



January 13, 2010

A Change in the Dismissal for the Half Day and All Day Programs

Children who are scheduled for 11:30am (the Toddler Community), 11:40am (the Casas), and 3:30pm (both) programs will be dismissed to the parents (or other authorized adult) at the main entrance. The staff will get the children ready to go home and then bring the children out to the waiting parents (or other authorized adult).

Please park your car and wait just inside the door at the entrance. Adults will not be allowed to go past the double doors at the top of the stairs. The staff needs to maintain control at these dismissal times to keep all of the children safe.

This change will start tomorrow, Thursday, January 14.

If you have any questions, please ask Nadine, Christine or Nadiya.

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 their room so you can attend. There will be a sign up so we can plan accordingly. The next one is Tuesday, January 20 at 8:00am. The topic this month will be the *TIME* article on Helicopter Parents from November 2009. We will have copies for you once you sign up if you need one. You may go to this web address as well for the article.

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1940395,00.html>

African Music Ensemble

On January 22, the older children 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 sent home today.

Parent Potluck and Discussion

On February 23, 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 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 only 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. Each child will be so surprised excited by when they receive their Valentine. The children absolutely loved this last year.

Please bring in your valentine between Monday, Feb. 8 and Thursday, February 11 in a bag. Each casa will hold gatherings to present the child with their valentine. The valentines will be hung up around the school for all to enjoy.

Creating a Valentine for a Friend (Children's House)

Please note that this activity is only for Children's House, not for the Toddler Community.

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

It will be a big surprise at the Valentine's Day party when each child will give the valentine to the friend they created it for. Handmade valentines are the best!

Calendar Notes

January 18 – Martin Luther King Day, no school

January 20 – Coffee with Preethy 8:00am – 9:00am

January 22 – Macalester College, African Ensemble Field trip

February 12 – Children's Valentine Party

February 15 – President's Day; no school

February 23 – Parent Potluck with questions and discussion 6:00pm – 7:30pm

A Montessori Minute

Dr. Montessori was exiled by Mussolini mostly because she refused to compromise her principles and make the children into soldiers. She moved to Spain and lived there until 1936 when the Spanish Civil War broke out. She then moved to the Netherlands until 1939. In 1939 she made a trip to India, which was greatly extended due to the war until 1947.

