

Glenn Dale Montessori School News



Glenn Dale Montessori
School

Gloria Panton-Harvey
Principal

November 2011

GDMS Students Visit the White House Kitchen Garden

Strawberries, pumpkins, peppers, tomatoes, lettuce, and corn were some of the fruits and vegetables GDMS students saw growing when they toured the White House Kitchen Garden on Tuesday, October 4th. After clearing security, the children were escorted by Tess, the tour guide, through the visitor's entrance and into a room where she gave a brief history of the White House. There the children learned that President John Adams, and not President George Washington, was the first US President to reside in the White House.

The first stop on the tour was the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden located near the East Colonnade. Also known as the First Lady's Garden, this garden is where many of the first lady's hosts teas and other events. The children were excited to see oranges ripening on a tall Hardy Orange tree as they learned about the purpose and history of the garden.

As the children strolled across the South Lawn toward the Kitchen Garden, they were greeted by Charlie Brandts, the White House Beekeeper. Charlie, a former White House Carpenter, shared how he came to be the official beekeeper. When the White House Chef learned that Charlie kept bees as a hobby, he asked Charlie if he knew how to make honey. Charlie said yes and in turn became the inaugural White House Beekeeper of the White House's first beehive.

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Michelle Obama in the White House Kitchen Garden with local elementary students the day after GDMS visited the garden.

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November Events

1 st	Parent Teacher Organization Meeting 6 PM
1 st - 4 th	Parent Classroom Observations (by appointment)
8 th	Open House 9 AM - 11 AM
10 th	Field Trip: Native American History Museum
11 th	Veteran's Day (no classes) & Parent Teacher Conferences (by appointment)
12 th	Parent Participation Day 9 AM - 12 PM
15 th	Open House 9 AM - 11 AM
19 th - 20 th	Barnes & Noble Book Fair
22 nd	Thanksgiving Potluck Feast 11 AM - 1:30 PM (school closes at 1:30 PM)
23 rd - 25 th	Thanksgiving Break

From the Principal's Desk

The month of November with its shorter daylight hours and cooler days and nights and brilliant fall colors prepares us for the coming of winter. We are certainly enjoying the beauty around us while we can.

I want to take the opportunity to thank all parents who have participated in the activities of the school during the month of October, e.g., trips to the White House Kitchen Garden and the Old Maryland farm, Parent Participation day, and the Harvest Celebration. I want to give a special thank you to all those parents who attended The Home Environment Workshop. Your attendance indicates your desire to learn more about the Montessori curriculum. The low attendance was somewhat disappointing; however, there will be more opportunities for you to participate in upcoming workshops.

This month is going to be an even busier one. Please check the attached monthly calendar and plan to participate.

CLASSROOM OBSERVATION & PARENT CONFERENCES

Classroom observations are scheduled each year prior to the first parent conferences to give parents the opportunity to better understand the Montessori curriculum as well as observe their children in the Prepared Environment. We ask that you read the observation guidelines that will be handed to you prior to your observation and hold your questions for the Parents Conference. Please be sure to sign up for your conference with your child's teacher. Parent Conference Day is Friday, November 11th. School will be closed for the students on that day. Please sign up early in order to get a time that is convenient to you.

SPECIAL OPEN HOUSE

A special open house is planned for Sunday, November 6th from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Teachers will be selecting some students to come to school on that Sunday to demonstrate to prospective parents some of what they have learned in their Montessori classrooms. We will also be asking a few of you to come to talk to these prospective parents about your experience with the Montessori Curriculum at GDMS. We ask that you invite co-workers, associates and friends to the open house. Flyers will be distributed for this purpose.

BOOK FAIR AT BARNES & NOBLES BOOK STORE

We have been invited by Barnes & Noble in Bowie Town Center to conduct an in-store book fair on Saturday & Sunday, November 19th & 20th. Ms. Christie Allen will be coordinating this very important event. You will soon be receiving vouchers to take with you when you visit the book fair. Please give them out to friends, families and co-workers and invite them to visit the book fair. A percentage of the net sale from these vouchers will be contributed to GDMS.

