



October 8, 2008

## **Art**

Art class has started once again for the children. Laura Jones, the art teacher, comes to school one to two times per month to teach the children in the Children's Houses about famous artists and about different art techniques. The children really enjoy these lessons and look forward to their time with Laura.

## ***Art to Remember***

This year Laura will again help the children to create a piece of art that can be made into various products such as key chains, note cards, notebooks, mugs, an ornament and many other products. A display will be set up for parents to see before the orders are due. This is a good opportunity for children to share their art with family and friends. Please look for more information to come in the following weeks.

## **Hand Washing**

This year all children must wash their hands when they first enter the Casa. By doing this, everyone's health risk will be decreased. Please help us to remind your child. Flu season is just around the corner!

## **Lunches**

The lunches you pack for your child every day are a connection to you and to home. The children look forward to their lunches. They like to see what you so lovingly packed for them. Their faces light up when they are surprised to find a special note in their lunch.

Please be extra careful about what you pack in your child's lunch. Good nutritional habits begin at home. Every day there is more information about not eating trans fats, eating whole foods, not eating high fructose corn syrup, and eating less prepackaged food. Good nutrition at lunch often times means a good afternoon for your child.

Your child's nutrition is important to his/her overall health. Proper nutrition can also prevent many medical problems, including becoming overweight, developing weak bones, and developing diabetes. Good nutrition can provide for good sleeping habits, good concentration, and having enough energy for the day. It will also ensure that your child physically grows to his/her full potential.

Cut up all easily choked on food such as grapes (cut in half lengthwise), baby carrots (cut in half lengthwise), hotdogs (cut lengthwise). Avoid peanuts, popcorn and tough meats. All of these can contribute to choking on food; even more so in an environment of many children all eating at the same time.

### **School Pictures**

*Lifetouch* is coming on Tuesday, October 21 for school pictures. Please return the order forms as soon as possible. Please note that this year, there will not be the option of having photographs done with siblings.

The pictures will be taken in the atrium. This year pictures will start at 8:45am with the Toddler Community. Casa 1 is next, then Casa 3 and ending with Casa 2. Each class takes about 45-60 minutes. It would be helpful to have one or two parents from the Children's Houses to assist. If you are able to help out, please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible.

### **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 first one is tomorrow, Thursday, October 9 at 8:00am. It will be an open forum.

### **Scholastic Book Orders**

If you would like to add to your child's library, please take a look at the Scholastic book order. There is a good choice of books and very good prices. It is easy to order following the instructions. Once the order is placed by the school, the books are shipped very quickly.

### **Montessori Services – The Small Hands Catalog**

In today's Family Folder, you will see the Small Hands catalog and order form. This catalog is full of wonderful materials for your children to do at home. Please take a moment to look at the catalog. There are terrific gift ideas in there if you are planning ahead to the upcoming holidays and birthdays.

If we can get a total of \$500.00 ordered, shipping is free. The catch is all orders must be turned in by Monday, October 20.

Please make your checks payable to Little Flowers Montessori School. The orders will be sent to the school and we will disseminate accordingly. Please note on your order form if the order is a gift for your child. We will be sure to keep it in the office, out of sight.

## **Happy Halloween**

For the Children's Houses Halloween party, we are asking that children do not bring in any candy to share. The Halloween party will consist of a parade through the environments, a special treat and a large gathering in the atrium for a story. Have your child come to school in their costumes with clothes to change into (the children in the Toddler Community do not dress up in costumes). Do not worry if your child does not want to dress up. They can enjoy the parade and the party just the same, with or without a costume.

## **Food Shelf Drive begins November 10**

Our food shelf drive will begin on November 10 and will run for two weeks. Times are tough for some families. The food shelves are running low. This is a great community building event for everyone to participate in. This month we will be 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 will make a list. In the next Family Folder the lists will be published.

## **Calendar Notes**

October 9 – Coffee with Preethy 8:00am – 9:00am; Open Forum

October 16 & 17 – No school; teacher workshops

October 20 – The Small Hands order forms due

October 21 – Lifetouch school pictures

October 31 – Halloween party

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

November 10 – Food Shelf Drive begins

November 18 – Guest Speaker for Parent Education Night

### *A Montessori Minute*

The Care of the Environment work in the Exercises of Practical Life area helps the child build respect for the environment by taking part in caring for it. They participate in the beauty and order of the environment in both indoor, such as table washing, sweeping or care of plants, and outdoor, like raking, planting or shoveling.