

Glenn Dale Montessori School News



Glenn Dale Montessori
School

Gloria Panton-Harvey
Principal

October 2011

GDMS Students Celebrate International Peace Day & Take on the Zoo

To say that September was a busy month for GDMS students is an understatement! In addition to finding their groove and settling into the routines of the new school year, students participated in two special activities.

On September 21st, GDMS students celebrated International Peace Day, a day designated by the United Nations for peace to be embraced and affirmed around the world. The GDMS celebration began with a walk around a peace pole—a symbol of peace planted in communities around the world. Next, the children planted pinwheels they made in honor of peace as part of the national Pinwheels for Peace project. On this day, schools, organizations, and people world-wide sang *Light a Candle for Peace* in geographic sequence so that it was sung continuously around the world. At 9:00 a.m. GDMS students chimed in, contributing to this global harmony.

The peace day celebration was a hands-on learning experience for the students. In preparation for the day, they created paper doves to decorate the school. Read the Hummingbird News section on page 4 for an example of the type of reflection and discussion on peace in which the children took part.

In the same week, the student went on a field trip to the National Zoo. This field trip

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GDMS students
singing at the
International Peace
Day Celebration.

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October Events

- 4th Field Trip: White House Kitchen Garden Tour (K4/5, Elementary students)
- Parent Teacher Organization Meeting 6 PM
- 8th Parent Participation Day 9 AM – noon
- 10th Columbus Day (Celebrated in class)
- 11th Open House 9 AM – 11 AM
- 17th Parent Workshop: *The Home Environment Curriculum* 6:30 PM
- 18th Open House 9AM – 11 AM
- 20th Field Trip: Pumpkin Patch (All students)
- 31st Harvest Celebration (Families welcome)

International Peace Day & National Zoo (continued from page 1)

complimented their individual work and group lessons on science, animals, and invertebrates. Students in the Hummingbird class reported that watching the Orangutans walk on the rope was the best part of the field trip.



GDMS students planting pinwheels for peace at the International Peace Day Celebration.



Parent Workshop: The Home Environment Curriculum

Monday, October 17, 2011
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Learn how to incorporate the Montessori method into your child's home life.

Childcare provided.

From the Principal's Desk

It's amazing how well the students are adjusting to the routines of the classroom in such a short time. As I visit and observe in the classrooms, I see children really settling down and showing interest and concentration in their school work. They are forming relationships as the older ones help the newer and younger ones learn and understand the classroom rules.

Back-to-School Night. It was indeed a pleasure to see so many parents at this informative meeting. Let us remember that we are partners with you in your children's education so let us keep the lines of communication open. For many of you, this is your first opportunity to experience Montessori, and so we encourage you to take the opportunity to call the school for an appointment to observe in one of the classrooms.

As parents, you are your child's first and most important teacher. Maria Montessori wrote, "To stimulate life, leaving it free to develop, to unfold; Herein lies the first task of the educator." We thank you for placing your trust in us and we want to assure that we take this trust seriously.

Parent Participation. We want to thank those parents who have fulfilled their 3-hour requirement for the month of September. We ask everyone to take this

requirement seriously and complete your Parent Participation Opportunities Form and return it to school promptly if you have not already done so. It is said that those students who are successful in school have parents who participate in school programs. In keeping with the parent/school/teacher partnership mentioned above, I want to encourage everyone to participate. This month we encourage everyone to do their part in the Elegant Desserts fundraiser, which is currently ongoing. Order Thanksgiving dessert for family and friends.

Parent Workshop. Our first educational workshop for the school is the Home Environment/Daily Living workshop on October 17. This is a very important workshop that will not only help you better understand the Montessori curriculum but also help you understand how to incorporate the lessons your child is learning into your home. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

Harvest Celebration. At Glenn Dale Montessori we will be celebrating Harvest instead of Halloween. These will be celebrated in the classrooms at 3:00p.m. No Halloween costume will be required. However, if you can create a Harvest costume depicting the gathering of fruits, grains and other produce, that will be acceptable. I ask that you speak with the classroom teachers for more specific information.

