



Discovery Montessori
Newsletter October 2014
(360) 337-5745



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, October 3rd
Monday, October 13th

Pictures 9:00-2:30
Field Trip to Creek House Farms
We will have regular daycare and class.
Leave School at 11:30AM Return to school
2:30. (Please provide disposable snack lunch)

Thursday, October 16th
Friday, October 17th

Earthquake Disaster Drill 10:16
Cystic Fibrosis Mini March
K-7th grade will be in the AM only, Pre-K AM & PM
Halloween Party

Friday, October 31st

PARENT ORIENTATION/DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Thanks to all of you who attended our parent orientations. I hope some of your questions were answered and a few things got explained and clarified. I hope you all have a good idea of what our program is about and what expectations we have for your children. One of the staff members recently brought up an important issue for the teachers, which may not have been addressed at the Orientations. When parents bring their child into the K-1 and Elementary classrooms, and it's time for class to start it is best for the parents to come in quickly, sign in, and try to leave as quickly and quietly as possible. The Preschools will continue the process of drop off/pickup in the hallway. The teachers are very focused on settling children in, getting them into the routines and getting on to the work of the day. When conversation among adults gets started it is sometimes very difficult for the children to hear or to begin concentrating on their activities or to focus their attention on the morning or afternoon circle. Although it may be hard to let go when your child cries or has a hard time when you drop her/him off, s/he generally does best if that time is not prolonged. Feel free to discuss any problems in this regard with a phone call either before or after school, when the teacher can spend some time discussing it with you. Remember that you and other parents are sacrificing a lot to be able to offer these opportunities to your child. Our staff wants to make good use of our time with them.

Also, unless you have made **prior arrangements**, **please do not drop off your child and leave any earlier than five minutes prior to class beginning.** We have a ratio of students to teachers that we need to keep balanced and would appreciate your cooperation. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

PICTURES

We have arranged with Hudson Photography to come to our school on Friday, October 3rd, to take class and individual pictures. The purchase of these pictures is optional. We will be sending an envelope for the money with this newsletter. Please return the envelope with the money and the choices you want on or before the day of pictures. No individual pictures will be taken of your child unless the photographer has the money in hand. Please note that we will not have combs or brushes available for the students to use, however they may bring one from home. Preschool students that do not normally attend on Friday may come at a scheduled time (see the attached schedule on order form) for the group & individual pictures. Please wait in the hallway with your child until your pictures are taken. We can only have a certain number of students in the classroom at one time. Thank you for your cooperation.

SNACKS

Starting October 1st the Kindergarten-1st grade class will no longer provide snack for the whole class. Due to popular vote, it was decided that parents will put a snack in your child's lunch box if they need it. Of note: If you buy Friday lunch and your child goes to afternoon daycare please provide a small snack. Since they don't have their regular lunches they don't have the extra food in case they get hungry.

PUMPKIN PATCH FIELD TRIP

We will be having a field trip to **Creek House Farm** on Monday, October 13th. This field trip is open to all students. We will have normal daycare and school. If your child is scheduled for the AM class and is attending you will need to pick them up at the school around 2:30PM. If your child is scheduled for Tuesday-Thursday class and they are attending please come at 11:20. We will load the bus at 11:30AM. The bus will be leaving no later than 11:40.

In order to keep the cost down we would like to rent one bus for the trip. We need parent volunteers to chaperone and drive their children. The cost will be **\$8.50 per child for the Pumpkin Patch. Bus price is to be determined, but should be no more than \$20 per rider.** The Pumpkin Patch is free for chaperones. The field trip includes; a story and nature trail adventure, feeding farm friends, a craft to create and take home, games, play area and a sugar pumpkin (students only) to take home. Please send a large plastic grocery bag for your child to put his/her pumpkin in. Remember, this is a farm so boots are recommended, especially if it's raining. We'd also like to encourage you to carpool with other families as parking will be limited.

Please fill out the permission slip and turn it in with your money by October 3rd. We need the information as soon as possible to ensure we have adequate transportation. Please don't wait until the last moment. It makes it very difficult for our staff.

EMAIL UPDATES AND REMINDERS

If you signed up to receive email update and reminders you should be receiving a copy of this newsletter. If you did not receive an email or would like to sign up to receive emails, please contact Ms. Valerie in the office. We will be sending out reminders of upcoming events like school pictures and field trips soon and would like to make sure we have the correct email addresses.

