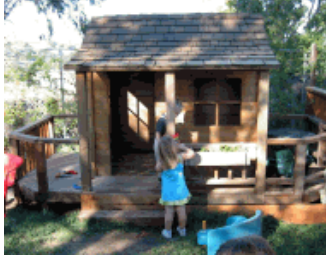


# Montessori in Motion Newsletter

"Bringing love and laughter to learning"

October 2008



Linda Molinelli – Owner/Teacher  
Shelley Martinez – Owner/Teacher

## Dear Parents



### Safety is key!

Children like to follow other children and other parents when it is pick up time. Parents please let a teacher know if a child is following you into or out of the building or classroom.

### Do you have an overflowing toy box?

Would you like the chance to clean out your overflowing toy box and pick up some inexpensive Holiday gifts for your children, all while supporting Montessori in Motion?

We are looking for some parents to help plan a **fundraising party in November**.

The idea is simple: We each bring in a few toys that our kids no longer want and sell them at a party at our school. A win-win for all! We get to clean closets, buy "new" things for our kids, enjoy a holiday party, and most importantly raise money for our school!!

We need two people to help organize this event, and of course, we're counting on you all to bring in a few toys and/or baked goods that can also be sold at the party.

Please contact Hillary Sciarillo (Jack's mom) at: [hillarysciarillo@yahoo.com](mailto:hillarysciarillo@yahoo.com) OR 472-3683 so that we can get started planning this fun event!

### Kids Say the Darnedest Things...

A few notes about our Big's class from our first morning circle of the new school year: ----going over the letter B - B for Billy, Bella B for beer says Luka

Who had a dream last night?

"I did" said Jack. It was a bad dream. The dyno monster ate me all up. Catherine said "I had a good dream about Momma".

From Taye's presenting 'making shapes work' "would we use the purple sticks for the blue square?" "Noooo, the purple hexagon"our bigs say.

## General Reminders

- Please label everything that comes to school. **Check the lost and found** basket in the multipurpose room for lost items.
- **Call the office** when your child is going to be late or not coming to school.
- Remember your **snack day** and keep it healthy.
- Check **your folder and the bulletin board** daily for messages.
- Remember to **sign-in and sign-out your child each day**.
- **Tuition is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month**. A \$25.00 late fee is charged for tuitions received after the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## Sharing Program

**Little's:** Every **day is a share day**. Bring something from home "labeled" in a cloth bag.

**Big's:** Every **day is share day**.

**Kinder's:** Every **Tuesday or Wednesday**. Children are encouraged to tell what's new and good! Leave toys at home.

## October School Events

**Oct 4** Back to school parent work day.

**Oct 14 & 15** School Picture Day

**Oct 23** School Picture Make-up Day

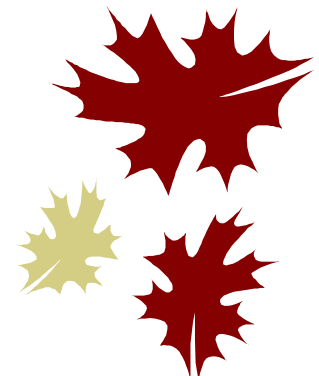
**Oct 31** Halloween Day Parade

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## Key Dates

- **Oct 4** Back to school parent work day.
- **Oct 14-15** School Picture Day
- **Oct 23** School Picture Make-up Day
- **Oct 31** Halloween Parade
- **Nov 11** Veteran's Day **School closed.**
- Nov 27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday **School Closed.**
- **Dec 8** Holiday Party



“Bringing love and laughter to learning”

## Little's News

September in the "Littles" class is exciting and intense. Separation brings on tears and we try to keep the children happy while bonding to the new crying ones. Julianne and I don't have a minute to spare.

The children love the classroom. We're all "under the sea". We are painting and matching all kinds of sea life and trying to identify most of them by name. We do play dough at least twice a week and the children love the rolling, cutting and shape making.

Wayne is singing with us on Tuesday mornings and we are singing and dancing with instruments and scarves daily.

Welcome to Hadar, Emily, Lullah, Olivia, Andrew and their families and a big welcome back to Laney, Kelsey, Sajiv, Manisha and Sophia.

Now that October is upon us, we will be counting and matching pumpkins, and hanging bats on trees. Halloween is a great time to play with our imagination. We talk about make believe and we pretend to be many different things. Jack-o-lanterns, silly faces on pumpkins, funny flying witches and we sing all our favorite songs. We will be having a **Halloween parade on Friday, October 31st at 11:15 am** and we hope to see you all. It's a blast. We also attend the Nicasio Pumpkin Patch and we will need all the drivers we can find. Zerene will be posting out information as soon as we have a date.

Please remember we do lots of wet work at school, so send us extra clothes. Thank you!

Shelley and Julianne



## Big's News

Welcome and Welcome back! What a loving and affectionate group we are! (I say that every year!)

