



SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome back everybody! Its great to see our old friends and exciting to meet our new friends! Open House went very smoothly and while the first week of school has had its hiccups here and there, overall it went very well. We thank everyone for their patience while we work out the kinks. A few issues to be aware of:

Assisted Drop-off

The assisted drop off in the mornings has worked so well to elevate congestion in the front drive that Mr. Keven is complaining that he is lonely up there! If he doesn't get more than two or three dropoffs a day he is thinking about just roping the drive off for that half hour, so please don't be shy about taking advantage of this convenience.

Parent Folders

Please don't forget to check your parent folder at least once a week for class news, your child's artwork, and your afterschool invoice. Parent folders are located in a wall file in each classroom, usually near or on the main door to the room. Ms. Pat's parent folders will be moved into her classroom by this Wednesday, August 23rd.

For faster service on requests to the office, email Cheryl Russell at:

SHMOFFICE@ALLTEL.NET

A Sad Farewell



Ms. Alice Murphy has decided to move to South Florida to be the afterschool teacher for a large Montessori school in Key Largo. We will miss her spirited personality and dedication to the school and we wish her the best!

Introducing Our New Teachers

We are excited to announce the following additions to our staff:

Patricia Newman is our new K-2 Lead Teacher. Patricia is an AMS certified Montessori instructor with 20 years of teaching experience. She holds her Bachelors Degree in English and studied European art and architecture at Oxford. She has her 40 hour Teacher Certification through the State of Florida.

Bonnie Lewis joins us as our new VPK Teacher assisting Ms. Roberta. Bonnie has over 13 years of teaching experience with all ages of kids and has held every position possible in school. We welcome her experience and great attitude! Bonnie has her Director's Credentials, CDA, and 40 hours state Childcare Training.

Gloria Mathis has joined us in the infant room working with Ms. Vicki. Gloria has her Bachelors in English from UF and is excited to be working in a Montessori environment.

Ann Marie Gerasimchik-Kaht is our new Spanish Teacher. Ann Marie has 15 years of experience teaching Spanish in preschool all the way up to High School. She holds a Bachelors degree in Spanish Education and a Masters degree in Education. She spent a year abroad studying at the Universidad Complutense of Madrid.

Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson is joining us to teach Introduction to Art. (A complete description of this new class is available on our website.) Merrilee received her Bachelors in Fine Arts from the Ringling School of Art and Design and her studies gave her a foundation in painting, sculpture, drawing, history, and photography. She taught children art during summer programs for the cities of Coral Springs and Sarasota, and for the YMCA in Sarasota. Merrilee painted the beautiful undersea mural in our Beginner's classroom.

We are also in the process of securing a theater teacher and a music teacher as well and will announce their names and bios soon. Specials classes such as Art, Music, and P.E. begin after Labor Day.

CLASS NOTES

Infants

“Babbles from the Babies”

Welcome! The infant room is buzzin' with new friends! We have Anthony, Benjamin, Cameron, Eddie, Gracie, and Tyler. We urge parents to keep communication open and let us know how we can make your transition back to work a successful time for you.

We'd also like to introduce you to Ms. Gloria. She will be working in the infant room with us and her love for babies is evident in the big smile she is always wearing. She is excited and ready to get to know our babies. Welcome Ms. Gloria!

Watching the babies grow and develop is so exciting for us. Anthony is rolling over and back again by himself. Tyler has the best giggle! Benjamin and Cameron win for best smile...when they're awake that is! If you'd like to bring us a disposable camera we will take pictures of their school days and friends for you.

We said goodbye to Alyssa and Easton early this month. They have graduated to the Beginner's class. They join some old friends and will make a lot of new ones. We will miss you both very much! Have fun!

It's always our pleasure to take care of your children. Please remember to bring in your box of PUFFS each month and that all food products, bottles and caps must have a name on them. Please check your child's Infant Daily Record each day in case they may need something for the next day. Come and visit us any time you want to.