CYSTIC FIBROSIS MINI MARCH

On Friday, October 17th, our school will again participate in a fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Cystic Fibrosis is one of the most common, life-threatening genetic diseases of children in the United States, but scientists are making significant strides in their research, from the discovery of the gene that causes cystic fibrosis in 1989 to the correction of the faulty gene under laboratory conditions in 1990. Now human gene therapy experiments are being conducted. If successful, these procedures could amount to a cure. Because this organization works for the cause of young children who are seriously ill, we think it is especially appropriate for our school to support this cause. It is good for children to begin helping others at an early age. It is usually quite a fun day for them, too, when they participate in the march.

We will be sending a pledge form home in your child's Friday Folder. Your child may begin asking friends and relatives to sponsor him/her on this march. We will be keeping track of the laps so if you want to pledge by the lap you may. Sometimes pledging by the lap can really motivate the children to work harder—especially with the K through 6th children. Children normally walk anywhere from 16-150 laps. At \$.10 a lap a 100 laps would be a \$10.00 donation. Sponsors may also make a flat donation.

We ask that you turn the forms in before the day of the march. **Children who only come in the afternoon may participate in the march if their parents bring them to the morning session and pick them up at 11:30.** On the day of the mini march we will record the number of laps your child has walked and if you have people who have pledged by the lap, we will return the form to you so that you can collect the money. Thank you for your participation in and supporting this event. The final day to have all money collected is November 1st.

We are also looking for volunteers to monitor the hall and to record the number of laps the children walk. Please see your child's teacher if you are available. Thank you!

WEIGH AND MEASURE

During the month of October, the teachers will be weighing and measuring the children and they will be sending home a card in your child's folder with the results. Weighing and measuring is done twice a year--once in October and then again in May. If your child was in our school in May you will find that data as well as their new height and weight.

RECESS

We ask that you dress your child appropriately for the weather. This includes coats with hoods, boots, mittens or gloves and umbrellas, so that even if it is raining lightly they will still be able to go outside. Extra space in the building is at a premium so we will not always be able to stay inside during inclement weather. Beginning October 1, we will assume that all children will be adequately dressed and we will begin sending them outside even if it is raining. Fresh air will be very good for the children. We do not have adequate staff to keep some of the children in while others go out, so please don't ask us to make exceptions for your child. **We may still have some nice days so please remember that for safety reasons your child can't wear open toe sandals or flip flops. Running and playing at recess can be dangerous if the students are not in the proper footwear.**

STUDY OF THE MONTH

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN will continue with grace and courtesy and introduction to Montessori materials. **Cultural: History**—Continue with calendar, Christopher Columbus and Halloween traditions. Geography/Science-Comets, solar system, planets, (esp. Earth) globes, (sandpaper and Continent), directions, (North, South, East and West) hemispheres, (western and Eastern) and the seven continents. Art-Columbus art, Halloween art, moon mask and handprint circles. Field Trip to Pumpkin Patch. Cystic Fibrosis Mini March. **Music:** Songs: "The Planets," "The Planets Go Spinning," "Hello to All the Children of the World" and "Columbus." **Cooking:** Moon Cookies, Biscuits w/ Blackberry Jam, Columbus' Ship, Ham 'n' Cheese Bites and Jack-o-Lantern Pizzas. **Show 'n' Tell:** Solar System item, Earth item and a Halloween item. Languages: Spanish and Sign Language.

ELEMENTARY will continue with grace and courtesy and introduction to Montessori materials. Writing skills: Descriptions and personal narratives. Cultural: History-Continue with ancient civilizations and moving to more modern civilizations. Geography/Science: Comets, Solar system, moon and chemistry. Art-Art Appreciation: Richard Long-*Hand Circles*. Music, Movement, Cooking and Computer Skills (keyboarding). Languages-Spanish and Sign Language.

TUTORING

Mrs. Franks and Mrs. Geiss are offering tutoring for students 1st-8th grade in most subjects. Please contact Mrs. Franks for more information.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

We will have our Halloween party on Friday, October 31st. Children may come dressed up in costume for the day. We will have a short time when they will be able to tell about their costume and have a parade & go trick-or-treating to one of the other rooms in the building. Toward the end of the class period, they will have an opportunity to break a piñata. If you would like to donate a piñata, candy or small prizes for the piñata, we will welcome it. Make sure it is the individually wrapped candy. We will soon be contacting volunteers for the Preschool, Kindergarten-1st Grade and Elementary classes to make or buy piñatas and to bring a special snack. **For those children who are allergic to nuts or other ingredients, we are expecting the parents to look over the candy your child received and pull out any that you may suspect would have the offending ingredient(s).**