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK LUNCHEON

You are invited to our Annual Thanksgiving potluck luncheon on Tuesday, November 22nd from 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM. This is a school-wide celebration and each family is asked to bring a covered dish. We are looking for parents who are willing and able to assist the teachers in coordinating this event. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the parent's bulletin board in front of each classroom so let us know what you will be contributing to the Thanksgiving feast. I hope to see all of you there.

I encourage you to check the November events and participate in as many of the activities as you can. Your child will thank you for it.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with your suggestions, questions, and comments.

Happy Thanksgiving
Gloria Panton-Harvey, Principal



November Birthdays

Rylee Smith 11/8

Niara Che 11/9

Kiara Che 11/9

Matthias Speight 11/30

White House Kitchen Garden (continued from page 1)

Charlie showed the children the beehive that houses over 70,000 bees and supplies all of the honey served in the White House. He gave the children mini lessons on the social nature of bees, the process of pollination, and the importance of bees to growing food and flowers. GDMS children were quite engaged, asking many questions and offering comments.

Just a few steps from the beehive and they made it to the Kitchen Garden. Lush and filled with foliage, the L-shaped garden included a walking path. As the children walked through the garden, Tess and the teachers pointed out the vegetation. In addition to the fruits and vegetables, the garden was lined with marigolds and zinnias and included herbs such as mint, parsley, sage, and oregano.

Wanting to inspire both families and children to eat healthier, First Lady Michelle Obama started the Kitchen

Garden in spring 2009. That spring, she invited children from Bancroft Elementary school to help prepare the soil and plant seeds, some of which came from Thomas Jefferson's Monticello gardens. Today, the fruits and vegetables in the garden are used in White House state dinners. In fact, just one day after GDMS students toured the garden, Ms. Obama was in the Kitchen Garden harvesting vegetables with students from Bancroft Elementary and Tubman Elementary Schools.

As the tour came to an end, the children had one final treat: a sighting of a member of the First Family. Bo, the First Dog, was out for a walk. The children had a wonderful time and ended the trip eating lunch in the park with a view of the White House.

Visit the following Web pages to learn more about the White House Kitchen Garden or White House Beehive: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/video/Inside-the-White-House-The-Garden>.
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/06/23/secret-life-white-house-bees>.

Cardinal Room News: Ms. Allen

In with the fall and out with the summer! The children are all very excited with the changes they are seeing outside. The leaves are changing color and falling to the ground. The children are accustomed to the daily routine and are engaged in a peaceful work period. The class is settling in and great learning is taking place!

We are continuing our studies in peaceful relationships, working on things like taking turns, speaking pleasantly to one another, and lending a helping hand. This is something we will work on continuously throughout the year.


Your child has learned many new things in the month of October. First, we have been observing fall and learning what happens to the deciduous trees. They are fascinated with all the beautiful colors. Second, they are learned the names and locations of the seven continents. We will start more in depth studies of these continents during each month throughout the year. We also began studying vertebrates and will finish this next month. Lastly, we had a chance to learn a little about the explorer, Christopher Columbus.

Next month, we will start learning about North America and Native Americans. We will learn the political boards, some landmarks, flags, and some of the culture in North America. We will also continue our vertebrate studies, learning about birds, reptiles and mammals. This is a busy month so please look carefully at the calendar!

SAVE
THE DATE

Glenn Dale Montessori School

Barnes & Noble Bookfair

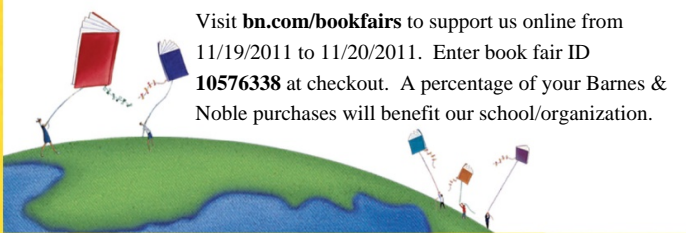


November 19-20th, 2011
Barnes & Noble Bowie Town Center
15455 Emerald Way, Bowie, MD 20716

At 11:00 AM Students will demonstrate the use of
 Montessori Materials in all curriculum areas!

Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?

