

Discovery Montessori
Newsletter October 2015
(360) 337-5745



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, October 2 nd	Pictures 9:00-2:30
Friday, October 9 th	Little Caesar Order due date 3:00 PM
Thursday, October 15 th	Earthquake Disaster Drill 10:15
Friday, October 16 th	Cystic Fibrosis Mini March
Monday, October 19 th	Little Caesar's orders pick up 2:00 PM
Friday, October 23 rd	Pumpkin Celebration 9:00 – 11:30 (PM Preschool invited)
Friday, October 30 th	Halloween Party

PARENT ORIENTATION/DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Thanks to all of you who attended our parent orientations. I hope some of your questions were answered, things were explained and clarified. By now you should 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-2 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, to begin concentrating on their activities or 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 time discussing it with you.

Additionally, 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.

SCHOOL PICTURES

We have arranged with Hudson Photography to come to our school on Friday, October 2nd, to take class and individual pictures. The purchase of these pictures is optional. We will be sending an envelope for your order and payment home in your student's Friday Folder. Please return the envelope with payment and picture choices on or before the day of pictures. No individual pictures will be taken of your child unless the photographer has received payment. 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 your order form) for the group & individual pictures. We ask that you wait in the hallway with your child until it is time for your child's pictures

to be taken. We can only have a certain number of students in the classroom at one time. Thank you for your cooperation.

PUMPKIN CELEBRATION – ON SITE

We will be having an onsite pumpkin celebration on Friday, October 23rd. Students will be “picking” their pumpkins from the play field behind the Givens Center and bringing them to class to decorate. The charge per student for the pumpkins will be \$3 and will be added to your monthly statement. We have chosen to do this instead of our usual field trip because of the rising cost of bus rental.

EMAIL UPDATES AND REMINDERS

If you signed up to receive email updates 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 Mrs. Parker in the office. We will be sending out reminders of upcoming events and would like to make sure we have the correct email address(es).

CYSTIC FIBROSIS MINI MARCH

On Friday, October 16th, 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. From the discovery of the gene that causes cystic fibrosis in 1989 to the correction of the faulty gene under laboratory conditions in 1990, scientists are making significant strides in their research. Now human gene therapy experiments are being conducted. If successful, these procedures could amount to a cure. Because this organization works for 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 8th 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. They will not have PM Preschool if they march. On the day of the mini march we will record the number of laps your child has walked. 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 Friday 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 1st, 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 understand that we cannot 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: Continue with grace and courtesy and introduction to Montessori materials. Cultural: **History**-continue with calendar work, Halloween traditions. **Science:** Begin study of invertebrates with worms and spiders, composting. Begin a study of plants--bulbs. **Art:** Halloween activities, spider plates, spider mobile, spider and web, marble painting. **Cooking:** Deviled Eggs, Fruit Salad, Ghost Biscuits, and Halloween Pizzas. **Show & Tell:** Items that begin with "e", "f", "g", & "h". **Languages:** Spanish and Sign Language. **Music and Movement:** "Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria," (Elem.) "Go In and Out the Window," "Head and Shoulders," "Professor Rock Has Disappeared," "Geologic Time," and "Hickory, Dickory Dock".

ELEMENTARY: Continue with grace and courtesy and introduction to Montessori materials. Cultural: **Science**—water cycle, worms & spiders. **Social Studies:** Early European colonies in North America. Halloween traditions. Cystic Fibrosis Mini March. **Music:** "I'm A Sloth", "Don't Dither", Halloween songs **Art:** Continue Peace art and Halloween art. **Technology:** Keyboarding, word processing, and movie/project software. **Languages:** Sign Language and Spanish.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

We will have our Halloween party on Friday, October 30th. 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-2nd 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

Don't forget that we collect Box Tops and Campbell's Labels all year round. We are looking for parent volunteers to help with the Box Top Program. A successful program earns money to buy books and help offset the cost of fieldtrips for the school. Collection sheets are sent home in Friday Folders and we have plenty of extras in the office. 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.**

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.forsmallhands.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. We ask that you please use your student's name when ordering 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 or Mrs. Parker in the office.

MRS. PEARSON'S PICK

Pearson's Pick is designed to be an idea each month that you can implement at home with your children that will encourage independence, learning, and practice of skills. My first thought as we enter a new school year and welcome new families into our Montessori Community, is respect for the environment (aka cleaning up after yourself).

In the classroom and at home, this can look like sweeping the table and floor or wiping the table clean. The key is having child sized tools that are accessible at all times and teaching children how they are used.

Do you wipe your table after a meal with a sponge or a washcloth? Does your child know where to find it? Should it be rinsed in the kitchen sink or a bathroom? Should soap be used? Should they dry wipe the surface after cleaning?

Maybe you would like help with sweeping the floor. Do you have a child sized broom or a hand sweeper? In the Preschool classroom we use hand sweepers every day. Bringing a large mess into a pile for a child to then sweep up can also be a step to success.

It might not be perfect at first, but encourage and notice each attempt. Implementing these ideas at an early age fosters lifelong habits.



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.

LITTLE CAESAR'S PIZZA FUNDRAISER

The Little Caesar's Pizza fundraiser is in full swing. Orders are due no later than October 9th at 3 PM. We are still looking for volunteers to help sort the orders for pick up (on October 19th at 2PM). We will be keeping a running tally in the office of completed orders (placed and payment received). We ask that you keep us updated throughout your sales process to make the process of ordering as smooth as possible. It's as simple as a note to Amy or Valerie in the office. If you have any questions about the fundraiser, please contact Jenni Burbank at (360)-473-8294. Thank you for supporting our school and the Washington DC Trip for our K-8 classes.

KIDS NIGHT OUT

Our next Kids Night Out will be October 10th, 2015 from 5:30 to 9:30. Sign up forms can be found at the new Parent Information Station (see below). We ask that you please sign up in advance so that we can be adequately staffed.

NEW PARENT INFORMATION STATION

We have a new Parent Information station in the hallway, outside of the main school door. Here you will find school notices about upcoming events and extra forms that you might need. Please take a moment and review the information that can be found. There is also an information bulletin board outside of the Elementary class.



