

# The Spencer House Montessori News

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November 2005

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Fall Festival a Big Hit!

Our Fall Festival was a big hit this year, in great part thanks to the large number of parents who came out to help with the festivities. The kids had a blast parading in their costumes, getting their faces painted, and bobbing for donuts to name just a few of the activities. The Bounce House was on hand and was a hit as always. We even received a nice write-up in the November 3rd edition of the Alachua Today newspaper, along with a large color photo of the kids.

Our school Spirit Week continued through Friday with silly hats, mismatched clothes, and pajamas. A fierce competition raged between the VPK/K-1 kids and the Preprimary kids to win the prize for best participation and most canned goods collected. Meanwhile the Beginners class quietly beat them both with good participation but an astounding 185 cans of food collected! A total of 392 cans of food were collected for the needy of Alachua. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a special week!

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**PARENTS - Please label your child's jacket to make sure it goes home with the right child!!**

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## CLASS NOTES

### Infants

*"Babbles from the Babies"*

Time sure does fly when you're having fun! That's what's going on in the Infant Room. Lots of fun while learning, playing, sharing, and ...bubbles. Everyone enjoys bubbles and our Emilee is chasing them now.



Yes, Emilee is walking...hooray for Emilee! She is so proud of herself and now wants to walk all around the room. She has been working with the shape sorter and actually gets a few in the right shapes. Conner has had a lot of fun with "puzzle day" but he thinks it's more fun to clap the pieces together and make a lot of noise. Great fun! Molly enjoys the "clown in the box" and is always surprised when the clown pops up. Smiles all around! Summer is sitting by herself now and loves to have the kids sit down beside her and play with her and hand her toys. Easton is in the bumbo seat and has a great big grin for everyone. He and Summer are gnawing away...we're looking for some teeth soon.

Starting Monday, October 31st,

Ethan and Caleb will be joining our group. We look forward to getting to know them. WELCOME!

As always it is our pleasure taking care of your children. Please read your Daily Sheet and come visit us anytime! Don't you just love this cool, crisp weather??!!

Ms. Vicki, Ms. Betsy,  
and Ms. Shayna

### Beginners

We are excited about Spirit Week! Please check your calendar for daily themes and remember to bring in canned foods for our drive. Thanks so much to the Clarks for the Baby Einstein movies! They make diaper time fun. Please remember your supplies for the month: wipes, tissues, paper towels, and snacks. Thank you for all you do to help us care for your children!

Ms. Cheryl, Ms. Shara and  
Ms. Lindsey



## Primary

### Pre-Primary

Hola Familias, como estan? Hello familes, how are you? Your children are learning a second language, and we are so proud of them for absorbing all of the Spanish Ms. Radha has taught them. We just finished learning the song “Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes” in Spanish. They love to sing it during circle time.

During the month of October we have enjoyed a variety of pumpkin lessons including pumpkin push-pin, pumpkin counting and sorting, and pumpkin painting. As a part of our Fall Festival we also roasted pumpkin seeds. The children didn’t really love the taste but it was fun trying something new!

Our three and four year olds have continued working in their journals tracing their names and practicing writing their initials.

As you all know, the cold weather is upon us and we want to remind parents to bring in a sweater/jackets for the children with their initials in them.

On November 19th we will be celebrating Ms. Radha’s Birthday. We will provide the cake, drinks, and party bags or a pinata, your children will provide the smiles and laughter. :)

Thanks to all the families who contributed special snacks for our Birthday children during the month of October. We would also like to thank the parents who brought in snacks for our Fall Festival. The children enjoyed the spooky cookies, cupcakes and healthy treats!! We appreciate your support!

Ms. Rebecca & Ms. Radha

Thank you, thank you for a great October that ended with a bang! We applaud our parents and all their contributions for a great Fall Festival. We look forward to more celebrations with parents and students. We believe these times bond us all together with meaningful relations that strengthen the children in these formative years.

VPK students had two trips to the library which got us into the “fall feeling”. The weather was great and the children became excited about the changes in the season.

Our lessons will continue to enrich the children about their world around them. They have constructed small “landform” books for better comprehension of a river, a gulf, an island, an isthmus, and a strait. The students use push-pins to punch out the individual continents and are working on a hanging model of planet Earth. These lessons strengthen a child’s fine motor skills for future pre-writing activities. In November we will introduce animal classification starting with vertebrates and invertebrates. We will be visited this month by the Florida Wildlife Reserve as part of our studies.

The Kindergarten and First Grade children have been working hard during language arts time. We have been practicing writing our letter of the week as well as our names, days, and months of the year. We also enjoy writing poems, stories, our daily sentence board and weekly journals.

We have been working each week on selected spelling words. During the week we use the words in sentences and practice putting them in alphabetical order.

We enjoyed our last trip to the library and plan to go again on November 10th and need one parent to volunteer to chaperone by November 6th. Please see Ms. Carol. The children will be coming home with blank forms to get library cards if they do not already have one. Please return them by November 4th.

A few reminders: Please label your child’s jacket, and please have them wear their Spencer House t-shirt for all field trips. Thank you!

Ms. Roberta, Ms. Alice,  
and Ms. Carol

### Afterchool Enrichment

October was fun, and I am sure that parents saw a lot of crafts, coloring, and drawing coming home. I visit the library almost daily to ensure that we always have interesting books for circle time and videos to watch after arts and crafts. During November our learning and fun will center around birds and migration, bears and hibernation and weather. We will begin using paint this month and for Thanksgiving I plan to make a wall display of all that the children are grateful for in their lives.

Ms. Kathleen & Ms. Hope

### Important Dates

Friday November 11th	Veteran’s Day - No School
Thur/Fri Nov. 24th/25th	Thanksgiving - No School