



OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Important Dates in October and November

October 4 th	Picture Day/Rain Date
October 7 th	Parent/Teacher Conference Sign-Up Online 11am
October 7 th	12pm Dismissal – Conference Preparation
October 10 th	School Closed – Columbus Day
October 14 th	12pm Dismissal – Conference Preparation
October 20 th	“Small Hands” Catalog Orders Due
October 21 st	Parent/Teacher Conferences – School Closed
October 28 th	Halloween Marching Band – more details to come
October 31 st	Parent/Teacher Conferences – School Closed
November 8 th	Parent Night 7pm
November 23 rd -25 th	Thanksgiving Holiday – School Closed

CLASSROOM NEWS

The First Weeks

Well, we are off and running! Your children are here and already getting settled. Part of the first few weeks for the new children involves learning the expectations of the classroom, and generally becoming more comfortable in their new surroundings. A Montessori classroom involves children receiving lessons before they remove work from the shelves, so we are immediately giving many lessons to the littlest ones in the classroom. The returning four year olds are feeling more secure as this is their second year and know just what to do to “get to work” first thing in the morning. The oldest of the children are also getting to work, as well as helping some of the younger children become acclimated and comfortable. There is never a dull moment in our classroom, but as you know from visiting our school it is also not a chaotic atmosphere. As time goes on, the “hum” will become more peaceful as they become more engaged in their environment.

Because so many children visited beaches over the summer, we studied a bit about beaches in September. We talked about different animals that make their homes on the beach and we

studied different kinds of shells that you might find on the beach. The children also enjoyed some art work with shells.

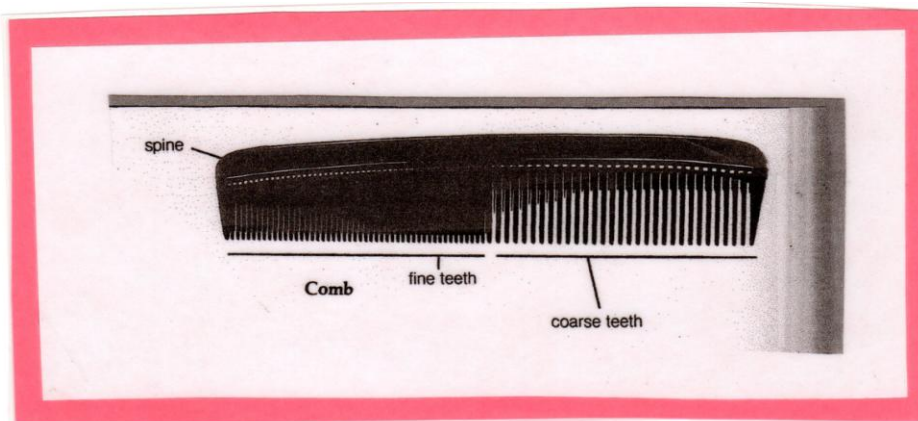
Our geography study always begins with the study of the continents. We have been singing "The Continent Song" and most of the children have had a lesson on the Continent Map. Other first lessons in geography include identifying "land" and "water" on the sandpaper globe and "ocean" and "continent" on the painted globe.

As we move into the month of October, we begin the study of Europe for geography. Each year we again pull our artifacts for the children to peruse and study. They love looking at and remembering from the previous years the objects that were in the classroom – objects that perhaps that they have polished or read about in previous years.

In the month of October, we will also begin our study of mammals.

This month we will be learning many new songs, some because of our study of Europe. Some of these will include "Lavender's Blue" from England, "Frere Jacques" from France. Several new songs will be seasonal ones – songs about the fall – and then there will be a great many songs about the Halloween holiday. Stay tuned because your children will be singing up a storm!

Our classroom purchased a visual dictionary that helps us properly identify vocabulary for objects in everyday use. We have decided to try and send along one picture per newsletter. We try and use the vocabulary with your children in the classroom and thought you might enjoy having some of this sent along to you also.



The parts of a comb

French Studies

Madam Tressel meets with children on Wednesdays in the classroom. She is a native French speaker and speaks exclusively in French to the children. For the past few weeks the children have been studying parts of a tree and colors of leaves. They are also learning a song called, "Un petit pouce qui danse" which can be found on our website for download.