I have been blessed to be working with veteran teachers who understand the creative process and who have learned to accept themselves. Together we model openness, integrity and passion for learning ....

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Taye and I began teaching at Montessori In Motion when my son was a toddler in Shelley and Linda's class in 1993. I left the classroom for a brief period to write my first children's book, *The Boy with the Big Ear*, a tale of tolerance for juveniles ages 4-9: [www.boldvisionkids.com](http://www.boldvisionkids.com) I also co-founded @RelationshipVision, the online Relationship Training resource whose mission is to provide information and education regarding basic principles for creating emotionally nourishing relationships and communication skills building: [www.RelationshipVision.com](http://www.RelationshipVision.com)

## Big's News continued

Both Meg and I have prepared a full curriculum. The classroom environment is designed so that the children can interact freely with the Montessori materials and with one another. When successful, the children learn to cherish personal responsibility as well as build a strong foundation in pre-reading concepts. They are already learning how their behavior impacts others; how who they are and how they behave makes an enormous difference in the larger world that surrounds them.

Some of our beginning concepts include identifying feelings (happy, sad, angry or scared) along with introducing our family, friends and animals via photographs and the stories we tell.

Since the month of October includes our favorite holiday, Halloween, we would like to use the month to also talk about nutrition and the importance of healthy eating.

We will continue to practice:

- Learning to cut with scissors
- Learning how to use glue sparingly
- Identifying letter names and sounds
- Two and three dimensional shapes
- 'Look a-likes' and 'go-togethers,' (tooth brush and tooth paste, ambulance and hospital etc.)
- Directions such as *under, over, around* and *through*
- Opposites
- Sorting (colors, size, shapes)
- Arranging
- Sequencing
- Counting to 10/ with respective quantity
- Introducing odd and even
- Big, bigger, biggest
- Long, longer, longest
- Wide, wider, widest



In addition, we will identify everyday objects:

- Signs
- Directions
- Colors
- Sounds
- Rules
- Marvelous magical words –'please,' 'thank-you,' 'excuse me' and 'I'm sorry.' What's the point?

In the near future, don't be surprised if your child no longer wants a play kitchen. That's because we will be learning how to use real kitchen utensils such as a small paring knife, grader, egg beater, potato peeler, baster, etc. Our class will be awesome kitchen helpers and they will be expected to take on more and more responsibilities with food preparation.

The children are partners in caring for the environment as well. It would be wonderful if you would support these concepts at home; allowing your children the opportunity to pick up after themselves as well as sweeping, sponging, dusting and folding whenever possible.

I will look forward to meeting you during conferences though we are available anytime in between. (*continued on page 3*)

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## Big's News continued

### Sharing for October

- a healthy food item to share (such as hard boiled eggs we can slice ourselves and serve, asparagus, cooked beets –something we would not normally choose) **OR**
- continued photos for our album **OR**
- one stuffed recognizable animal (small)

### Parenting Classes

Please let me know your level of interest regarding our parenting workshop and parenting classes.

The parenting workshop is a one-day intensive (Saturday) regarding our underlying beliefs that cause much (if not all) of how we parent and the elimination of at least one, (probably more) unwanted beliefs. 9-5

The parenting classes are a skills and tools training – 10 week series (2 hours once a week) 7-9

Please email me either way, so I know if I should pursue this further. BoldVision@comcast.net.



Taye and Meg

## Kinder's News

The Kinder class is in full swing. What a wonderful little class I have. It is a small group and every one of them is a small gem. It is such a joy for me to be able to spend time with each child on a daily basis. When I tell them they are "cooking with gas" it's not just rhetoric, they are! They have learned so much in such a short time (thanks to the preparation they received in Taye's and Meg's class).

Tuesday, October 7th I will introduce our first homework assignment. I want you to know it is a task that is truly elective and not at all required. If they do take homework home and want to complete it and bring it back on the following Tuesday (or any Tuesday they want to return it). There are some suggestions that might make it easier for them. Please give them their own space to keep their homework so they know where it is at all times. If you want to sit down with them and let them show you how to do it, please keep it light and allow them to put it away if it becomes too tedious. I only want them to have fun with it and feel as empowered as their older sibling, cousins or friends. When they return it, I will sit down with them, praise them for their effort and give them more if they choose. The skills that they take away from doing the homework will not be nearly as important as the connection between school and home and their feelings of accomplishments. I will start out with very simple tasks and build when they feel comfortable enough.

## Kinder's News continued

October is the month that reigns supreme with 4 and 5 year olds. It is the month that holds their very favorite holiday. Halloween is the day when all their pretend play is culminated by really becoming the character that they asked everyone to visualize them being all year long. They love the songs, the art and anything related to this special day. We will be participating in all of that here at school. It is as much fun for the Teacher's as it is for the students.