Visit bn.com/bookfairs to support us online from
 11/19/2011 to 11/20/2011. Enter book fair ID
10576338 at checkout. A percentage of your Barnes &
 Noble purchases will benefit our school/organization.



Eagle Room News: Mrs. Erma Molina

It is hard to believe that the first quarter is coming to a close. I am looking forward to seeing each of you at your scheduled conferences time. When you come, please feel free to check your child's box and their supplies.

The month of October was really fun and very fruitful. The children learned the concepts taught so fast and they continue to make progress in their adjustments to the Montessori program. I am seeing more concentration, order, independence, and coordination. Spending more time working with the Daily Living is helping to develop these skills.

The three- and four-year olds are learning the initial and final consonant and short vowel sounds by associating them with objects and pictures. Some of them are ready to learn the middle sound of the word. You may include this in your lessons to your child at home by stressing the middle vowel sound of the given words. Please continue to work with your child in identifying numbers 11 to 19 and counting the corresponding objects.

The four- and five-year olds continue to polish their reading skills thru working on the movable alphabet, the 3-

part language cards and pictures. Soon they will learn the consonant blends. You may teach your child this concept by stressing the blending consonant sound of the word for an advanced lesson. They continue to have drills with the bank game and soon they will learn the concept of addition.

CULTURAL STUDIES

This month, we will focus our study on the United States of America. We will discuss the different states, landmarks, the President, White House, flora, and fauna. If you have any resource materials like DVD, books, artifacts, and posters that may enhance our learning experience, I would appreciate it if you would share them with us.

Parents please don't forget our activities for this month. Kindly take time to see our bulletin board for the announcements and then sign up activities when you drop off or pick up your child to school.

Thank you to all the parents who have come in to participate or volunteer in any way they can for this month!

Flamingo Room News: Ms. Lenora

Flamingos are working on many projects in addition to working with Montessori materials. They weighed 3 grams of clay and made element balls. They colored each element to make the molecules of water, oxygen, methane, and carbon dioxide. They also had the experience of doing the time line of life with hands on animals and pictures. We had a visitor, and they made ice cream without an ice cream maker, using jell-o, cooked vegetables, and fried rice. They also set up the eating table. Their little hands worked like magic for the project to put things together. The important thing is they all like to come to school.



Pictured above are vegetable samosas made by students in the Flamingo class. These samosas are available for purchase each Friday (preorders should be made by Tuesday). The samosa sale is part of a class project that teaches the children how to count money, order an inventory, and manage an account.

Club Español

at Glenn Dale Montessori

Spanish is being offered for 3 – 4 year old preschoolers. The cost is only \$25.00 per month for four 30-minute classes every Friday afternoon at 3:30 PM. Students will learn conversational Spanish, everyday vocabulary and simple phrases through interactive activities. Please help this program continue; we need 8 students to keep it going. REGISTER TODAY!!! Enrollment forms are located at the front desk.

Hummingbird Room News:

Ms. Sarwat & Ms. Ogechi

Fall is full of colors now and the children are also working in full swing. We had fun at the pumpkin patch and farm. It was an awesome place for our young ones to learn about farm animals. We especially enjoyed going on the hay ride, watching ducks in pond and horses in barn, and picking up the pumpkins at the end of the trip. We are thankful to Mrs. Brenda Small Wood for helping and giving children comfort during our trip.

Our theme for November is *THANKSGIVING*. We will be visiting the *NATIVE AMERICAN MUSEUM* on November 10th. We will learn about Native Americans and their lifestyle and make Thanksgiving art and crafts.

Please label all of your child's belongings (e.g. jackets and hats) This will help avoid confusion and assist in finding lost items.

We thank you for sending healthy snacks and fresh flowers for our classroom.



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.

The Home Environment Parent Workshop

On October 17th, GMDS held a workshop on how to incorporate the Montessori principles and methods into children's home life. Teachers provided examples of at-home activities and responsibilities that children can do and parents can facilitate in order to develop children's sense of order, concentration, independence, self-motivation, and freedom of movement. Below is an abbreviated list of these activities. Contact your child's teacher for a full list of activities.

