



NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Important Dates in November and December

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| November 8 th | Parent Night 7pm |
| November 23 rd -25 th | Thanksgiving Holiday – School Closed |
| December 1 st | Notice of Intent to Re-Enroll for 2012-2013 Mailed |
| December 20 th | Notice of Intent to Re-Enroll for 2012-2013 Due in Office |
| December 20 th | 12pm Dismissal |
| December 21 st | Winter Break Begins |

CLASSROOM NEWS

Getting Settled – Receiving Lessons

With the early transition weeks behind us, the children seem to be settling in to their routine a bit more, figuring out the rules and etiquette of the classroom. The older children are busy with their work, but certainly find time to help the younger ones. The little ones love the attention and happily receive lessons from the more seasoned in the classroom.

A lesson the children learn early on is that an item on the shelf can only be taken down by them if they have received a lesson on it. The lesson involves the teacher first completing the activity in a particular order (first take the tray off the shelf, place on underlay, pull out chair, etc.) The child watches intently, wanting to mimic the teacher exactly. This lesson is typically given without words, which allows the child to focus on the activity and not get distracted by the words. When the teacher has seen that the child has been able to watch from beginning to end, the child is invited to then use this activity for the first time, with the teacher. The teacher is guiding the child, giving them the tools they need to be successful in this first lesson, and helping to channel that focus for future lessons.



By the end of the kindergarten year, children have been given hundreds of lessons and are feeling secure in their math, writing, and reading skills. This will give them an excellent "pushing off" point to enter 1st grade in a public or private setting.

Often we don't know what to ask our child when we pick them up from school. Asking them "How was your day?" might not get us very far. Why not start with "Did you have a lesson today?" or "Who did you work with today?" These can elicit some very interesting responses. A favorite could be "What did you have for snack?" Try it...see what happens!

Halloween Celebrations

Ms. Olga Gazda, a noted musician, visited our classroom on Friday, and played all the Halloween songs that the children have been learning this past month. It was quite a festive time for all the children. The children love having the lively accompaniment, both piano and otherwise that she provides! Then, the children enjoyed warm tea and muffins and moved on to the Kitchen Band. A variety of "instruments" made many different sounds and everyone seemed to enjoy the change in routine. Make sure to check out the pictures on the website.

Kindergarteners visit Homestead Farms



The children and Ms. Stubbs travelled with Mrs. O'Brien (Conor's mom) to Homestead Farms to pick their own pumpkin and bring apples back to the classroom for applesauce in November. Due to weather conditions this year, pumpkin picking was not available as Homestead Farms is trying to protect its soil from further damage. So the children picked a pumpkin from a huge lot they had assembled and easily found one they could carry themselves. They also saw a cow, goats, chicken, guinea fowl, and sheep. The farm is a wonderful place to bring children and we'd encourage you to take a ride out

there sometime if you can. Their [website](#) gives the best information regarding times of year to visit. We found it easier to head north on River Road early in the morning on weekends, to beat the traffic.

French Studies

The PARENTS page on our website has a space dedicated to French songs and vocabulary. For those of you interested in continuing the work at home, feel free to print up a page or two and practice at home!

Parent Night

Our first Parent Night of the year is **Tuesday, November 8th at 7pm**. We will be sending out an RSVP today by email, asking the name of one or both parents attending. This is a parent-only event. Although only an hour, we hope to fill it with useful information regarding the ins and outs of Montessori education, and more specifically, the education your child is receiving at Crestview. We plan to get you home on time!

FROM THE OFFICE

Letters of Intent

New this year all parents will be mailed a Letter of Intent for every currently enrolled child. We feel fortunate to have a strong interest in our school, but with so few slots we want to give your child first priority for re-enrollment. This form is required in the office by **December 20th**, the last day of school before winter break. Each form will also leave room for sibling additions for the same academic year. Siblings have preference. Please note that all applications for siblings must be received in our office by **January 31st, 2012** in order to be considered for preference admission. Contracts for returning children who completed Letters of Intent will be mailed on **February 1st, 2012** and will be due with deposit in the office by **February 17, 2012**.

If you have a question regarding a sibling enrollment, please address that question directly to Ms. Winebrenner by phone or email. Best times to reach her by phone are between 7:45-8:15am, and after school between 3:15-4pm.



- Classroom Snack – We appreciate the families of Dourkouris, Guimbert, Hess and Holmes for bringing a nutritious weeklong snack for the children to enjoy. Flower arranging continues to be a fun activity and one that adds to the beauty of our classroom.
- Birthday Cookie bakers: the Guimberts, the McGowans, and the Schulmans all baked cookies this month – a great opportunity to get the kids involved in the kitchen, and is much appreciated around here!
- And to those who ordered this year from the Small Hands catalog. We enjoyed seeing the great ideas you have for your children, and we hope they enjoy them when they arrive, possibly later this week. We will bring your items to you in bags during drop-off.
- Naomi O'Brien (Conor's mom) for chaperoning the field trip to Homestead Farms.

PHOTOS



Celebrating a birthday



Crumbing a table



Pressing a leaf for an art project



Grating a carrot



Serving birthday cookies



Counting our first 1000 chain of the year!



Cleaning a cupboard on a Friday



Buttoning a dressing frame