



November 5, 2008

School Pictures

Lifetouch will be sending the picture packages to the school real soon. Once you receive your package, please pay only for the pictures you are keeping, return the rest. Checks need to be made out to Lifetouch. There will not be a day for retakes.

Conferences

If you have yet to sign up for conferences, please do so. The sign up sheets are posted right outside each room. Each conference is scheduled for 20 minutes. If more time is needed, you and your child's teacher can schedule an additional time to meet.

Coffee with Preethy

Once a month, Preethy will be hosting 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 their Casa so you can attend. There will be a sign up so we can plan accordingly. The next Coffee is scheduled for Thursday, November 13 at 8:00am.

Montessori in the Home

On November 18, all of the parents are invited to discuss *Montessori in the Home*. The parents from the St. Louis Park school are also invited.

We will have a short social from 6:45pm to 7:00pm. The discussion will begin at 7:00pm and end at 8:00pm. We will explore ideas that you can do at home with your child and materials to have available. There will also be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and hold discussions.

Please note that this is for parents only. Childcare will not be provided.

Thanksgiving Feast

On Monday, November 24, Little Flowers Montessori School will host a Thanksgiving Feast for the children. All of the children are invited to stay for lunch. The feast will begin at 11:40am. The half day children can be picked up at 12:45pm. If your child does not plan to attend this event, please tell your child's teacher so we can plan accordingly. For this event, we ask for two volunteers from each of the Children's Houses. Please talk to your child's teacher if you like to help. For volunteering it is on a first come, first served basis.

Parent Handbook Revisions

The following is a revision for the parent Handbook beginning November 1, 2008. If you have questions, please address them to Preethy.

Pick Up at the Plymouth school

When picking up your child enrolled in the half day and/or the all day programs, please follow these guidelines. If you are the first car in line, you should pull all the way up to the end of the sidewalk (aligning to the shed) to allow for other cars to enter the parking line. Parents must stay with their vehicles. Children will be escorted to you by a staff member. At that time please get out and assist your child into the car.

This is not a good time for parent discussions as the traffic line needs to keep moving. If you would like to talk with other parents, please park your car.

Pick Up for the Extended Program

It is essential that all children are picked up through the school doors, not outside over the fence or through the gate. A staff member must be acknowledged when you are leaving with your child, whether they are inside or outside. This must happen to maintain the control and safety of the environments.

Late Pick Up

There is a charge of \$1.00 for every one minute each child stays after the designated program time ends. This is calculated by the school clock.

Little Flowers Montessori School closes promptly at 5:45pm. Parents and children must be out of the building no later than 5:45pm. A late fee of \$1.00 per minute, per child will be charged calculated by the school clock, for children picked up later than 5:45pm.

Frequent late pickups will result in termination from the school.

If a parent has not called the school or picked up their child within one hour after the building closes (6:45pm) Little Flowers Montessori School reserve the right to contact the child protection service. Under no circumstances will the school release your child to an unauthorized person.

Tuition

The Little Flowers Montessori School's annual budget is based on full enrollment and annual tuition receipts. No credits will be given for vacations, holidays or illnesses taken during the school year. There are no make-up days or switching of days. Long term illnesses or other extenuating circumstances will be handled on an individual basis.

There will not be a bill for tuition. All tuition is due and payable on or before the first day of each month. If tuition is received after the 5th of the month, a \$25.00 late fee will be added. It is your obligation to pay on time to avoid the late charge.

A discount of 2% is available if paying for the entire school year. The payment must be made prior to the first day of school in September.

The second currently enrolled child in the family is entitled to a 5% discount, which is applied toward the least expensive tuition rate.

Receipts will be given on a monthly or yearly basis according to each family's needs. Each family will fill out a form at the time of enrollment and at the beginning of every school year.

A fee of \$32.00 will be charged for all returned checks.

Delinquent tuition of two months during the school year, September to May, or during the summer session, June to August, will result the immediate termination of enrollment for your child at Little Flowers Montessori School.

Unpaid tuition, after two reminders will result in collection through an attorney specializing in collecting unpaid school tuition.

Food Drive begins November 10

Our food drive will begin on November 10 and will run for two weeks. Times are tough for some families. The food shelves are running low. While most of us have adequate funds to have a nice meal, there are many people who without the food shelves would have little or nothing. Please think of these people when you do your shopping and be generous. Thank you.

This is a great community building event for everyone to participate in. We have been talking with the children about what kind of food they like to eat and what kinds of food other children would like to eat. Each environment has made a list. Along with the list, we have received a list from area food shelves what they are in need of (see attached).

We are going to be donating the food to:

Emergency Food Shelf Network

8501 54th Avenue North

New Hope, MN 55428

#763-450-3871

Feed My Starving Children

Little Flowers Montessori School supports all organizations that make a difference in the life of a child. Although, Feed My Starving Children is a Christian organization, it feeds millions of starving children around the world.

The vision of FMSC is to reduce the number of starving children throughout the world. FMSC provided 43 million meals for hungry children in 2007. Volunteers hand pack these simple meals that consist of rice, soy protein, dehydrated vegetables and 20 vitamin minerals mixed with a vegetarian chicken flavoring. Last year there were 185,000 volunteers who packed meals.

On December 13 from 4:30pm to 6:30pm, we are in need of 60 volunteers between both of the schools. We would love to have Little Flowers Montessori School beat the record of packing the most meals in one session. There will be a sign up at the front desk in the beginning of December.

For more information please go to www.fmsc.org.

A Montessori Minute

Dr. Montessori never intended to teach the children to read and write, but their parents begged her to teach them (many of the parents were illiterate). So she cut out the letters of the alphabet in sandpaper and mounted them on a board that the children could trace. The three year olds were the ones who wanted to trace, while the four and a half year olds exploded into writing. Hence, we use the Sandpaper Letters. Ask your child which Sandpaper Letters he or she knows so far!

Calendar Notes

November 7 – Parent/teacher conferences; no school for the children

November 10 – Food Shelf Drive begins

November 18 – Montessori in the Home, 6:45pm – 7:00pm social, 7:00pm – 8:00pm the discussion will take place

November 21 – Food Shelf Drive ends

November 24 – Thanksgiving feast

November 27 & 28 – No school

December 13 – Feed My Starving Children, 4:30pm – 6:30pm