Cardinal Room News: Ms. Allen

After a month of school the children are all settling into the class nicely. We began the year learning about the Earth and some of its land and water forms, about zoology and the history of time, the months and days of the week. In October we will begin learning about the continents, Christopher Columbus in observation of Columbus Day, and will continue learning about Zoology. At the end of the month we will celebrate the fall harvest with some sweet tastes of the fall. Please join us for this class celebration.

Please remember that the temperature begins to drop a bit in October. Please send your child to school with a light jacket on those chilly days. Also, please check your child's bin to make sure he/she has a change of clothes that is seasonally appropriate.

Eagle Room News: Mrs. Erma Molina

I am so delighted to see how well the children have begun to settle down and are beginning to make friends. We have been working very hard for the past month on the four goals of Montessori curriculum: order, concentration, independence, and coordination. These have been accomplished mainly by concentrating on Daily Living and Sensorial activities.

Here are some of the concepts that our students learned in the month of September that can be reinforced at home:

Language. They have also learned the two- or three-part language cards and the movable alphabet with objects and pictures. Recognizing the beginning sound of an object or picture using the sand paper letters:

- Basket 1: letters s as sun, m as mom, t as top
- Basket 2: letters b as bat, a as ant, r as rag
- Basket 3: letters f as fog, h as ham, g as gate



October Birthdays

Elizabeth Allen 10/4

Joshua Battle 10/14

Demilade Samson 10/25

Jaden Williams 10/21

Anaiah Young 10/20

Bryan Yousa 10/25

- Basket 4: letters i as ink, c as cup, j as jam, l as log
- Basket 5: letters d as dog, z as zipper, o as oval, p as pan
- Basket 6: letters n as net, k as kite, v as van, u as umbrella
- Basket 7: letters w as web, y as yoyo, e as egg, x is used for ending

Math. Our students have been doing the sand paper numbers 0 to 9, the teens and the tens board, the symbol layout, and the introduction to decimal systems.

Cultural Arts. They have been learning the Days of the Week, Months of the Year, the seven continents, and four big oceans using our colored globes and maps.

Thank you to all the parents who were able to join our International Peace Day celebration and who chaperoned us to the National Zoo.

A child is a discoverer. We the teachers can "only help the work going on." -Dr. Maria Montessori

GDMS Sick Policy

To minimize the spread of illness and to facilitate a healthy school community, please be aware of and honor the following policy:

- A student with a fever of 101 degrees or higher will be sent home and should not return to school until 24 hours after the fever is broken.
- If a student is home sick for two or more days without having seen a doctor, the school should be alerted.
- Should a student have a contagious disease, a doctor's note must be provided in order for the student to return.



Picture Day
November 1 & 2
8 AM

Uniform optional

Flamingo Room News: Ms. Lenora

The children in the Flamingo class are getting used to new friends. They like each other and are enjoying each other's company. Each child has a special gift and helps his or her classmates. We have learned about the countries in South America, land and water forms, polygons, the dynamic nature of Earth, the parts of the flower and their functions, the attributes of the sun, and the relationship with geometric solids in our environment. Each child is receiving a major lesson, the details of which depend on his or her age.

For Back-to-School night on the 19th, elementary children prepared vegetable samosas. They were made from scratch and a little spicy, but the parents enjoyed it. Many lessons were learned from this activity. First, they learned about fermentation with yeast, by putting yeast into lukewarm water. A million years ago when life first appeared on earth with Amino acids, yeast was part of it. They learned how to break down flour and butter together before mixing it with water. Their little hands worked like bees. Then they made a big hole in the middle and poured in the prepared yeast and water. It looked like a lake. I then showed them how to mix outer layers in. Everyone had a turn to mix. We left the dough aside to see how it rose. After one hour, the children started kneading, made little balls, and filled them with vegetables. While doing this, they learned about elasticity. They also learned patience and to wait and watch.

Helping their school community, and running a shop and a banking system, is part of the Montessori curriculum. I asked the children whether they would like to do this every Friday as a fundraiser to earn some funds

Hummingbird Room News: Ms. Sarwat

We have started our school year with a great spirit. I am very happy to see that the children have already adapted the classroom routine. They seem very excited about learning each day. I have introduced a school song to my class and we will be starting our day with it. The words are as follows:

Glenn Dale Montessori School is my place of work and play
My friends and I are happy all the day.
Washing a table, polishing a cup,
Every day I am growing up.
Glenn Dale Montessori School is my place of work and play.

