

"The essence of independence is to be able to do something for one's self. Adults work to finish a task, but the child works in order to grow, and is working to create the adult, the person that is to be. Such experience is not just play...it is work he must do in order to grow up."

Dr. Maria Montessori

**Dates to remember:**

Dec. 2nd	Carpool Coffee 8:30 - 10:00 am, Multi Purpose Room
Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Festival Sunday, 12 noon-5pm
Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Immaculate Conception Mass: Primary through Erdkinder, Families welcome
Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Board of Trustees Meeting 6pm, Multipurpose Room East
Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Cookies and Carols Concert
Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup> -Jan. 2nd	Christmas Holiday Break
January 3rd	Classes Resume

**Thank you**

Thank you to all of the parents who help out in so many ways, by volunteering for field trips, bringing wish list items to us, reading with the children, publishing books with our budding authors, the list goes on and on. We appreciate all that you do for us!

**Practical Life**

Winter is fast approaching. Please remember that we take the children outside unless the temperatures are under 20 F. Have your children bring warm coats, gloves and hats to school. Proper footwear, which will keep their feet warm, is also welcome.

**Christmas Party**

The Primary 1 Christmas Party will be on Friday, December 16th. Our room parent, Lisa Norris, will be emailing parents regarding contributions to the party. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Unit Study**

Our Unit Study for the month of December will focus on the following Winter Holidays:

- The Story of Christmas
- Sinterklaas - Presentation by Merijn (Saskia's Mom)
- Soyal- Hopi Winter Solstice
- Kwanzaa
- Philippine Christmas and Lanterns
- Yalda - Iranian Winter Solstice Celebration - Presentation by Reza (Zubin's Dad)
- Chinese New Year - presentation by Anna (Jerry's Mom)

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**Comments from Dawn**

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**Language, Zoology and Peace**

### **Penmanship**

First years are continuing to learn D'nealian print. We are using the terms sky, fence, ground and underground in order to get them to write their letters correctly. The baseline is referred to as the ground. Please use this as a guide when your child is writing at home, in order to be consistent with school. This will also help your child to develop more fluency when writing.

The first level children are also receiving lessons in modern cursive.

Second and third years are continuing to write in modern cursive. Some of the third year students are using cursive writing in some of their every day written work. You may want to encourage your child to write some of their spelling homework in cursive, to give them extra practice.

### **Word Study**

First level students continue to learn about compound words.

Second level students are reviewing contractions and will be introduced to suffix and prefix words.

Third level students are reviewing antonyms, synonyms and homophones.

If you find ways to incorporate our word studies in every day life, please do so. For example, when reading a story, see how many compound words you can find. While driving to school, invite your child to come up with

contractions and the two words that it is made from. Give your third year a word and then ask them to think of synonyms or antonyms for that word.

### **Grammar**

First level students will be working with the adjective grammar box.

Second level students will be working with the pronoun grammar box.

Third level students will be introduced to conjunctions. They will work with the conjunction grammar box.

### **Zoology**

First level students have been learning about vertebrates and the five classes: amphibians, mammals, fish, reptiles and birds. They will do an extensive study on amphibians this month.

Second level students have learned about invertebrates. They will study the phylum Porifera (sponges) this month.

The third level students continue to study the 6 Kingdoms. They have learned about Archaeobacteria and Eubacteria and will be introduced the Protocista kingdom this month.

### **Peace**

Every Wednesday we hold a 30 to 45 minute long peace and community meeting. During this time we give presentations about peace as well as problem solving. We have a "Problem Box" in the classroom, which the children anonymously put their problems into. We then pick them randomly from the box and discuss solutions to that problem.

This month, we've also done the Black Elk Great Vision presentation. The children were then given materials to reenact Black Elk's vision as a peace work in the classroom.

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**Comments from Neil**  
**Math, Geometry, History, & Geography**

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### **Math**

First year students worked on 4-digit addition without & with carry-over and 4-digit subtraction without regrouping using the golden bead materials. Parallel to this is their continuous practice of their addition and subtraction facts using the strip boards and the flash cards. They are working with the multiplication board and the multiplication finger chart 1. These aim to develop their multiplication facts.

Second year worked with addition that involves carry over and three addends as well as subtraction without regrouping using the stamp game. They are working with multiplication involving 4-digit multiplicand with 1-digit multiplier using the stamp game.

Third year students worked with enrichment exercises on addition and subtraction. They are working with multiplication involving up to 4-digit multiplicand with one digit multiplier using the Large Bead Frame.

### **Geometry**

First year students worked on the study of lines where they identified the parts and positions of a straight line, and determined the relationships that exists between two straight lines. They are working with defining an angle and in naming the parts of an angle. This will progress to identifying the principal angles.

Second and third year students worked with enrichment exercises on measuring angles. They also computed for the complement and supplement of a given angle. They are working on illustrating, naming and describing the parts of a triangle.

All three levels are also working with constructive triangles where they form various quadrilaterals using different kinds of triangles. This material indirectly prepares them for the study of equivalency and area.

## **History**

The first levels have been working with the year and its divisions into semesters, trimesters, and quarters. The second and third levels continue to work with the Time Line of Life where they learn the development of pre-historic life during the Paleozoic and Mesozoic Eras.

The class also learned the various harvest festivals of the world. They also were presented the story of the first Thanksgiving.

For December our unit study will focus on the different Winter Celebrations of the World. A number of parents have volunteered to give presentations. Each of the presentations is supported by a follow up activity in the form of arts and crafts, food prep/tasting, or group activities.

## **Geography**

First level students are working on naming and locating the continents of the world. The second level students are working on naming and locating the countries of North America. Third level students are not only naming and locating the countries and capitals of North America but are also identifying their respective capitals. Both levels have also started the study of States.

