

Glenn Dale Montessori School News



Glenn Dale Montessori
School

Gloria Panton-Harvey
Principal

January 2012

A Winter Program to Remember



As we ended the 2011 calendar year, GDMS students dazzled parents, family, and friends with talented performances at the Annual Winter Program. Each class performed spirited holiday songs. With raised voices, they warmed our hearts with songs such as *Jingle Bells*, *Christmas in Hawaii*, *Bundle Up*, *Feliz Navidad*, *Winter Wonderland*, *Chipmunk Christmas*, *Merry Christmas Santa*, *The Dreidel Song*, *Twelve Days of Christmas*, and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.

In addition to these musical selections, Hummingbird Room children recited the poem *Falling Snow* and a Kwanzaa speech was delivered by the children of the Flamingo Room. The Performing Arts Club gave a charming rendition of *Twas the Night Before Christmas* and the Yoga Club helped calm holiday anxieties

with its Peace Celebration demonstration of yoga poses. The children's talent extended beyond the stage and into the kitchen. The tasty samosas served at the luncheon were made by the children in the Flamingo Room.

From the youngest to the oldest, the children worked so hard to prepare for the program. Their performance far exceeded our expectations. Bravo!

January Events

- 2nd New Year's Day Observed (School Closed)
- 3rd Classes resume
- 9th Staff Meeting 12:30 PM – 3 PM (Parent Participation Opportunity)
- 10th Open House 9 AM – 11 AM
Parent Teacher Organization Meeting 6 PM
- 11th Vision and Hearing Screening
- 13th End of Second Grading Period (Elementary)
- 14th Parent Participation Day 9 AM - noon
- 16th Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observed (School Closed)
- 17th Open House 9 AM – 11 AM
- 22nd Open House 2 PM – 4 PM
- 23rd Parent Workshop: Montessori Math Curriculum 6:30 PM
- 26th Field Trip: Discovery Theater

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From the Principal's Desk

Happy New Year! Welcome Back Everyone. I do hope you had a joyful and peaceful holiday season, with time for rest and rejuvenation with family and friends.

A heartfelt appreciation is extended to all who helped to make the Winter Program and Luncheon a joyful experience. I was very gratified to see so many of you enjoying the beautiful program, assisting with the luncheon, as well as enjoying time together with our Glenn Dale Family. Hard work and dedication certainly has its intangible rewards!

Now let us get ready for the challenge of the New Year. I ask for your continued support in making Glenn Dale Montessori School one of the finest in the area.

MARKETING

We plan to continue our vigorous marketing efforts to boost our enrollment. Open houses will continue to be held each Tuesday morning. A special open house has been planned on our annual calendar for Sunday, January 22nd from 2 PM – 4 PM.

Flyers are being prepared and will be circulated to publicize this event. We ask for your help in letting prospective families know about the event.

A referral fee of \$100.00 will be offered to any current parent who refers a new family to the school during the month of January. In order to receive this incentive the new family must enroll the child, pay all fees, and the child must actually start attending Glenn Dale in February. Look for more details in your child's cubbies and in emails.

I am delighted to welcome three new families to Glenn Dale Montessori this January:

- Zak & Toni Ahmed & son Jibreel (Eagles Room)
- Jeffrey & Carlene James & daughter Celine (Hummingbirds Room)
- Amisha & Sergei Kazmenchuk & son Dhirendr (Orioles Room)

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Our January Parent Participation Day is scheduled for Saturday, January 14th from 9 AM through noon. Please plan to attend and assist the teachers in making their classrooms sparkle.

VISION AND HEARING SCREENING

Our annual vision and hearing testing is scheduled for January 11th. This service is provided by Vision and Hearing Testing, Inc., a private company authorized by the Health Department. Information about the screening will be sent home by the first week of January.

Please check the monthly Calendar for other events

this month, including a Field Trip to the Discovery Theater on January 26, 2012. I encourage you to participate in as many of the activities as you are able.

As we enter the New Year, I would like to hear from you. A suggestion box is in front of the Main office for that purpose. However, I do prefer to speak with you personally so give me a call or let the front office know you would like to speak with me.

Let's work together to build the school and each other by accentuating the positives and not the negatives, but working together to turn the negatives into positives.

HERE'S WISHING EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!



January Birthdays

David Zhang 1/21

Miles Newton 1/24

Tahani Jaber 1/26

Bryant Durant 1/28

Camellia Gabel 1/30

Taylor Gaston Love 1/31

Tyler Gaston Love 1/31

Eagle Room News: Mrs. Erma Molina

A fresh welcome to 2012! I hope that everyone is off to a bright start this New Year. I am sure that the children had a blast spending time with their families, opening gifts, and just relaxing. Well, it is time for them to join with their friends and get back in gear. January tends to be the busiest work month. Lessons! Lessons! Lessons!

A Montessori teacher's dream is to have her students ask for new lessons and this is what is happening in our classroom. The children's minds are clear and focused and ready to absorb new things; so we will be busy, busy, busy!

TOUR OF ASIA

We will be taking an Asian tour this month. We will look at the history, customs, art, food and geography of the continent. We will visit the Taj Mahal in India; the floating market in Thailand; Tokyo, which is the largest city in the world; Taiwan 101, which is the tallest building in the world; the Golden Pagoda temple of Burma; and many other sites. Parents, if you have books, videos, pictures, or artifacts that you would like to share, please let me know or send them with your child.