FROM THE OFFICE

The New Children's Garden

At the end of last year we began the process of securing a landscape architect to draw plans for our yard space. After interviewing several architects, we thankfully decided on Justin Thorn and his company 38 Post. We were impressed by his professionalism and his vision to transform the yard into a wonderful place for children. We hired Bryan Simmons with [The Green Room](#) to do the installation and they worked through some of the hottest days on record throughout the summer. In the end, we couldn't be happier. The flow of the space works so much better for the children, and it truly has become a "working garden." This past month, the afternoon class planted some herbs, flowers, lettuces, and some vegetable seeds in the [Woolly Pockets](#) on the fence. Those pockets are made from 100% recycled plastic bottles. We are hoping to have some fall crops of carrots and potatoes. The children love caring for the different plants that are in our gardens. With all this rain, the rain barrels have worked beautifully and are in use on a daily basis. If you haven't had a chance to see it, feel free to walk through anytime. There are also many pictures posted on our website.



"For Small Hands" Catalog

Montessori Services is a company that produces an age-appropriate collection of perfectly-sized items for young children, as well as engaging activities for your child to participate in at home. Every Fall we submit a "group order", from all Crestview families collectively. The catalogs were placed in your yellow Back-To-School Night folders. It's a great way for grandparents and extended family to give age-appropriate gifts for your child for the holiday season. If you want to participate as a group, the "For Small Hands" orders will be due **October 21st**.

Please note that for individual orders, you will be incur shipping costs. If you choose to add your order to the group order, it will ship free to our school. We will then send the items home as soon as they are received, typically before Thanksgiving. If you choose to go the individual route, please note our school group #245098 when you place your order, and we receive a percentage back towards future Montessori materials. Please let us know if you need recommendations for your child. Additional order forms are available for download on our website.

Please note: We send one catalog home per year. And although we do receive a small percentage of all orders placed which we in turn use to buy a few items for our classroom, this is not why we organize this. We choose this catalog because year after year they produce quality products and, more importantly, they complement the work of a Montessori classroom. Participation is, of course, voluntary.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conferences will be held on **October 21st and 31st**. We ask that you choose the 21st if your child is new to Crestview, and the 31st if your child is returning this year. You will need to choose either day, not both, for your 20 minute time slot. Sign up with be through Sign-Up Genius and a link and password will be emailed to you at 11am on October 7th. Time slots will begin at 7am and run through 11am.

Open Houses

Prospective families are calling and emailing our school to attend one of four open houses we will have this academic year. Open Houses provide an opportunity for a small group of parents to come and experience the inside of a classroom for a short amount of time in the morning. There is minimal disruption to the classroom and the children generally enjoy having the visitors. Our first open house is on October 13th.



Field Trip to Homestead Farms

Our first field trip for the kindergarteners will be to Homestead Farms on **October 19th**. The children will go to pick pumpkins and apples, returning with quite a few to make applesauce in the classroom. This trip is a tradition at Crestview and one that the children look forward to being a part of.



- Classroom Snack – We appreciate the families of Kramer, Bloise, Baqir, Bhatia, and Ceresini for bringing a nutritious weeklong snack for the children to enjoy.
- Birthday Cookie bakers: The Schulman Family, The Swann Family, the Bhatia Family, and the McGowan Family all volunteered their time (and weekend!) to make a few dozen cookies each for our many birthday celebrations. They were delicious and nutritious and were much appreciated.
- Our beta fish was lovingly taken care of by the Hess Family during summer break; thank you Nathaniel.
- Many of our plants stayed with the Bhatia Family during summer break, and came back healthier than ever! Thank you to Alex and Karina.
- The Baqir Family brought back a wonderful court jestir puppet from their travels to Prague. They let us know that in the Czeck Republic they have a great tradition of puppetry and the court jester is a very common character in their puppet theatres. The puppet will be rotated into the classroom during the time we study Europe each year.

PHOTOS



Feeding the outside birds



Having a healthy snack



Building the Pink Tower



Hanging her jacket



Watering our herbs



Refilling his watering can



Scissor cutting – strips of paper



Refilling a pitcher for pouring activity



Playing cooperatively in sandbox



Spindle Box work



Ball playing in our garden



Older child helping younger child hang up painting



A pasting activity



Serving cookies during her birthday celebration



A birthday celebration



Snuffing out his birthday candles