

## *Little Flowers Montessori School*



*Celebrating 100 years of the Montessori Method*

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January 7, 2009

*Happy New Year!*

### **Coffee with Preethy**

Once a month, Preethy hosts a morning gathering for parents called *Coffee with Preethy*. This will be a time to build community as well as discuss parenting concerns and the Montessori Method. It will begin at 8:00am and you may bring your child in early to his/her room so you can attend. There will be a sign up so we can plan accordingly. The next one is Thursday, January 29 at 8:00am.

### **Email Addresses**

Each teacher now has an email address! If you have any questions or concerns that are *not immediate*, please use our new email addresses. We value the time that we have with your children, so all emails will be answered at our earliest opportunity.

Preethy - [preethy@littleflowersmn.org](mailto:preethy@littleflowersmn.org)

Staci - [staci@littleflowersmn.org](mailto:staci@littleflowersmn.org)

Asheley - [asheley@littleflowersmn.org](mailto:asheley@littleflowersmn.org)

Brenda - [brenda@littleflowersmn.org](mailto:brenda@littleflowersmn.org)

We hope that you have had an opportunity to visit our new website, [www.littleflowersmn.org](http://www.littleflowersmn.org). On the new website you will also find the tuition schedule, the school calendar, and the school newsletters. Please share it with your family and friends.

### ***The Little Flowers Green Scene - Small steps to take in the New Year*** **Plastic bags versus Reusable Bags**

<http://app.nea.gov>.

The National Environmental Agency states the following facts about plastic bags:

- About 2.5 billion plastic shopping bags are used every year. That's about 2,500 bags used per family per year.
- Plastic bags thrown away as litter, dirty our public places, rivers and canals, and may even clog up drains, and this would lead to stagnant water and mosquito breeding.
- Plastic bags litter despoils nature trails, beaches and even chokes up mangroves and poses a threat to marine lives.

- Plastic bags are made from oil, a finite resource. By using reusable bags during our shopping trips, we will use fewer plastic bags and help to conserve earth's resources.

We really need to cut down the amount of waste that is generated. As a school, we are trying to become more "green" everyday. Everyday at our school, we use many plastic bags for wet and/or soiled clothing.

We would like to encourage all families, especially those with toddlers and younger children who may still have accidents on a regular basis, to purchase some waterproof/washable /reusable bags for wet clothes. One easy way is to have these bags for clothes when they become wet.

In the future when new families begin our program, we are going to be asking them to purchase these bags.

The following are some websites to check out for these kinds of bags. Some places refer to them as "ditty" bags. Also, try REI, Dick's Sporting Goods or Pea Pods (in St. Paul).

[http://www.softclothbunz.com/Bumkins-Dirty-Duds-Bag\\_p\\_0-120.html](http://www.softclothbunz.com/Bumkins-Dirty-Duds-Bag_p_0-120.html)

<http://www.parentingbynature.com/waterproof-bag.htm>

<http://www.funkypunkybaby.com/servlet/the-WET-BAGS-Waterproof-Bags-with-zipper/Categories>

<http://www.bumkins.com/shop/pc/Waterproof-Tote-Bag-p71.htm>

<http://www.babyearth.com/bumkins-dirty-duds-waterproof-bag.html>

<http://www.rei.com/gear>

Or make your own:

<http://www.make-baby-stuff.com/wet-bag.html>

### **T-shirts**

We have a limited number of t-shirts still available for purchase. We have some adult short sleeve (\$16.00) and some youth long (\$14.00) and short sleeve (\$16.00). Please see your child's teacher if you are interested.

### **African Music Ensemble**

On January 21, children ages 4½ years (by January 21) and older have been invited to Macalester College to hear a performance by the African Music Ensemble. We have attended this concert in previous years and it is very

entertaining for the children. If your child is eligible to attend, a permission form will be sent home within the next week.

### **Parent Potluck and Discussion**

On February 10, we would like all of the parents to join us for a potluck and discussion. The topics can be whatever is on your mind. Please look for a sign up sheet at the end of this month. We are looking forward to another community building event.

### **Valentine's Day**

#### ***Creating a Valentine for your Child***

We would like all of the parents (Toddlers and Children's House) to create a Valentine for your child (separate ones for siblings). Use poems, pictures, stickers, colored paper, etc... Be creative. Use your imagination. The restrictions are that it must not be larger than 8.5" x 11" and it must be light enough to hang on the wall with blue painter's tape.

Shhhhh! Keep it a secret, if you can. The children will be so surprised and excited by when they receive their Valentine. The children absolutely loved this last year.

Please bring in your valentine on Mon., Feb. 9 in a bag. Each casa will hold gatherings to present the children with their valentine. The valentines will be hung up around the school for all to enjoy.

#### ***For the Casas: A Valentine for a Friend***

Each child will draw one name from a basket of names only from his/her casa. Each child will then create one valentine only for that friend. Let your child be creative and imaginative. Ask the children about their friends, what their favorite foods are, what their hobbies are, maybe they love dinosaurs or princesses. All of these ideas would make a great theme. Your child probably knows more than you think about his/her friend. This might take longer than a day. Have different art mediums and materials available for your child.

It will be a big surprise at the Valentine's Day party when each child will give the valentine to the friend he/she created it for.

### **Calendar Notes**

January 19 – Martin Luther King Day, no school

January 21 – Macalester College, African Ensemble Field trip, children  
4½+ years old

January 22 – Coffee with Preethy 8:00am – 9:00am

February 10 – Parent Potluck with questions and discussion 6:00pm – 7:30pm

February 13 – Children's Valentine Party

February 16 – President's Day; no school

## *A Montessori Minute*

### **Why do we teach cursive first?**

- Cursive writing is a more natural way of writing. The pencil flows along the paper without frequent stops within words.
- There is less confusion and reversal between the cursive forms of the letters 'b', 'd', 'p', and 'q' as there is in the print form.
- Words written in cursive are clearly separated from each other. Run-on words are not as common in cursive.
- The child who can read cursive can also read manuscript, but the reverse is not true.
- Cursive is a better exercise for strengthening fine motor skills. The connecting letters help the child to produce smooth, rather than choppy, strokes with the pencil.