BOX TOPS & CAMPBELL'S

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Back to School Contest. We collected over 900 Box Tops and Campbell's Labels. The winner of the Back to school contest is Haylee Leibrant. **Congratulations Haylee!** Don't forget that we collect Box Tops and Campbell's Labels all year round. A collection sheet was sent home in your child's Friday Folder this week. When they are full, your child can turn them in and receive a prize. ***Please make sure each Box Top has an unexpired expiration date on it.***

Everyone who turns in 50 Box Tops or a total of 60 points in Campbell's Labels during the month of October will receive a special Halloween prize. Thank you for participating in these programs! Did you know that you can earn TWICE the Labels of Education points for Discovery Montessori by going to <http://www.elabelsforeducation.com> and registering your grocery frequent shopper card? It's easy! All elabelsforeducation points are submitted to Discovery Montessori's account electronically, enabling you to clip the UPC codes for TWICE the points!

SMALL HANDS ORDERS

We will be placing an order with Small Hands again this Holiday Season. The catalogs will come home in your child's Friday Folder as soon as they arrive. You can preview and order items at www.for-smallhands.com. These items make great gifts for your child or for friends. Please contact Mrs. Valerie in the office if you have any questions.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

Don't Forget! You can order e-books online along with your regular monthly book order. Visit www.scholastic.com/bookclubs and use the school activation code **H3X9Z** to log-in. Our school earns even more free books every time you order online. You can still order through the school if you would prefer to pay by check or cash. Book orders will be sent home with your child unless prior arrangements are made with the office.

SIGN LANGUAGE

Miss B. from the Kendall class will begin sign language this month with all of our students. She asks that you please practice with your children at home. Basic instruction will be provided in class. She will be offering a more advanced/personalized class after school on Mondays at 4pm. The cost is \$40 a month (\$50 on months with 5 weeks.) For More information or to sign up for the classes please see Mrs. Valerie in the office.

DRAMA

Ms. Stephanie Brush will be offering Drama again this year. It will be on Friday's at 4PM to 4:45PM. The cost is \$40 a month (\$50 on months with 5 weeks). For information or to sign up please see Mrs. Valerie in the office. To offer drama class we have to have a minimum of 4 to 5 students sign up.

SCIENCE CLUB 2014-2015

Science club with Mrs. Hensley is getting ready to start again this year. In science club, we just bounce around around to different subjects each week, depending on what the students want to see or learn about. The classes will be at the school from 3:30 to 4:30. The first class will start on Wednesday, October 8, 2014. The class has a maximum of 10 students. The science club is only offered to the K-1 and Elementary classes. If there is enough interest, we will look into opening up another class and trying to split the ages a little. Classes are \$40/month. The first 3 people to sign up will get a discount of 50% off for the first month. You can sign up in the office with Mrs. Valerie.

MRS. PEARSONS PICK

October 2014

It is that time again, that the fall season is upon us. Here is my family friendly activity/idea for the month. It will take you outside to observe nature and the beauty of the season.

****Make a Leaf Scrapbook***

"Your kids can start to learn about the leaves around your home and neighborhood and track their changes with a leaf scrapbook."

****Start with collecting 5 different leaves as they are still green.***

****Find out the names of the trees the leaves came from.***

****Tape, glue and do a crayon rubbing (or take your own photo) of each leaf and label it the by name and date.***

*When the leaves change colors return to the same trees and collect new samples to add to the scrapbook.

*Date the new specimens to compare with each addition to your scrapbook.

*With each addition ask your child tell a story about your experience that you write in the scrapbook (or they do if they are old enough).

*Idea taken from: 15 Minutes Outside: 365 ways to get out of the house and connect with your kids.
By: Rebecca P. Cohen*

VOLUNTEERS

Supervised volunteers are not required to do a background check. We would welcome anyone who is willing to get the background check and fingerprinting. To get a background check and fingerprinting through the Department of Early Learning (DEL) visit www.del.wa.gov/. The cost is \$12.00 for the background check and \$44.00 for the fingerprinting. If you have already been fingerprinted for the state of Washington you would only have to do the background check. If you have any trouble managing the website and you need help, see Mrs. Valerie.

DENNIS TENNIS

The week of tennis instruction was very successful for the children. The weather cooperated as well. Dennis asked that we provide skill cards to the parents and students who are interested in improving their skills. These skill sets are recommended for children 10 and under, by the United States Tennis Association (USTA). We have prepared one with beginning skills and another with intermediate skills. Ask your child's teacher for a card if you are interested in doing these with your child.

Also let us know if you are interested in buying a new or used tennis rackets. The prices are \$20 for a new racket and \$15 for used one. Also you can purchase the specially sized balls for young children (slow bounce and foam balls). The used balls are \$2.50 and the new ones are \$3.00 each.

