beginning of November. A special flyer about Parent Conferences will be sent home soon.



Picture Day

Our annual Picture Day is Wednesday, October 26th!



Pathfinder Ranch

Mr. Page's class will be at Pathfinder Ranch October 31–November 4!

Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Wildhaber's Class

It's time again to pen a few lines in the school newsletter. Though we do not have much in the way of news, we are excited about getting ready for Halloween. Mrs. Suh and Mrs. Wildhaber are helping the children with their Halloween projects amidst their regular class activities. Some of them are already finished and are on the walls in the stairways and the classroom.



The little ones are quite adjusted to the classroom and are being introduced to a number of activities according to their readiness and abilities. The older children are progressing well in all areas, especially in the language areas: writing and making words with the movable alphabets. Most of them are quite familiar with all of the continents of the world. Writing numbers from 1-100 and the Hundred Board is another strong activity with our older children.

We didn't make 100% participation on School Shirt Day this month. Hopefully everyone will pitch in next month and we'll be winners again.

The birthday celebrants in September are Xaria Calzada, who

celebrated her 5th birthday in the classroom with a cupcake party, and Helen Liang who turned 4 years old and celebrated with a pizza and cake party last week.

The children play musical chairs with Mrs. Wildhaber every School Shirt Day in the afternoon, whether we win or not. The musical chair winner for the month of September

is Aaron Miao.

With Much Love,
Mrs. Thomas
Mrs. Wildhaber
Mrs. Suh



Ms. Muñoz' Class

Hello everyone. I hope you are all enjoying your October. This is always a super fun month with the children settling into their work routines as well as getting excited about our first holiday in class.

The classroom is filled with language right now with the older children working hard on their sounds, movable alphabet and reading. They just can't seem to get enough of the sandpaper letters at the moment and vocabulary. All the children want to know the names of everything! It truly is wonderful to see.

As we have settled into the school year I have begun doing rhythm sticks with the children on Friday afternoons. Rhythm sticks are colorful sticks that we bang together, bang on the floor and dance with to different music. The children love doing this and all week long I hear "Are we doing rhythm sticks today?" When we do the calendar on Friday mornings the children are always extra excited because they realize it IS rhythm stick day!

I'd like to thank all the parents in advance who helped the School by participating in our Innisbrook Fundraiser. These fundraisers are always important because they help

the classes get new material that is needed. Thank you.

School Picture Day is on the 26th of this month. Please have your children here on time on that day. We will take a class photo as well as individual photos. More information will be placed in the sign-in books as we get closer to this day.

We earned 100% for September's School Shirt Day! Thank you to all the parents for reminding their children to wear their School Shirt. Because of this we will be having a pizza lunch on Halloween. Our next School Shirt Day is on October 28th. Let's earn 100% again!



THIS MONTH WE ALSO COOKED FRESH PUMPKIN AND ATE IT WITH CINNAMON AND SUGAR. IT WAS A NICE FALL FOOD PREPARATION CLASS ACTIVITY AND THE CHILDREN ENJOYED IT VERY MUCH.

On Monday, October 31st, we will have our Halloween Parade and Party. The parade will take place in the morning, in the school parking lot, with all the children showing off their costumes. Each child will wear their costume to school. Please send a bag with a change of clothes, as they will be changing into their regular clothes after the parade. Also, please label each part of your child's costume with their name. That afternoon we will have a small party for the children with a few goodies. A sign up sheet will be placed on the sign-in book the week before. Thank you for the items you may be able to bring. We wish you all a safe and fun Halloween.

Ms. Muñoz and Ms. Martinez

Mrs. Rivera's Class

The month of September went by swiftly with a snap of a finger. October came in bringing the beauty of fall to shimmer down on the planet earth. This is the season of the year when the leaves of many trees change color – from green to orange, red, or yellow. It is an exciting month too for the children in our class as they await the day to show off their beautiful and colorful costumes in our "Halloween Costume Parade." This is the biggest topic of discussion in our class aside from what they are working on during the day. The parade will occur on the last Monday of October, the 31st. Our school Director, Mrs. Muñoz will send out flyers with information about what to expect that day and the parade schedule of each class. Watch for that flyer please!