Ms. Vicki, Ms. Gloria,
and Ms. Tiffany

Beginners

Welcome back everyone! We hope all of you enjoyed your summer! We have a few new friends joining us. Katie is new to our school, but she has made so many new friends! Molly took the summer off, but she missed us so much...she came back! Ethan heard the great news, so he came too. All of our children are doing wonderful.

This school year we are going to try some new things. For part of the day we are going to split the class up into two groups. Ms. Tammy will work with the younger group while Ms. Shara will work with the older kids. We have been working on circle time and the kids are really enjoying it. We are going to spend more time playing with sand and water and we are getting a beautiful plant for the children to take care of. We have also been practicing cleaning up after ourselves. Please do not forget to send in your wipes, tissues, and snacks, Thank you for your continuous support.

Ms. Shara and Ms. Tammy

Preprimary

Welcome new and returning students and parents! Summer camp has ended and we would like to thank all of you for contributing to our many fun projects. We already miss the children that moved on to the VPK program this semester.

Well it is the beginning of a new year and we have some wonderful new friends in our class. Merrill, Grant, and Zane have moved over from Ms. Betsy's group and are

full of energy and sweetness. We also have the endlessly curious twins Mary Louise and Theresa, shy Ian, puzzle wiz Andrew, cutie-pie Kyndal, sweet Jamie, and pretty-in-pink Ashlyn. On Friday we had a pizza picnic with all our friends on the playground.

We are very eager to get to know your children and watch them grow and learn with us this year. We have filled our calendars with new lessons and fun activities each week.

Thank you so much for all of your support!

Ms. Betsy, Ms. Jnani & Ms. Rebecca

VPK

The VPK students have been busy getting acquainted with each other and their new surroundings. We've been learning about the classroom, playground, and school rules.

Each day we take our morning circle to review the rules and introduce new lessons. The children enjoy taking turns to model the lessons we have learned.

In the morning when the children enter our classroom, there are materials set out for them to use before we begin our school day. The lessons on the shelves are to be used after the morning circle, during our work cycle.

Some parents have asked about bringing in a special snack for our class. The children do enjoy the variety of snacks. There will be a voluntary snack sign up list by the sign in sheet.

Please remember to sign your child in and out each day, and each child should have a spare change of clothes in a ziploc bag with their

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name on the outside.

We'd like each student to have a cloth napkin in their lunchbox to place their food on, and a second napkin (cloth or paper) to wipe their face and hands with.

Thank you for your cooperation. We have a great group of students this year!

Ms. Roberta & Ms. Bonnie

Primary

The primary class is off to a "smart start" this month! We have 15 VPK, kindergarten, first and second grade students who are tackling nouns and verbs, learning about punctuation and sight words in their language work and counting and multiplying their way through math. We are studying North America as our continent for the first semester. In addition to learning the names of the countries included in our continent, we will be experiencing some of their culture, language and food. Our students have shown a real talent for acting, as well. We participated in several impromptu skits the first week of school and are looking forward to performing a holiday play in a couple months. Thanks to all the parents who have made me feel so welcome at Spencer House Montessori. I look forward to working with you and your children in the school year ahead.

Ms. Pat

Afterschool Enrichment

We are back in the swing of things in our afterschool program. We have playground time, circle time, snack, and arts and crafts. The children may then pick an activity such as playing a board game, building with Legos, doing puzzles, and coloring.

We have both our daily activities and our weekly themes on our September afterschool calendar. This calendar will be both posted and handed out to parents. We have weekly themes coming up such as "The Joy of Books" and "Alligators!"

Ms. Donna and Ms. Shelby have joined us in the afternoon and we all look forward to having a lot of fun with the kids!

Ms. Kathleen & Ms. Donna



Our new interim K-2 classroom in the downstairs of the two story building. With the opening of the new building in January, this is slated to become our art, music, and theater studio!

Parents,

If you have trouble getting through to us during the day, we apologize. We are still small enough that we can't dedicate someone to cover the phone all day. However there is another very reliable way to contact us. Call:

352-262-4150

This is Mr. Keven's cell phone. He is very good at answering it and will gladly help you in any way!

Important Dates

Monday, September 4th

Labor Day - School Closed

Specials Classes (Art, P.E., Spanish...) begin after Labor Day!