

Glenn Dale Montessori School News



Glenn Dale Montessori
School

Gloria Panton-Harvey
Principal

December 2011

GDMS Students Prepare for a Fantastic Winter Program



This month, GDMS students are working hard to prepare for the 2012 Winter Program. Each class is learning a holiday song to perform. The Performing Arts Club will provide a special presentation for your enjoyment.

“The children are excited,” said Ms. Allen, the Performing Arts Club teacher. Parents are reporting children randomly breaking out in spirited holiday songs. Suddenly children know all the words to *T was the Night Before Christmas*.

A special guest who dons a red suit and travels via an entourage of reindeer will be there. For a small donation, children will be able to take pictures and share their holiday wishes with him.

The Winter Program will be held on December 22nd, from 10:30 AM – 2 PM in the Multipurpose Room. Lunch will be provided compliments of the GDMS PTO. Given limitations on space, we ask that families limit guests the two individuals.

Merry Christmas! Happy Chanuka! Happy Kwanzaa! Happy Holidays! Seasons' Greetings!

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December Events

- 5th Staff Meeting 12:30 PM – 3 PM
- 6th Parent Teacher Organization Meeting 6 PM
Open House 9 AM – 11 AM
- 10th Parent Participation Day 9 AM – 12 PM
- 13th Open House 9 AM – 11 AM
- 16th Honey Baked Ham Orders & Money Due
- 21st Honey Baked Ham Order Pick-up
- 22nd Winter Program & Luncheon 10:30 AM – 2 PM
- 23rd Holiday Break
- 27th – 30th Child Care Offered (sign up required)

School will be closed on January 2nd in observance of New Year's Day. Classes resume on January 3rd.

From the Principal's Desk

The Holiday Season is almost here. For me, it arrived a bit too soon in one sense. In another sense it is a good time to remember the real meaning of this festive season of PEACE and GOODWILL to everyone.

Dr. Maria Montessori focused much of her teaching and philosophy on PEACE and as Montessorians, we want to focus on peaceful ways of guiding our students in order to help them bring out the best in themselves.

Winter Program

At school, the children are busy preparing for our Annual Winter Program on December 22. The program will be held in the GDMS Multipurpose Room and will start at 10:30 AM. A delicious luncheon compliments of the Parent Teachers Organization will follow and school will be dismissed at 2 PM.

Parents are invited to our Annual Winter Program and luncheon. Please mark the date and plan to attend. This is one of the annual school events that parents look forward to attending. I hope to see all of you here. The children will be looking out for their parents in the audiences so don't disappoint them.

I must extend a hearty Thank You to all the parents and grandparents who assisted with the Thanksgiving Luncheon. Everything went smoothly and we could only accomplish this with your help. Thank you again. A letter and email will be coming out with more specifics on the Winter Program and Luncheon.

Staff Change

Our substitute music teacher, Mrs. Sandy Brown, left us in November. Mrs. Brown was only filling in for Mrs. Lynnell Randall who has returned. I want to thank Mrs. Brown for the excellent way she stepped in and carried forward our music curriculum. She even started preparing our students for the Winter Program thereby facilitating an easy transition for our students. Mrs. Randall officially started on November 29 and is working with the teachers to prepare students for the Winter Program.

Winter & Christmas Break

Please note that the GDMS Montessori Program will be closed after the program and luncheon on Thursday, from December 22nd-26th. Child care will be provided from Tuesday, December 27th through Friday, December 30th during the regular hours of 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM. A fee will be charged for this service. You can sign up for all four days or as many of those days that you need. Hourly and daily rates are also available. Please check at the front desk for details about this service.

Please remember that school will be closed for the Winter Break from December 23, 2011 to January 2, 2012. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

Have a Blessed and Peaceful Holiday Season and a Happy Kwanzaa!



December Birthdays

Children

Courtney Watford 12/1

Victoria Akinneye 12/4

Brinsly Ewang 12/5

Shabad Sing 12/13

Daniel Miller 12/15

Justin Gillian 12/28

Staff

Ms. Allen

Mrs. Lenora

Ms. Lalit

Cardinal Room News: Ms. Allen

December has arrived! This is such a fast moving month filled with lots of fun and celebration. Please stay informed with the calendars posted on the bulletin board outside the classroom.

At the end of December our class will be performing during the winter program. The children have been busy rehearsing and are excited to share all their hard work with you. During the month of December we will be studying Antarctica. Your children will learn about some of the animals and landforms of Antarctica.