The older children in our class are working on their numbers; being able to write, recognize and count them in sequence. These processes are then supported by their continued work on the short and long chains, adding, subtracting and recognizing money and its equivalents. They are also reading

phonogram words and writing them in cursive. The younger children look up to the older children by working and behaving well in class. They explore the materials through their senses while socializing with one another. Our circle times in the morning and after recess have helped the children to bond with one another and little by little come out of their shyness. They love to listen to stories, participate in the discussion and learn pronunciation and the meaning of words. Just as a reminder, our class starts at 8:15 a.m. in the morning and ends at 2:15 p.m. in the afternoon.



We had a good number of parents that attended our "Back-To-School Night!" We came to meet, socialize with one another and have a good discussion and understanding of the following: philosophy of Maria Montessori, areas taught, rules in the classroom, and points on how to boost their children's excitement towards school. Thank you so much dear parents for coming and showing your interest and support. We will have another meeting with you sometime in November to discuss the progress of your children. This is just an advance reminder.

We had a 100% School Shirt Day

participation last Friday, September 30th. This is a great start and we hope to continue this success throughout the school year. A big round of applause to our dear parents for reminding their children to wear their school shirt on that day! Our next School Shirt Day will be the last Friday of this month; October 28th. The school also launched on September 30th our Innisbrook Fundraiser. The amount raised will be used for any materials needed in class for the children to use and work with. In advance we are thanking you for your energy, time and support. This fundraiser ends on Friday, October 14th.



Every second Monday of October a holiday is celebrated. This is Columbus Day! I have read to the children about the adventure of the explorer named Christopher Columbus who wanted to go to Asia because of the presence of gold and spices in that continent. Unfortunately he landed in the Bahamas. With the reinforcement done by Mrs. Ruvalcaba, children volunteered to reenact the story with background music. They learned vocabulary words like explorer, spices, ships, Bahamas, and rulers to mention a few. They brought home a picture to color of a ship used by Columbus to discover

America. Thanks to the expertise of Mrs. Ruvalcaba the children had fun learning about the life and adventure of Christopher Columbus.

We will have our class "Picture Day" on Wednesday, October 26th. An order form and flyer will be sent out by Mrs. Muñoz with information on what to expect. Please mark this day in your calendar.

Mrs. Gonzalez sees to it that the children who are not currently involved in class work are seated and punch out the "Fall Leaves" and their "Halloween Characters." This activity is enjoyed by the children as it gives them some time to relax their mind, concentrate on punching within the black lines and strengthen their fine motor skills. The finished products are laminated and serve as decorations in class. She donated to the class two beautiful Halloween books, entitled: "When do you know it is Halloween?" and "Hallo-What?" These books are story riddle books. Thank you so much Mrs. Gonzalez for your love and generosity to the children in our class.

Have a fun and safe Halloween celebration to one and all!!!

Love always,
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Gonzalez



Songs we sing in class:
Miss Mary Mac, Mac, Mac

*Miss Mary Mac, Mac, Mac
All dressed in black, black, black.
With silver buttons, buttons, buttons
All down her back, back, back.
She asked her mother, mother, mother
For 50 cents, cents, cents.
To see the elephants, elephants, elephants
Jump over the fence, fence, fence.
They jumped so high, high, high
They reached the sky, sky, sky
They never came back, back, back
Till the fourth of July, July, July.*

Mr. George's Class

We welcome to our class Joshua Sayles, who comes to us via Oneonta Montessori School in Alhambra. Joshua is six years old. We wish him well.

The children have been working hard to complete lots of work all day; four jobs in the morning and three in the afternoon. Mr. Barrameda supplied composition books to the oldest students.