<i>Activities for Children</i>	<i>Actions to Facilitate Development</i>
▪ Sweep, mop, and dust	▪ Provide low hanging hooks to hang clothes
▪ Fold clothes	▪ Arrange the child's room in an orderly way
▪ Put on and take off own garments and shoes (and put them away)	▪ Consider clean up part of the play activity
▪ Prepare snacks	▪ Involve them in the process of packing their lunch
▪ Set the table	▪ Provide step stools for children to reach the sink
▪ Put groceries away	▪ Provide shelves for toys, books, and games
▪ Follow a schedule for feeding pets	▪ Do not disturb the child's concentration when he or she is competing a task
▪ Clean up after themselves	

Oriole Room News: Ms. Adams & Ms. Menefee

Greetings from the Orioles Room! So far October has been a very exciting month for the Orioles as they learned about fall and harvest time. They see the leaves on the trees beginning to turn from green to shades of yellow, orange, red, and brown. Mrs. Brown, our substitute music teacher is teaching them fun and happy songs about fall. The arts and crafts for October were also centered on pumpkins and other harvest items. Even the days of the week were marked with pumpkins on our calendar.

In the mornings the children eagerly look out the classroom windows at the sky to do their daily weather report. They must decide if the sky is blue enough to say that it is a clear day; or are there enough clouds in the sky to make it a cloudy day? Is it windy? Or better still, is the sun bright enough to be a sun-shiny day? With a little encouragement from the teacher, they come to an agreement and their answers are put on the calendar board.

October and, of course, onward also affected the way the children dressed for outdoor play. The coolness of the morning air sometimes requires them to wear a light jacket when they go out for recess; this means learning to put their jackets on by themselves has also become part of our daily activity. The field trip to Watkin's Park and the pumpkin patch was fun and the children enjoyed themselves. The Orioles class is looking forward to this month of November and all the good things it will bring with it.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

The GDMS Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) has had a productive first two months. Our accomplishments to date have included the publication of three school newsletters, development of several marketing and publicity documents, enhancements to the school Web site, development of a gallery of GDMS stock footage for use in promoting the school, and implementation of two fundraisers. The PTO also has been instrumental in helping parents learn more about the needs of the administration and teachers in addition to bringing parents' questions and concerns to the administration. There is still much work to be done, and we encourage each parent to become active in the PTO.

The first two fundraisers of the year have been successful. The Claire's Elegant Desserts fundraiser grossed over \$3,200. The net profit for GDMS will be reported once the accounting with the company is complete. We are in the process of collecting money raised from the World's Finest Chocolate fundraiser and still have about 25 cases that need to be sold. Let us know if can sell another case. We appreciate each parent who participated in the fundraisers, particularly some of our top sellers who will be recognized in next month's newsletter.



Since the beginning of the school year, Ms. Allen has been coordinating the collection of Box Tops for Education. So far, we have collected approximately 100 Box Tops, which yields about \$10 for the school.



**Glenn Dale Montessori
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Please keep collecting Box Tops and submit them in the container in the lobby. Encourage your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues to collect Box Tops for you.

Fundraising is an important way in which parents can tangibly contribute to the school and help provide the children, classes, and school at-large with much needed items. Many parents have asked "What specifically are the needs of the school?" and "What specifically are the needs of the teachers and classes?" We are in the process of better understanding these needs. In the meantime, here are a few examples. The teachers need, by and large, new and replacement Montessori materials for their classrooms. To give you an idea of the types of items needed, the following is a list of needed Montessori materials submitted by one teacher:

- 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.

The school on the other hand needs room dividers for the Multipurpose Room, a sound system, a projection system, media center enhancements, new computers, bookcases, and more. As we learn about more, we will share

Our fundraising goal for this academic year is \$6,000. We're off to a great start, and have much more work to reach our goal. Please continue to support the GDMS fundraisers and give us your fundraising and other ideas.

Parents attending the October PTO meeting introduced a great idea to bring additional resources to the school. Many of you work for or are affiliated with organizations that routinely update computers, audio visual equipment, furniture and the like. Numerous organizations have formal school donation programs and often donate to schools through such programs or on an ad hoc basis. If your organization has such a program or is disposing of equipment, furniture, and other items in good condition, let us know.