

Glenn Dale Montessori School News

September 2011

Gloria Panton-Harvey
Director



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Director's News

A hearty welcome to our new and returning GDMS families! Summer was indeed a very busy time for all of us. It was not only busy but it was exciting as well, with several mini-camps such as Performing Arts, Tumble bus-a fitness camp, Arts and Crafts and of course our popular Montessori camp.

Now we are back and prepared to make our dynamic educational program even stronger. Our highly trained Montessori teachers are even more prepared and dedicated to provide a quality educational program second to none. Our three Primary teachers are back, as well as our two Toddler teachers.

This year, we have a new elementary teacher, Ms. Pradipa Lenora. Having many years of Montessori experience, Ms. Lenora comes to us well recommended. I am delighted to welcome Ms. Lenora to Glenn Dale, and I predict that she will join us in making

GDMS the top-notch education facility I envisioned when I founded Mitchellville Montessori School, our parent school, almost 20 years ago.

Other New Staff

We have added another new staff member, Ms. Ogechi Ibubechi, this fall. Ms. Ogechi will assist Ms. Sarwat in the mornings. She is also the person who will escort your children to their classrooms after 8:30a.m. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Ogechi to GDMS.

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is critical to the Montessori program. As studies have shown, when parents are active and engaged in their children's education, student learning and schools both benefit.

Involvement includes participating in parent/ teacher conferences, parent workshops, and classroom observations. These activities have been scheduled and you should note

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September Birthdays

Aidan Peterkin 9/8
Ashley Wilkerson 9/17
Janae Cameron 9/23
Micah Hewick 9-26
Luc Sombat 9/22
Chukwuemeka Nawdigo 9-27

September Events

- 5th Labor Day (school closed)
- 10th Parent Participation Day (10 AM – noon)
- 13th Parent Teacher Organization Meeting (6 PM)
- 19th Back-to-School Night (6 PM)
- 21st International Day of Peace in school celebration (9 AM)
(families welcomed to join)
- 22th Field Trip: National Zoo (all classes)

Bookmark us!

www.GlennDaleMontessoriSch.org

Director's News (continued from page 1)

these dates on the school calendar. Involvement also includes volunteering your time, skills, and energy to the school community. Examples of these activities include chaperoning field trips, participating in Parent Participation Days, serving on the Parent Teacher Organization, working on special projects, and volunteering in the classroom.

Please be sure to complete the *Parent Opportunities Form* and submit it to Ms. Yusef. At the Back-to-School Night on September 19, you will have the opportunity to sign up for committees and projects. We ask that each family commit to a minimum of 3 three hours each month.

Cardinal Room News: Ms. Allen

I would like to officially welcome all new and returning students to the 2011-2012 school year! I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. Throughout the year you will be receiving updates through email on a weekly basis, as well as, this monthly newsletter. These emails are intended to keep you informed on what is happening in class and throughout the school each week. You may also find helpful information on the bulletin board outside the classroom located in the main hallway. More detailed information will be handed out at the Back-to-School Night program. Please plan on attending!

This year, we will be learning about many exciting things in the areas of Practical Life, Sensorial, Language, Math, and Culture. In these areas, your child will be allowed to explore and move at his/ her own pace, to fulfill all of his/ her educational needs. We do specific studies in the cultural area of the classroom, which will be defined monthly. This month, we will be studying time, Living and Non-Living, Plants and Animals, Vertebrates and Invertebrates, and what the world is comprised of and some of its land forms. It should be an exciting year.

Eagle Room News: Mrs. Erma Molina

Welcome to an exciting 2011-2012 school year!

We have had a busy and fun few days getting to know your child. This first week is full of anticipation, questions, and a few surprises. We began the school year focusing on new friendships, ground rules for our classroom and lessons with the Montessori materials. We will also be focusing on grace, courtesy, manners, kindness to all living things and peace within ourselves extending to one another throughout the year. You will receive a monthly newsletter updating you on our studies and upcoming school activities.

I believe that the education of children is a partnership between home and school. Parent

involvement is encouraged in our program. Some opportunities include helping with special art projects and cultural activities, signing up for food for classroom activities, sharing a special interest or hobby with our children, sharing your travels or special treasures from places we are learning about, and sharing your cultural celebrations or holidays. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer and we will arrange an opportunity. This is a wonderful way to get to know GDMS family and to be involved in your child's school.

I look forward to a great year with you and your child!

Flamingo Room News:
Ms. Lenora

Welcome to the Flamingo Room. I am delighted to join the GDMS family. Originally from Sri Lanka, I have had many years of teaching locally in the Montessori environment. I look forward to helping your children develop both academically and socially this year.

The Flamingo Room is the elementary Montessori classroom. Language Arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and history are the core of the academic program. Reading is an integral part of all areas of the curriculum. Additionally, art, music, and physical education are all integrated in the curriculum to develop the whole child, physically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially. As the year progresses, I will share the class activities and updates with you via the newsletter.