All of my students have reviewed math from last year. Most of my newcomers had to review dynamic addition. A few mastered dynamic—and are now doing multiplication. Mr. Barrameda taught them the Wooden Hierarchical Material. The middle group are doing dynamic division with the stamps and “racks and tubes.” Some of my advanced group are reviewing fractions

and are doing two digit divisor in dynamic division.

In history, my newcomers have laid out the Century Time Line with the food and housing cards. My middle group is working on descriptions of the sub-periods of time using the World Time Line. My lessons start with the present and go backward. Children understand history better by “Cause and Effect.” For example, the Atomic Age resulted from the Atomic bomb dropped over Japan. It helped bring about The Conclusion in World War II.

A Note from Mr. Barrameda.

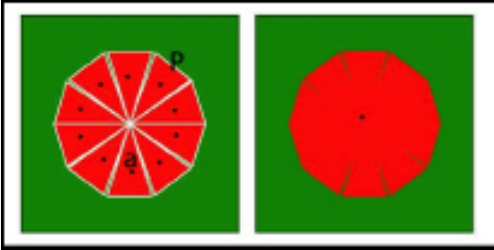
Hi! I'm Mr. Barrameda. I never got the chance to greet you all last month. I am co-teaching with Mr. George and it has been fun. We have been doing experiments in Botany about needs of plants, and experiments in Geography with the 3 states of matter. The children are taking to the lessons quite well and as a new teacher, I am excited to be giving lessons using the materials in the classroom. I am sure looking forward to this year and the lessons and activities which will be given.

Sincerely,
Mr. George
Mr. Barrameda
Ms. Bayon



Mr. Page's Class

Our classroom is such a busy and happy place. New things are being discovered daily.



I have been working in Geometry with a number of children, finding the formulas for area with plane two-dimensional figures. We worked on how to find the area of a decagon using the special Montessori iron material. We discovered that the same formula works for all regular polygons. And although it can be expressed a few ways, it is essentially that the area equals the perimeter divided by two times the apothem. We have been further going into the vocabulary of various geometric shapes.

Some children have been interested in the Cold War – the relationship between the Western Bloc and Eastern Bloc countries after World War 2 until the fall of the Soviet Union. It led to a lively and interesting discussion of the nature

of freedom within a society.

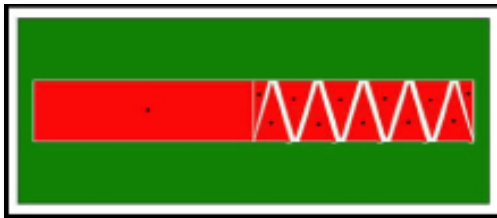
The same thing happened in a discussion of the Civil War. I noticed while giving a lesson to a group on another subject that one child had an eraser with a picture of General Grant on it. I told the group that I am a fan of General Grant and explained who he was. It wasn't a long discussion, but we talked about slavery and how it led to the Civil War.

In language many of the children have had lessons on the nature of pronouns and tenses of the verb.

Diego gave the classroom a presentation based on his visit to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. He told us that he learned that countless Jews were tortured and murdered by the Nazis during World War 2. He told of the lives of three Jewish children and their tragic ends. The class was quite respectful and interested.

Perhaps the largest group of projects recently, has been a number of children have been writing a "Story About Myself." We started with a story map, which each one has been working on. This autobiographical material is leading to a large presentation piece, which each interested student will do.

One of the early history lessons that I have been giving in the morning to all the children is



discussing early human beings. This flowed out of our early work with the creation of the earth and the coming of life and its culminating flower: the human being. We talked about how prehistoric humans were hunters and gatherers living in the Stone Age. We then talked about the Three Phases of History – Agricultural, Urban and Industrial – and the effects each had on how people lived.

We have since started a discussion of the local Gabrielino Indians (the Tongva), and how they lived here in Southern California. This has led to many children asking questions about how different peoples meet their needs based on climate, soil, and many other related issues.