In November, we finished studying zoology and the children had a great time learning about the five vertebrate classifications. We also studied North America and Native Americans.

Please keep in mind that the temperature is changing and that we will go out for recess unless the temperature is below freezing. Make sure your child comes in the proper attire for winter weather. Our classroom temperature can also vary drastically. If you dress your children in layers they will be more comfortable during class. Please make sure sweaters and sweatshirts are labeled to ensure there are no mix-ups.

Winter Break Child Care

GDMS will offer 4 days of child care December 27th – December 30th. A minimum of 10 students is needed to offer this service. The hours of operation are 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM. Parents must sign up by December 12.

Theme: Kwanzaa and New Year

Activities:

- Arts & Crafts
- Games
- Drama & Music
- Daily Story Time
- Children will also have a Share A Toy Day

Rates:

- Full-Day Service - 4 days: \$150
- Daily: \$55
- Hourly: \$10 up to 4 hours
- Half-Day Service - 4 days (8:30 AM – 1:00 PM): \$100

Eagle Room News: Mrs. Erma Molina

Happy Holidays! I hope you are all enjoying the beginning of this wonderful season. This month, we will be learning the different holiday traditions all over the world. We will find out how they celebrate St. Nicholas Day, Hanukkah, Santa Lucia Day and Kwanza.

Many of our children are focusing on phonetic sounds. They have been very busy in the Daily Living and Sensorial exercises. Some of our older children are honing their reading skills and they are beginning to perform simple addition problems.

Cultural Study – Europe

The Eagle class will be travelling in the continent of Europe. We will be learning about medieval castles and life of the time, listening to fairy tales of princesses, knights and dragons. We will also be doing imaginative play and art. We will be using books and pictures of the European countryside.

We welcome Aidan Petrikin and David Zhang into our class! It is always nice to have new faces in our class.

A special thank you to all of our parent volunteers who helped make our Thanksgiving lunch a huge success! We really appreciate your assistance in serving lunches and helping everything go smoothly and efficiently.

HONEYBAKED.

GDMS Honey Baked Ham Fundraiser

Support GDMS this holiday season by selling hams and other delicious holiday food items from the Honey Baked Ham company. Encourage your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues to order. GDMS will receive 15% of all sales.

Order forms have been placed in your child's cubby.

*****Orders and monies are due by
December 16th. Orders must be picked
up on December 21st*****

Flamingo Room News: Ms. Lenora

The elementary children in our Flamingo class have worked very hard to come up with a project to build a Mayflower ship as decoration for Thanksgiving. It was so exciting to hear and see each child's ideas. After the short holiday break, the children researched Native Americans, and how they made jewelry, instruments, weapons, housing, and vegetation. They planted beans to replicate the way the Native Americans taught the Pilgrims how to grow corn plants with beans, so that the beans produce nitrogen for the ground and the corn plants support the bean plants to stay above the ground. Incorporated was a nice little lesson about cooperation! The children watched how the beans germinated, learned about the seed coat and dicots. This led the children to discover what kind of foods are monocots and they came up with rice, wheat, barley, and oats (mainly all grains). Now our bean plant has so many flowers and has some baby beans on it. The children are so excited to come in the morning and watch how the beans are growing.

Additionally, we are glad that Luc got us the peanut plant\ so we could learn how peanuts grow. This is a good lesson for the kids to hear how this little flower with its soft petals works hard to bend down to the ground and make peanuts. It also has an over-arching lesson on how to work hard in order to achieve your goals.

I am thankful to all the parents who took the time to help during Thanksgiving lunch, who volunteered to drive for our field trips, and who took half-days during the teachers' meeting every month. I would also like to thank those who have helped me to fix materials, cut, and laminate work. It has made my life easier!

After School Clubs

- *Cooking*
Ms. Erma, Mondays, \$20/ month
- *Performing Arts*
Ms. Allen, Wednesdays, \$20/ month
- *Yoga*
Ms. Sarwat, Thursdays, \$20/ month
- *Art*
Ms. Lenora, Fridays, \$10/ month

Club fees should be paid directly to the club's respective teacher. Please note that some of the fees printed in the September newsletter have been adjusted to include supply costs. Families with students not enrolled in after-care will be assessed \$5 each day for the 30 minutes of child care between 3:30 PM and 4 PM. This after-care fee should be paid to the school with your child's monthly tuition.

