

The Spencer House Montessori News

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SCHOOL NEWS

A Whirlwind Two Weeks!

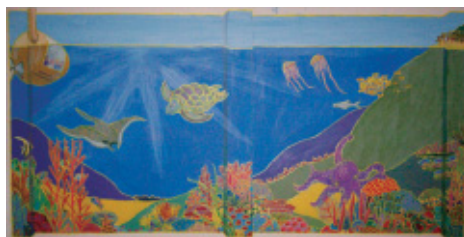
It's been an exciting and challenging first two weeks of school. Getting the kids back into a routine and teaching the new kids the classroom rules and Montessori basics was the main goal. The tremendous heat has limited our playground usage and forced us to reorganize our afterschool. We apologize if you were confused at any point about where to find your child at pickup time! We have now settled on a system that works very well: Between approximately 2:30 and 3:00 all the classes are on the playgrounds. After 3:00 we are splitting up the two and three year olds...the two year olds will join the one year olds in the back Beginner's classroom. The three year olds will be with the four, fives, and sixes in the big downstairs Primary classroom. This keeps the number of kids in one room to a more manageable level, gives the three year old's the excitement of spending time with the "big kids" and exploring their next classroom, and puts the two year old's in a "romp" friendly room that's very familiar to them. Please understand that as the day draws to an end and we are left with only a few kids we may merge them all together in the Primary classroom.

We'd also like to thank everyone for honoring our tardy policy and not coming through the front doors after 8:35. As a result we have had very few disruptions of the classes.

Thank you for your patience and support! We are happy to be moving forward into a routine and enjoying these wonderful kids.

Undersea Mural Progressing

We have commissioned Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, mother of Merrill and Verlyn, to paint an underwater scene depicting the Great Barrier Reef in the Beginner's classroom. When completed, children will be able to interact with the scene by placing fish on it that Merrilee will hand paint on canvas and then laminate. Work is well underway and we are all excited to see the



Rendering of finished mural

finished mural. If you haven't been back to the Beginner's classroom you should stop by sometime and see her work.

To send feedback or receive this newsletter by email:

KEVENMAC@HOTMAIL.COM

CLASS NOTES

Infants

"Babbles from the Babies"

Another month has flown by...and a new school year has begun. I would like to thank the parents that came to Open House and we hope you are feeling comfortable and confident with me, Ms. Marie, and Ms. Betsy.

We were so happy to have Conner back and all ready he is crawling and starting to stand. Emilee is standing too, and starting to cruise. She even has a "masterpiece" on the wall. We welcome Molly into our class with open arms. She has a quick smile and is starting to stand. Summer is growing like a weed and just babbles away. She is sitting in the Bumbo seat and loves the new "Lookout"! Easton is our youngest and he sure is a cutie. He likes to eat and being out with "the big kids" for a while and then back to dreamland he goes.

Nadia will be moving to the Beginner's Class. I know she will love exploring, meeting new friends, and learning with Ms. Cheryl and Ms. Shara. She will enjoy the playground too. We sure will miss you Nadia!

Last, but not least, we'd like to thank Mr. Keven again for the super "playground" for the infants. We love it!

Ms. Vicki, Ms. Marie,
and Ms. Betsy

CLASS NOTES cont.

Beginners

We are under the sea! Please come by and see the mural Merrill's mom is painting! It really helps us during transition times to draw the attention of the children to it.

We would like to say Goodbye to Merrill...he just turned 2 and is leaving us for the big kids. We will miss you! Skyler and Nadia have joined us from the infant room. We look forward to the fun we will have together!

Parents please bring in 1 roll of paper towels, 1 box of wipes, and a snack for this month. Children's favorites are raisins, Honey Nut Cheerios, graham crackers, and Gold Fish.

Thank you for all you do to help us take care of your children.

Ms. Cheryl, Ms. Shara
and Ms. Lindsey

Pre-Primary

Welcome all new and returning families. We have had an excellent first few weeks of school in the Pre-Primary Classroom. The children have been introduced to many new Montessori lessons such as the knobless cylinders, broad stair and color tablets.

To work on writing preparation the children have also been introduced to pushpin and tracing exercises. In geography we have been discussing the continents and specifically North America and the peninsula of Florida where we all live. Ms. Radha has been practicing the use of everyday Spanish with the children and they have

been counting and learning their colors in Espanol.

The children are using items such as scissors, glue, crayons and markers independently in the Pre-Primary classroom as well. We are very happy to report that there have been no un-licensed haircuts to date. Thank you so much for all of your support these first few weeks of school. We're looking forward to a great semester!

Ms. Rebecca, Ms. Radha,
and Ms. KD

Primary

Welcome to a new school year! We have begun the year by helping the children establish a sense of self and responsibility in several aspects of our daily school life. At each morning circle we have discussed classroom rules, playground rules, and introduced several Montessori lessons.

In math, we are working on number recognition and correspondence, counting, and simple addition. Some of the older students have begun simple multiplication. In language, the VPK students have been focusing on lowercase letter recognition and sounds.

The kindergarten and first grade children have enjoyed sharing pictures of themselves and their families during circle time. We have made books about ourselves and our families during our language

arts time of the day.

We have been reading several poems during the class time as well as practicing writing our names and the numbers.

Special projects we are doing include sending one of the children home on Friday with the class teddybear and its journal to write about its weekend adventures in, and sending another child home with the "letter of the week" basket to find objects that begin with that letter to bring into class.

On Fridays we write in our journals and starting the week of 8/29 we will be forming reading groups.

We would like to thank all the parents who have donated supplies and their time to our class!

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

Physical Education

P.E. started up again during the second week of school. The VPK/K-1 students played soccer and baseball. It was the best soccer we have played yet, with some real teamwork going on. The school uniforms make it easy to split the kids up into blue and white teams.

The twos and threes did activities with the parachute on the playground and in coming weeks will be doing relay races and hula-hoop games.

Mr. Keven

Important Dates

Monday Sept. 5th

Labor Day-SCHOOL CLOSED

Friday Sept. 30th

Parent's Night Out