A Note from Ms. Tenold

Just today, I told the Fourth Great Story- the Story of Communication in Signs- about ancient Egyptian carvings and Phoenician markings which eventually turned into our letters. With some of the children, I've been discussing the second Fundamental Needs chart which shows how the things we eat come from plants, animals, and minerals, and how water is so vital to life. We also talked about how agriculture is dependent on the available resources and constraints of the land, as well as economic constraints. The children are eager to know more!

I've continued the Sun and Earth presentations, which in the past few weeks have included the Time Zone

Present tense		Past tense		Future tense	
I love	we love	I loved	We loved	I shall love	we shall love
you love	you love	you loved	you loved	you will love	you will love
she loves	they love	she loved	they loved	she will love	they will love
he loves		he loved		he will love	
Present perfect tense		Past perfect tense		Future perfect tense	
I have loved	we have loved	I had loved	we had loved	I shall have loved	we shall have loved
you have loved	you have loved	you had loved	you had loved	you will have loved	you will have loved
she has loved	they have loved	she had loved	they had loved	she will have loved	they will have loved
he has loved		he had loved		he will have loved	

After School Art Class

We are entering the third week of this six week cycle. Both classes are filled with children who really enjoy doing art.

The younger group has done step-by-step drawings of a cat face and a collage of autumn leaves. The older group drew and shaded apples with colored pencils and in the next class they will complete their autumn leaves collage project. Both groups will be making cards for Halloween on October 18th. There is no class on October 25th, but we will resume again on Tuesday, November 1st.

Art class parents can reinforce the vocabulary words for October. Here they are.

1st Class: edges; lines; main focus; background

2nd Class: shading; main focus; background; highlight; blending colors; glazing; layers; still life

Artist for the Month: Paul Cezanne

Gail Shaeffer and Linda Yoshida



Primary Daycare

This month our daycare rooms are preparing for Autumn time fun.

We are working with fall colors in our arts & crafts projects and are preparing yummy snacks like s'mores for snacktime in room 6.

Mrs. Ramirez shares wonderful books like *Hugs & Kisses for Mom* and *Bear Family* for afternoon storytime.

Happy Halloween!

Mrs. Ramirez and Mrs. Ruvalcaba
Afternoon Daycare Staff



Elementary Daycare

This is the month of October and the children are excited that soon they will be able to dress up in their Halloween costumes and go Trick-or-Treating. As you enter our daycare room, you will see Halloween decorations hanging outside the doors. The walls have pumpkins, ghosts, witches and spooky house decorations as well.

I hope everyone has a safe Halloween.

Ms. Bayon

ALTADENA NEWS

OCTOBER EVENTS

FALL IS IN THE AIR! – The weather is beautiful and the classroom is filled with the results of lots of hard work. The children are all so happy and focused on their Montessori materials. Not only are they working hard but they are also decorating the classroom in anticipation of Halloween:

Black and orange paper chains, dancing skeletons, scary pumpkins and pumpkin lanterns. Miss McCray is helping the children with some new decorations and also getting their trick or treat bags ready for our Halloween carnival.

Thank you in advance to all the parents that have already signed-up for the various stations. It should be lots of fun and the children and parents can wear full costumes.

FIRE DRILL – We had a fantastic fire drill last month and it ran very smoothly. We need to be prepared for any emergency. Last week our power was cut off and we had no phone service so I want all

my parents to have my personal cell phone number in case of an emergency: (626) 319-5688

SCHOOL SHIRT DAY – We had 100% participation on Friday, September 28th. Hooray for all the Montessori students and staff! Our next School Shirt Day will be Friday, October 28th. Lets have another 100%!



FILMING OF HOUSE – We will have the crew of the T.V. series "House" at our School Monday, October 10th. Sorry for any inconvenience. The crew has been very respectful of our space and we will be rewarded with a donation to the School. We already know that we need a new T.V. for popcorn and movie day.

FUNDRAISER – I hope we will have 100% participation with our fundraiser. The fundraiser will end October 14th so please have your orders in A.S.A.P. Thank you in advance!

OPENINGS – We still have space available at our School. If you know of anyone that is interested in an A.M.I. accredited Montessori School please get in contact with Mrs. Hyde. You will receive \$100 credit towards tuition if they enroll.

