

Montessori in Motion

October 2010 Newsletter

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Upcoming Dates

November 11, 2010 - School closed - Veteran's Day
November 25/26, 2010 - school closed - Thanksgiving
December 12/20 to 12/24, 2010 - No school - Winter recess
December 12/27 to 12/31, 2010 - Winter recess (childcare available)

"Big's" Class

Welcome and welcome back! We're in full swing and it's only been a month!

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Taye and I began teaching at Montessori In Motion when my son Randy was a toddler in Shelley and Linda's class from 1993-1996. Randy is currently a sophomore at Wesleyan! He's still a Montessori learner; pursuing his passions from the inside out.

Our classroom environment has been set up so that the children can interact freely with the Montessori materials and with one another. When successful, the children demonstrate personal responsibility as well as integrate pre-reading ideas into their lives. As they begin to discover the larger world that surrounds them, each success assures positive self feelings and the willingness to take more risks.

This week we learned about two dimensional shapes. Triangles, squares, rectangles, circles, trapezoids, pentagons, hexagons and octagons. We counted their sides, we cut their shapes, we even made trapezoid skirts for the stuffed dolls we painted and cut.



In the coming weeks we will be learning about:

- ✚ letter names and sounds
- ✚ three dimensional shapes (geometric solids)
- ✚ '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, items)
- ✚ arranging
- ✚ sequencing
- ✚ counting
- ✚ odd and even
- ✚ big, bigger, biggest
- ✚ long, longer, longest
- ✚ wide, wider, widest

In addition, we will identify everyday objects:

Kinder's Capers:

Welcome families to the Fall semester at Montessori in Motion. Welcome too to the summer weather in Fall this semester. Just because we didn't really have a summer during July and August doesn't mean that these hot sunny days will go away quickly. Please make sure that your children have plenty of sun block. If you put some in the boxes where their clothes are stored, please let us know if you need us to reapply it later in the day. Also, it would be great to bring them a bathing suit (labeled with their name) so that they can take advantage of our little wading pools that sat unused during the cool summer. Children really enjoy playing in water, so please make sure you check their boxes for replacement garments as needed.

In the kinders class, we are starting to "normalize". Maria Montessori coined that phrase, so that teachers would understand that there is a period of time in which students learn how to navigate their environment and how to relate to their teachers and classmates. It is my joy to observe this process in action every year. Because I have such a small group it is easy for me and Karina or Meg to reach each



child almost immediately when he/she needs assistance. I also find myself presenting work to one child and often notice because of the quiet atmosphere and liberal space that many other children will begin to gather to watch the lesson unfold. This motivates them to want to take that work for themselves. October brings Halloween and even though it is scary for some, it is the favorite holiday for others. We will start singing the songs and creating some artistic masterpieces for them to decorate school and home.

I hope that you have all met our newest teacher, Karina. She is here with us in the kinders class to complete her practicum, so she can receive her Montessori certificate. She has worked with young children for many years. We welcome her and feel fortunate that she has chosen us to present all that she has learned in the program to our great little kinders.

In the next week, some of you will see homework in your children's backpacks. I will only give home work to children who ask for it. I will explain that to them. I find

that having a specific place to keep their homework will make life easier for the whole family. Tuesday will be homework day. I will go over the homework when they bring it back and give them more. They don't need to bring it back right away, but when they do, on the next Tuesday, we will sit together and discuss what they have done.

Please check the white board on Thursdays, so you know what the sharing letter sound is. It's really nice when you

help your student find something around your house that isn't a toy and begins with the weekly letter.

I am looking forward to a super year. Thank you.

Linda

Little's Class:

As October rolls in and the temperature gauge rises, Littles are enjoying playing with water both inside and out. They are making delightful discoveries through washing the tables and our hands; through fishing for sea creatures, scooping and

pouring and washing babies in our classroom; through pouring, and splashing, and painting with water on the playground. Since we are still going on an "Under the Sea" theme in our classroom, they are learning the names and identities of creatures in the ocean. We have been singing "Baby Beluga" during circle, and a popular art activity right now is painting seahorses, sea stars, angelfish and dolphins



In the classroom, the children are learning to choose work. They are beginning to catch on to the concepts of taking the whole work off the shelf,

choosing a workspace, doing the work and finally returning it to the shelf it came from. They practice waiting for a turn when someone is using a work, asking for a turn, and choosing whether they want to work alone or with a friend. What a joy it is to see the children getting to know and enjoy each other!