I am sure they've been sharing all the songs they have learned in class so far.

We had a great time at the National Zoo. Special thanks to Mr. Dadds (Sophia's Grand Dad), and Ms.



After School Clubs

Begin October 3rd

- **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.

to buy materials for the class. They happened to love it. This will give them much responsibility for their maturation.

Every Friday, fresh vegetarian Samosas are going to be available at 3:30 PM pick-up time and until 6:00 PM. The cost is 4 for \$3.00 or \$1.00 each. Samosas are a very healthy food for your dinner. You should place your order no later than Monday or Tuesday so that I have an idea how much ingredients to purchase. The educational aspects of counting money, ordering inventory, and running an account will be great for the children. These things are as important as learning academics and they will feel proud that they have contributed to the classroom community.

Smallwood, and Ms. Gaston for chaperoning the trip.

Our young ones expressed great interest in International Day of Peace through art work that is displayed in the school hallway. We had a discussion about peace and everyone in the class participated in the project *WHAT IS PEACE?* Here are some of the children's thoughts.

Peace is....

Taylor - Resting while listening to the waves.

Faith - Being nice to each other.

Matthias - Resting very quietly.

Taylor - Playing nicely with friends

Malik - Going to sleep.

Naomi - Full of love.

Sophia - Being happy and quiet.

Royce - Looking at beautiful things.

Kairo - When you feel calm.

Christina - Listening to peaceful music.

Oriole Room News: Ms. Adams & Ms. Menefee

September has flown by so fast. It was a very exciting month. We all got to meet and know one another and explored the classroom as well as our outside surroundings.

This month, we will be observing the wonders of nature and anticipating the thrill of Fall and the harvest season. The children will continue to work on the Montessori goals, which include concentration, order, coordination, and independence. In achieving these goals, the toddlers are learning to carry the work rug, to roll and unroll the rug, sensory and practical life lessons, and table activities. We will also read stories and engage in activities related to the season and this month's special days.

Later in the month, we will visit the pumpkin patch. We are looking forward to seeing the animals, riding the hayride through the scarecrow field, walking the maze, and most of all, having a great time selecting our own special pumpkin.

Parent Reminders

- Please remember to return your child's sheet and blanket on Mondays or the first school day of the week.
- Check your child's clothing bin to ensure that it contains appropriate clothing for the season.
- Please do not put body suits (onesies) and belts on your child as it does not help with potty training.
- Have a wonderful October and Happy Harvest to all!



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Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

First and foremost, a special thank you to all parents who have chosen Glenn Dale Montessori School (GDMS) as your child's educational institution. The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is one of many ways in which you as parents can become active in this school. We meet monthly and have smaller subcommittees that would welcome your presence and positive input.

In early September, the PTO began to brainstorm on how parents and GDMS staff could work together to further the goals and objectives of the school, promote the school, and raise supplemental funds for much needed materials and activities for the students and school. The World's Finest Chocolate fundraiser is in progress and the Claire's fundraiser will follow in time to receive the desserts and other items in time for the Thanksgiving holiday. If you have not received material and information on these fundraisers, please contact the office. Please make note of the following fundraiser deadlines:

- World's Finest Chocolate money due – October 29
- Clare's Elegant Desserts orders & Money Due – October 19
- Clare's Elegant Desserts orders estimated arrival – November 10

In addition to fundraising, the PTO is working on activities to enhance the school's Web site, keep parents informed through the newsletter and flyers, develop material to market the school, and get to know the perspectives of the parents and the needs of the school. The PTO is off to a great start and we encourage even more parents to participate.

GDMS has a New Logo

"Growth is not merely a harmonious increase in size, but a transformation."

Maria Montessori

From a seedling, a tree reaches down into the ground, reaches up to the sky, and reaches out to its environment at the same time. Thus a tree symbolizes growth as well as transformation.

Because Glenn Dale Montessori provides a nurturing environment, grounded in the Montessori methodology and philosophy, GDMS children transform. In the spirit of such transformation, we have selected a tree as the GDMS logo.