DARRELL BAILEY – We would like to welcome to our School Darrell Bailey. Darrell is Andri's cousin and we are so happy his

mom has chosen our School.

PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES – I'll be conducting parent-teacher conferences on November 15th, 16th, and 17th. Sign-up for conferences will be on the coat rack October 28th. Please sign-up for this very special time between parent and teacher for the benefit of your child!

100% SCHOOL SHIRT PARTICIPATION!



“I did not invent a method of education, I simply gave some little children a chance to live.”

—Dr. Maria Montessori

Library News

Hi everyone! Our re-opening of the library was a success. We had such a great opening day and students were able to come up to celebrate with balloons, snacks and books. The new library data system made checking out books very smooth and quick. We are very proud of all the work that was put into making this library updated and organized. Once again, we would like to thank Mrs. Page and Mrs. Cadena (Luis and Emma's mom) for all the work that they put into helping us with the library. Our new library hours for this school year will be: Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 2:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email us at meherlibrary@mehermontessori.org. As a reminder, if you haven't returned the flyer for the book-return email notification, please do so at your convenience. We hope to see you all during the school year.

Doug and Willetta Lew



LOOK AT OUR YOUTUBE VIDEOS!!!
OCTOBER 2011

We have 2 new videos on our YouTube website. *The Story of Meher Montessori School* - This video is all about us! *Maria Montessori: Follow the Child* - This documentary is an edited version of a PBS special from many years ago. It explains Dr. Maria Montessori Life and Work. Please visit our website for the links.

A Message from Mrs. Muñoz

To Parents —

We have been noticing a great deal of rule breaking by the children once they are picked up by their parents or caretakers. It is vital that the children maintain the same level of respect for the school rules even if they have been signed out. Children are being allowed to walk around while eating, to run in the hallways, to stand on patio furniture, to pick at the plants, to eat and play with the daycare toys at the same time, and are being allowed to go to the bathrooms unsupervised. All of these are against school rules and are dangerous. It also sends the wrong message to the children when they are allowed to break the rules by adults. Please help us in teaching the children to respect and follow school rules at all times.

Thank You!!!

A big thank you to all the families, friends and staff that supported our Innisbrook fundraiser and have given donations! Results will be announced in our next month's newsletter.



**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.



KEEPING IT SAFE!

Making Halloween Fun, But Keeping It Safe

Halloween can be a time of great fun for children, but it is also a time when adults who care for children have special concerns about safety. The following tips should help make sure that Halloween is safe without interfering with the children's enjoyment.

Treats:

- Encourage children to have fun collecting treats, but tell them to wait until they return home before eating any.
- Inspect all treats and throw out any with torn or unsealed wrappers.
- Homemade treats should be discarded.
- Report any suspicious treats to your local police.
- If your child has allergies, check the ingredient list carefully.

Trick or Treating:

- Set curfews for your children.
- Children should go to Trick or Treat only at homes of neighbors they know.
- Check your walkways and lawns for obstacles, and leave your outside lights on.
- Keep pets indoors or confined to any area where they will not interfere with children.
- Younger children should always be accompanied by an adult.

- Consider sharing and planning neighborhood parties as an alternative to Trick or Treating.

- Check masks to be sure children can see and breathe easily.

- Plan costumes that are flame-resistant and roomy enough to allow the children to dress warmly underneath. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping.

- Purchase face paints, glues, and glitters made of nontoxic materials. Be aware that some children can have allergic reactions to these products.

- Neon glowsticks and neck bands contain a chemical that is irritating to skin and could be harmful to the eyes. Children should not bang, crush, or throw glowsticks or neckbands, and they should avoid doing anything that might release the chemicals.

Jack O' Lanterns:

- Let your child have fun drawing a face on the pumpkin and scraping out the contents, but an adult should do the carving.

- Jack O' Lanterns with candles should be watched carefully and placed where they can't start a fire.