### HALLOWEEN

We are planning a trip to the **Pumpkin Patch at Nicasio**. The details will be announced as soon as our reservation is confirmed. We will need parent drivers and chaperones.

We will have a parade at school on **Friday, October 31st at 11:15 am**. All children should bring their labeled costumes in a labeled bag. We will need parent volunteers to help with the costumes.

All parents are welcome to **join the parade**.

We will as usual have a **jumperoo** on that day.

We are looking forward to a fun-filled and safe Halloween Day.

Happy Halloween!

Linda

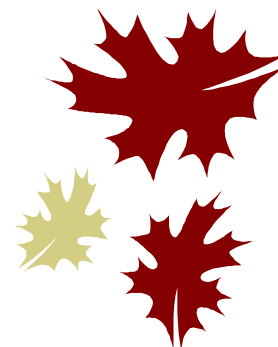
## After School Program

### Adventures After School

On Mondays, my classroom extends beyond the school fence. It is adventure day and we are headed to the pine forest, the draining ditch, the water park or beyond. The children gather at the gate, eager to explore. They repeat the two rules: stay with the group and listen to the teachers.

Off we go, running, walking, climbing, hiding, freezing in mid-step. Startled rabbits bound away to safety. Teachers keep their eyes, moving, watching for wandering children or hazards up ahead. Finally we drag ourselves up the hill to home base, tired yet happy. Something about the challenge of scaling mountains or the wonders of discovery makes all the extra vigilance worthwhile.

Wayne Lechner



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## Week of Dinners

We have received information from **Juniper Cafe** of Novato. They plan dinners for children and their families called 'Week of Dinners'. If you are interested, please check in the office for a brochure.

## Parent Volunteers 2008/2009

THANK YOU to those parents who have signed up. We truly welcome you and your enthusiasm to help our school. So, let's get into action and get things moving.

If you have any questions with the jobs, please email Taye, our head teacher in the Big's class at [boldvision@comcast.net](mailto:boldvision@comcast.net)

Jobs are still available and a listing can be viewed at the sign-in sheet clip board.

100% parent participation will be greatly appreciated. So, **sign up** and be a part of this wonderful parent community and school!



## Classifieds



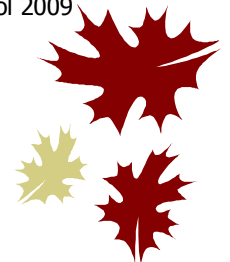
Let us know if you have something that you would like to give away or sell and we can list it here.



## School Calendar 2008-2009

As the school year begins to wind down, our children are forging ahead. Pushing their boundaries often elicits feelings of frustration for children, parents and teachers.

September 2, 2008.....	First Day of School
September 4,08.....	Orientation
October 4,08.....	Back to school/Parent Work Day
November 11,08.....	Veteran's Day (School Closed)
November 27/28, 08 .	Thanksgiving (School Closed)
December 08 .....	Holiday Party/TBA
Dec 22,08–Dec 26,08 .....	Winter Recess (No School)
Dec 29–Jan 2, 2009 .....	School Closed (Childcare Available)
January 5. ....	School Resumes
January 19.....	Martin Luther King Day (School Closed)
February 16.....	Presidents Holidays (School Closed)
February .....	Parent Work Party/TBA
April 13-17.....	Spring Break (No School -Childcare Available)
April .....	Parent Work Party/TBA
May 7.....	Mother's Day Tea Party
May 25. ..	Memorial Day (School Closed)
June 19 ..	Graduation/Last Day of School
June 22–June 26.....	No School - Summer Set Up Days
June .....	Parent Work Party/TBA
June 29–July 3 .....	No School – (Childcare Available)
July 6–July 31 ..	Summer Session I
Aug 3–Aug 28 .....	Summer Session II
Aug 31–Sept 4 .....	No School – Teacher Setup Week
Sept 7 .....	Labor Day (School Closed)
Sept 8 .....	First Day of School 2009



## Fundraising Program

**Our eScrip Program is an easy way to earn money for your school.**

For those of you who are not aware of what eScrip is, eScrip allows all of us to make a substantial contribution to our school of choice just by doing what we would do anyway and that's buying goods and services from stores like Safeway, Long's United, Macy's, etc.

So how does it work? Participation is easy, by registering your most active credit cards or grocery cards YOU guarantee Montessori In Motion passive income every month allowing us to reach many of our goals for our children at Montessori In Motion. The more families who enroll, the more MIM can accomplish.

It's a co-operative effort that is easy to do requiring little effort from each of us with potentially very BIG results for our children!

**Here is the log in link for eScrip:**

<http://www.escrip.com/merchants/search/index.jsp>

Click Sign Up

Click: Montessori In Motion or Enter **Group ID Name Address City State Zip # 4749628**

[Montessori In Motion](#) 3 Wellbrock San Rafael CA 94903