In addition to teaching the elementary class, I will be leading the music and arts afterschool club.

Hummingbird Room News:
Ms. Sarwat

Our children are settling in the Montessori environment very well. We start each day with circle time, full of new songs, movements, discussions on the weather, day and date, grace and courtesy and other interesting facts. This month the children are focusing on organizing and taking care of their belongings. As winter comes near, our young ones are learning to hang up their jackets and bags on their pegs. Other topics include

- Practical life: Care of self and care of environment.
- Geography: Our World
- Science: Living/non living things, sink and float. Parts of leaf, Season Fall.
- Language: Grace and courtesy, sounds, and our kindergarteners on phonograms.
- Artist: Charles Ronnie

It was great seeing parents on New Parent orientation night. I am looking forward for a wonderful school year!



**Smithsonian
National Zoological Park
Field Trip**

September 22, 2011

All classes will participate. The bus will depart from GDMS at 9:30 AM and return to school at 1:30 PM. Children should wear their uniforms and bring a labeled non-perishable bagged lunch (no lunch boxes) with a reusable bottle of water. Apply sunscreen at home.

Chaperones are needed.

**FALL
FUNDRAISERS**

**World's Finest
Chocolate**

Chocolate bars will be available in the 3rd week of September.

We ask that each family sell 2 boxes.



**Box Tops for
Education**

Collect Box Top labels from grocery and supply products for GDMS. Get your children, family neighbors, coworkers, and friends to save their Box Tops.

Go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/clip/Brands.aspx> to view a list of participating products.

Additional fundraisers during the Fall and school year will be planned and shared with the GDMS community.

Oriole Room News: Ms. Adams & Ms. Menefee

The teachers of the Orioles/Montessori prep would like to welcome all the children and their families to the start of the new school year.

In the Orioles Room, we offer your child much more than just child care; we offer an extended family support system that nurtures all of us.

It is often difficult for working parents to balance all the commitments and responsibilities in their lives. Where your child is concerned, have peace of mind in knowing that we provide a safe, loving environment where he/she is accepted, loved, nurtured and stimulated. We use our knowledge and training to offer stimulating, developmental activities, including practical life and sensorial (play dough,

sand, water, exploration etc.) activities in addition to arts and crafts, quiet stories, manipulative, dramatic play, music and movement, outdoor play, and lots of hugs and love.

Our commitment to you starts with your commitment to us. For this support system to thrive, we must have open and honest communication. Please feel free to share with us your concerns and suggestions. Let us know of our strengths as well as where we can improve.

We are looking forward to working with your child this year and helping him/her to achieve his/her fullest potential.



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

School Closing in Emergency Situations

GDMS does not follow the school closings for the County. In case of emergency, the following activities are used:

- Channel 7 & 8
- WTOP News Radio (103.5 FM and 8.20 AM)
- Phone Tree messaging system – (you will receive a phone call at home)
- A recorded message on the school's phone
- An email from the school – please be sure to give us a working email address



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Parent/ Teacher Organization

The Parent/ Teacher Organization (PTO) is an advisory group of parents and teachers committed to assisting the school administration achieve its goals. It represents a partnership between the school and parents to work toward enhancing the GDMS community and its activities and also provides parents with a voice in the schools governance. Areas of support include fundraising, planning social events, marketing, and advising the administration.

Currently there are two core committees in the PTO. The Marketing and Communication committee assists the school in its articulation of the school's mission and activities through the Web site, newsletter, and other means of communication to new and currently

enrolled families. The Fundraising Committee develops and implements fundraising activities to support the fundraising goals of the school.

PTO meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the multipurpose room. All parents are welcomed and encouraged to participate. Child care is provided. The first PTO meeting of the school year is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2011.

Stay abreast or get involved with PTO planning activities by joining the GDMS Parent Teacher Organization Google group:

<http://groups.google.com/group/gdms-parent-teacher-organization?msg=new&lnk=gcis>

Afterschool Clubs

Given the success of the afterschool clubs offered last year, GDMS will continue to offer afterschool clubs this school year. These clubs provide participating students with themed enrichment activities outside of the aftercare curriculum.

Fees for the clubs should be paid directly to the club's respective teacher. Because the after school clubs operate from 4 PM – 5 PM, participating families will be billed a small aftercare fee by the school for the 30 minutes of supervision in between class and the clubs.

We are exploring the option of fitness or dance on Tuesday and will notify parents should this club option be offered. Four clubs will be offered to students:

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

Clubs activities will begin on October 3rd.



School Calendar

A revised copy of the school calendar will be distributed at Back-to-School Night on September 19. Be sure to pick up a copy and keep it posted so that you can check ongoing activities at the school on a regular basis.

The calendar is also on the Web at www.glenndalemontessorisch.org