Hummingbird Room News:

Ms. Sarwat & Ms. Ogechi

December is always an exciting month. The children come to school with so much energy and enthusiasm. Many thanks to the parents who were able to share conference time with me. I enjoy having the chance to talk with you about the progress your child has made thus far. It was also nice to have grandparents and parents visit on Thanksgiving Day for the pot-luck and to share delicious food. We really appreciate your participation in our classroom events.

This month we will write 2 fun class books based on holiday traditions. Our theme for this month is Winter and Holidays. Parents are welcome to join us in our morning circle at 9:00 AM to sing along holiday songs.

In science we will discuss the changes taking place outside as we approach the winter season; we will also learn about which animals hibernate and which do not.

Oriole Room News: Ms. Adams & Ms. Menefee

Welcome to the bright and festive month of December. We had a wonderful time during the month of November.

Our Thanksgiving Luncheon was very successful and we would like to thank all the parents and families who attended and participated in this program. We usually look forward to having you here and the children enjoyed every moment of your time. The children were happy to learn about Thanksgiving and listen to stories about Native Americans.

Now that Thanksgiving is over, it is now time to prepare for the Holiday/Christmas season. The children will begin preparations to celebrate the annual Holiday Program, which will be held at the school this year. Our classroom discussions will be centered around holiday traditions such as Christmas trees, Santa Claus, lights they will see on the trees and on buildings, Kwanzaa, etc. We will also explain in our simplest way the real meaning of Christmas.

Our two year olds are doing an exceptional job in the classroom. This month, in addition to learning about the holiday, we will continue our usual rug work. They will also work on mastering their numbers, shapes, colors, and alphabet sounds. We also encourage parents to involve their children in helping at home to establish some sense of independence by, e.g., hanging coats on hangers and putting shoes where they belong. Parents should also read more and have conversations with them to help build their vocabulary and express themselves more.

Have a wonderful and blessed holiday!

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

As we end the first half of the school year, the PTO would like to thank parents and teachers for their work and support throughout the year. Parents, we know how busy your work and family schedules are. We appreciate the time you have taken to come to meetings and support the PTO fundraisers. Teachers, in addition to leading busy lives with families of your own, you go above and beyond with your time and energy to support GDMS, our children, and PTO causes. All that you do is noticed, recognized, and appreciated.

We have tentative fundraising figures. To date, we have earned \$756 in profits from World's Finest Chocolate. From the Claire's Elegant Desserts, the school earned \$1,034.25 profit. Finally, we raised \$40 from Box Tops. That said, we have raised \$1,830.25 towards our fundraising goal of \$6,000 for the year, and must keep moving!

There are 13 cases of World's Finest Chocolate available for sale in the office. If you are able to sell more boxes we would appreciate your help. There is also another upcoming fundraising activity. For the holiday season, we ask that you support the Honey Baked Ham fundraiser by purchasing and encouraging family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, etc., to purchase their holiday hams and other holiday treats through our fundraiser. GDMS will receive 15% of the total sale. This is a great way to make planning the holiday meal more convenient while supporting GDMS!

Again, your support is appreciated. Our goal is to

assist the teachers and administration in achieving their goals for the benefit of our children. One important goal is the replacement and purchase of new Montessori Materials.

Last month's newsletter printed the following selected items from Ms. Lenora's class wish list:

- Bank Game \$17.49,
- Hundred Board \$ 20.41,
- Pythagoras Board \$19.82,
- Table of Pythagoras \$35.95,
- Gray and White Number Tile with Box \$11.95,
- Cubing Materials \$299.95,
- Geometric Hierarchy of Numbers \$300.00,
- Equivalence Material \$275.00.

Selected items from Ms. Allen's class wish list is as follows:

- Sound Cylinders \$32.95,
- Geometric Cabinet \$118.95
- Construction Triangles \$72.95
- Geometric Solids \$42.95
- Color Tabs 3 \$46.95
- Color Tabs 2 \$16.95
- Color Tabs 1 \$7.95
- Trinomial Tube \$31.95
- Complete Bead Cabinet \$299.95

Please help the PTO support our children, their classes, and teachers. We welcome your fundraising support as well as your fundraising ideas.

Happy Holidays!



Glenn Dale Montessori
School

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December Registration Promos

New families who register and pay all fees in December for January enrollment will receive \$100 off their 1st month tuition.

Current families who refer a new student in December will receive \$100 off their tuition if the referred family enrolls during the month of January.