Anthony and Miles have become great puzzle masters and can complete 24-piece floor puzzles with little help. Alina chooses building works frequently, such as pink cubes, binomial cube, trains and Legos. Nico is always game for some water play. Sofi likes doing play dough and the pizza and veggie slicing works. Brittney is drawn

to practical life works where she is practicing spooning and tonguing. Sarah likes painting, watching the other children, and exploring the variety of activities our classroom has to offer. Marina is showing a growing interest in her classmates and in the chores of the classroom, such as sweeping and cleaning up. October also brings En-yu to our class, and we look forward to getting to know our new friend!

A FEW IMPORTANT REMINDERS to keep things running smoothly:

SNACK: We depend on families to bring snack for all of the Littles on their designated snack day. Please check your October calendar and note the date that you are asked to provide snack. Please provide a fresh fruit or veggie along with 1 or 2 other food groups, and plan to feed 10 children child-sized portions. Some ideas for snack:

- Strawberries and whole grain crackers
- Pita and hummus and grapes
- Apples and cheese
- Melon and graham crackers
- Carrots and cheese quesadillas
- Celery, peanut butter and raisins

SHARING BAGS: Keep sending those sharing bags--the children enjoy taking their sharing turns. The items they bring inspire conversation and we particularly like naming the different colors we see. The children are gaining verbal skills and we are beginning to hear more from them at sharing time.



HALLOWEEN AND OCTOBER 28TH:

With October comes Halloween and we will be celebrating on Thursday, October 28th! We need drivers for our trip to the Nicasio Pumpkin Patch and back to school that day for our costume parade. Mark this date on your calendar and look for more details at school.

Shelley & Caitlin

Afternoon at MIM

Our afternoons at MIM are a fun time! When the weather is warm, we like to do water play both inside and outside. We ask that you bring your child prepared to get wet so bathing suits, sun-scream, towels, and extra clothes are a must☆. We also enjoy walks to the rocks and along the trails around the church. On our walks we explore the world around us and learn about how our seasons are changing. When we stay at school in the afternoon, we work on sharing,

cooperation, and making new friends. During our rest time, Carol comes and tells our Big's and kinder's stories until she has to go and care for our Little's. We have Alyssa and Brian (a high school helper) with the Big's/Kinder's during our enrichment time. On Fridays we have Karina and Alyssa. Karina sings outside with the kids and will be doing projects inside. We have a regular schedule but we are flexible when our weather is nice and when we see that the kids are having too much fun to transition. We have a lot of fun!

Schedule: Tentative

1:00 – 1:45	Outside play
1:45 – 2:00	Clean-up
2:00 – 2:35	Rest/story time/quiet time
2:35 – 3:30	Snack/inside play/project time
3:30 – 3:45	Clean-up
3:45 – 4:35	Outside enrichment play
4:35 – 4:50	Clean-up
5:00 – 6:00	Free play until pick-up

Alyssa, Carol, Karina



2010-2011 CALENDAR

Monday, August 30, 2010.....First Day of School
 Monday, September 6.....Labor day (No School)
 Wednesday, September 8, 2010.....Back to school night
 Thursday, November, 11.....Veteran's day(No School)
 Thursday/Friday, November 25/26.....Thanksgiving (No School)
 Holiday partyTo be announced
 Monday, 12/20 to Friday, 12/24.....Winter recess (No School)
 Saturday, December 25Christmas day (No School)
 Monday, 12/27 to Friday, 12/31.....Winter recess (Childcare available)
 Saturday, January 1, 2011.....New year's day (No school)
 Monday, January 3School Resumes
 Monday, January 17.....Martin Luther King Day (No School)
 Monday, February 21.....Presidents Holidays (No School)
 Monday, April 11 to April 15.....Spring recess (Childcare available)
 Thursday, May 5.....Mother's Day Tea Party
 Monday, May 30.....Memorial Day (No School)
 Thursday, June 16.....Graduation Day
 Friday, June 17.....No School