Parents, please find time to check our bulletin board for some reminders and announcements. We also need help in our upcoming staff meeting on January 9th from 1 PM to 3 PM. I also would like to thank all the parents who sent cards and gifts for the holidays!

Flamingo Room News: Ms. Lenora

On December 16th, the Flamingo class went on a field trip to the NASA visitor's center. They learned so much about space, planets, galaxies, and the sun. They also learned how infrared helps to detect outer space images, how the sun helps us with music thru radioactive waves, how x-rays are used to detect our illnesses and also how space travel helps to detect the weather and other changes on earth. The demonstrators showed us rocket launching with three different small rockets. The trip was very successful. When the children returned from the trip, one child made a rocket. We plan to have our own rocket launch when the school starts!

I am very grateful to the parents who volunteered to provide transportation and their contributions toward the *Adventures in Space* kit and book for the class.

Later in December, the Flamingo Class participated in another notable event: decorating a senior citizen home in Bowie. They made Christmas trees with bells and fan-shaped Santas to hang on the trees. All decorations were delivered on December 20th.

And at end the month, the children made 113 samosas for the holiday school luncheon. We look forward to another busy month in January.



GDMS January Registration Promotion

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.

Contact Ms. Harvey at
admin@glenndalemontessori.org
or (301) 805-2845
for more information.

News for the Cardinal Room will be published in the February Newsletter.

Hummingbird Room News:

Ms. Sarwat & Ms. Ogechi

Happy New Year! We hope that all of our GDMS families had a warm and relaxing holiday break. We ended 2011 with a very busy December. A big THANK YOU to all the parent helpers who assisted with the holiday program.

This month, we will focus on re-centering our young ones and will follow-up with classroom rules and routines. We will also celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and talk about his hard work to make this world a better place for all people. Parents, please help children prepare to present their thoughts about Dr. King's life and work during circle time.

Additionally, the children will learn about the Chinese New Year and the continent of Asia.

Have a peaceful year ahead!



Parent Workshop: Montessori Math Curriculum

Helps parents understand the Montessori methodology to teaching mathematics with a hands-on approach using concrete materials

Monday, January 23, 2012
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Childcare provided.

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.

Oriole Room News:

Ms. Adams & Ms. Menefee

Welcome Back!! We hope everyone enjoyed the long Winter Break. Thank you, parents, for the lovely gifts received during the holiday season.

We are happy to report that the children have settled down nicely. Parents, as a reminder, one of the goals of Montessori is independence. To facilitate independence, we ask that you begin to allow your children to perform basic tasks by themselves. These tasks could include buttoning, zipping and putting on their own jackets and putting on their own shoes. These are first steps towards independence and they also promote concentration. We understand that sometimes you may be in a hurry, but it is important to allow children to learn to do as much for themselves as possible.

This month, we are very happy and privileged to welcome Dhirendr Kuzmenchuk to our warm and friendly environment. We look forward to working with Dhirendr and his family.

To our parents and families of the Orioles Room, we wish you a happy and blessed New Year!!!

Multi-purpose Room Makeover & Mural

GDMS is looking for creative ideas for a makeover of the Multi-purpose Room. The school is seeking talented artists to create a mural in the Multi-Purpose Room. If you know individuals who can assist with this project or have additional ideas, please contact Ms. Harvey.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Happy New Year and now back to the grind of school for the little ones and work for the big ones!

First and foremost, we would like to thank parents for their support of the Winter Program and Luncheon. As a body, the PTO felt it was important to reserve fundraising money to support the purchase of much needed Montessori materials for the classrooms and to support the luncheon through potluck and other donations. Parents were very generous, providing many tasty dishes and monetary donations. Many also helped set up, prepare food, serve the children, and clean up. It was an exceptional event that was made even more special as a result of our dedicated parents. Thank you.

A special thank you to those who supported the Honeybaked Ham Fundraiser. This very quick fundraiser grossed approximately \$960 in sales, netting GDMS \$144 in profit. For the Easter holiday, we hope to conduct another Honeybaked Ham Fundraiser and hope that you and your friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues will support this effort.

This latest fundraiser brings our fundraising account above \$2,000. In the upcoming PTO meeting on January 10th, we will discuss the spending plan for this money among other agenda topics. We hope that you will join us.

In addition to fundraising, the PTO is also a forum for sharing your thoughts, ideas, comments, and concerns with the administration. As Co-Chairs of the PTO, we have heard from parents and welcome your comments and communication. We've brought issues to the table for productive dialog and problem solving and will continue to do so. At the same time, we encourage you to share your comments directly with the administration. You may



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contact Ms. Harvey at admin@glenndalemontessori.org or (301) 805-2845.

Likewise, you may contact Stacey and Denise, the PTO Co-Chairs, at DeniseRWilkerson@gmail.com or at staceycameron@verizon.net.

We look forward to seeing you at the PTO meeting on January 10th.

We can raise an additional

\$600

in profit

for the PTO fundraising account.

There are 12 remaining boxes of *World's Finest Chocolate* that need to be sold.

100% of the proceeds will go to the GDMS PTO fundraising account.

Pick up a box or two today!



JumpBunch will offer a 30-minute class at GDMS each Tuesday beginning January 10th and through the end of the month.

Offering structured physical activity, JumpBunch introduces children to sports and fitness by teaching them a new sport each week.

The cost is \$7 each week.

Classes begin at 3:30 PM.

Contact the front office or send an email to admin@glenndalemontessori.org to sign up.