

The Old Town Montessori

Newsletter

January/February 2012

Dear Parents:

Welcome back! We hope your Holiday Break was a joyful one and that the New Year will bring health and happiness to one and all.

We have to admit that 2012 has gotten off to an interesting start. Thankfully, the heating system is back to its happy, healthy self and we can finally settle in for a productive new year.

We hope you enjoyed our Holiday Program as much as the children did presenting it. Kudos to our class parents Carol McCormack and Maureen O'Keeffe for organizing our "after" party and the many helping hands who participated in the set up and clean up duties, as well as those who provide the delicious treats. We also offer a big thank you to Mr. Dave for his wonderful accompaniment to all the fine young voices, as well as Mr. David Snyder and Mrs. Anita McSwain for the wonderful organ and flute prelude.

The Staff would also like to thank all of our OTMS families for the generous holiday gift presented to each of us. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
The OTMS Staff

CARPENTER'S SHELTER

On behalf of Carpenter's Shelter, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the remarkable response to our holiday outreach project. Thanks to your generosity, many families were able to enjoy the holidays and know they were not forgotten. Your support of this program is truly valued and a wonderful lesson in compassion for our children. Special applause to Carina Nachnani for spearheading this worthy effort and to Tricia Holley, Tiffany Comey and Carina Nachnani for transporting the boxes to the shelter.

VALENTINE'S DAY OBSERVANCE

Now that Santa and Rudolph have headed north for another year, the Valentine rush cannot be far behind. To help with your long range planning we thought we'd pass along the pertinent information for the festivities.

For us, the holiday is primarily a "mail" event and consists of a Valentine Card Exchange only. Each child has a specially decorated Valentine Bag and at some point during the morning friends will have the opportunity to put cards into the bag. To make certain this remains a happy and stress free experience for all, we ask that the following steps be observed:

1. Valentine's Day always provides a wonderful opportunity for a fun craft project for you and your child. For a special treat, try making cards together rather than buying them. Handmade greetings are truly meaningful for all concerned and appreciated for the time and love they convey.

2. Have a card for every child in the class so that no one feels left out. (There are 25 children in Mrs. Snyder's class and Mrs. Vargas's class has 24. In addition, please include 3-4 extra cards for each class in case one is lost or missing.)

3. Have your child sign the Valentine card itself, but PLEASE DO NOT PUT ANY NAME ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE. (Since many of our children are either non-readers or limited in their blossoming skills, this eliminates the need for an adult to read the names for them and truly makes it his/her gift to his/her classmates.)

4. Please send your child's cards to school in a "Ziplock" bag clearly labeled with his/her name on the outside of the bag.

5. No candy, please

Closer to the date you will receive a reminder of the Valentine logistics, but we thought this early preview might help you get a head start on the day.

NO COATS AND HATS AND MITTENS? -OH MY!

With the temperatures finally taking a wintery turn, it is crucial for our children to come dressed warmly enough for even a limited romp on our shady playground. Each day please remember to send your child's sweater, hat (or hood), gloves/mittens and a warm coat.

For the girls, this might be the perfect time for navy blue or gray slacks either by themselves or under their uniform jumpers. If they choose to stick with the jumpers alone, a nice, thick pair of tights is a real plus.

Boots are another necessity since the lack of sun on the playground causes snow to melt very slowly. As you can imagine, twenty minutes of playing with wet shoes and socks is not only uncomfortable, but unhealthy. To keep feet dry and warm, we ask that all children wear boots when snow or ice is present. This allows everyone to enjoy the winter fun without concern for tender skin.

A SPECIAL REQUEST: PLEASE LABEL ALL YOUR CHILD'S OUTERWEAR. IT IS AMAZING HOW MANY HATS, MITTENS, GLOVES AND BOOTS LOOK ALIKE!

WELCOME ABOARD

A warm welcome to new student Matthew Wilson who recently joined Mrs. Vargas's class. We know all of you will help his family feel right at home in the OTMS community.

JANUARY CALENDAR

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| January 8 | <u>Open House</u>
2 – 4 p.m.
Aquinas Campus
(Sunday) |
| January 10 | <u>Field Trip for the 5 and 6 year olds</u>
TD Bank
(Tuesday) |
| January 16 | <u>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday</u>
School Closed
(Monday) |
| January 24 | <u>All School "In House" Field Trip</u>
Bill Jenkins: Music around the world
(Tuesday) |
| January 26 | <u>Parent Information Session:</u>
7 – 8 p.m.
Old Town Campus
"What is Montessori?":
Taking a closer look |

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

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| February 1 | Deadline for Re-Registration |
| February 2 | <u>Parent Information Session</u>
7 – 8:30 p.m.
Aquinas Campus
"Montessori Language" |
| February 7 | <u>All School "In House" Field Trip</u>
With Dr. Nachnani
Keeping our bodies healthy |
| February 15 | Eric Hammesfahr will introduce the 5 and 6 year olds to the art of creating and painting theatre props. |
| February 20-24 | President's Day and Winter Break
<u>School Closed</u> |