



Primary 2 Newsletter

December 2, 2011

Dear Parents,

We hope you had peaceful Thanksgiving with your families and friends! We will focus on December Celebration including: Advent St. Nicholas Day, St. Lucia, Hanukah, Winter, Christmas and Kwanzaa in the next few weeks. If you have anything to share or would want to come in and share some of your family's traditions for any of these celebrations, please let us know.

Carpool Safety Reminder: There are many Middle School students training to become carpool safety guards. Please help our efforts to provide safety for all our students and drivers by remembering to wait for a signal from the adult/teacher on carpool duty to move.

Weather permitting the children will play outside everyday. That means that if the temperature, including wind chill, is 20 degrees or higher, and it is not too muddy, we will play outside. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor recess. Boots are a must when it snows.

Important Dates in December:

December 4	Winter Festival!
December 8	Immaculate Conception Mass at 10:00 a.m.
December 14	Cookies and Carols Middle School and Erdkinder
December 19 –January 1	Christmas Break - NO SCHOOL/NO EXTENDED DAY CARE
January 2	Classes resumes

Curriculum

Since we recently discussed your child's work during conferences, we would like to change the format of our curriculum section. We will give you just a brief overview of some subject areas, but also definitions of commonly used terms in Montessori Education and in our classroom teaching. These words and phrases are heard and used often by your child in his/her learning. We hope that they will help you and your child make a connection between home and school when discussing schoolwork or working on reading or math at home.

LANGUAGE

Three commonly used phrases by children learning to read are:

Magic "e"

Magic "e" is the silent e at the end of a word. We say that it is magic because it is silent and because it changes the sound of the vowel in the word. When your child is reading and stops at a magic e word, often you can say one of the following phrases and he/she will immediately be able to apply the rule and decode the word. In an order that grows progressively more abstract, they are:

"Magic e goes back and makes the vowel say its name."

"What does the magic e do to the vowel?"

Or just simply, "Magic e"

Letter teams

Letter teams are phonograms or letter combinations such as the, ch, ck, wh, ay, oa, igh, etc.

When two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking and the second one is silent.

This phrase applies to vowel letter teams. It is an easy and fun way to recognize and remember letter teams that make a long vowel sound. For example, in the word rain, the vowel letter team ai makes the long a sound. Most often, in a word using a vowel letter team, the name of the first letter is the sound that the letter makes (the first letter says its own name). Again in rain, you can help your child isolate the ai letter team and then say "Two vowels go walking" which will most often lead him/her to sound the word out as r-a-n.

Grammar Terms

Noun	A noun is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea.
Article	An article is used to signal the presence of a noun (or points out the noun). The three articles are: a, an, the.
Adjective	An adjective is a word that describes a noun.
Verb	A verb is a word that expresses an action, an existence or an occurrence.
Preposition	A preposition is a word that shows the relationship of a noun to a verb, an adjective or another noun.
Adverb	An adverb is a word that describes a verb, an adjective or another adverb.
Pronoun	A pronoun is substituted for a noun.
Conjunction	A conjunction is a word that connects other words, phrases or sentences.
Interjection	An interjection is a word, phrase, or sound used as an exclamation and is capable of standing by itself.

Math

Exchanging	<p>Exchanging is used in all four of the mathematical operations. Exchanging is the Montessori term for carrying, borrowing or regrouping.</p> <p>In the operations of addition or multiplication, when there are 10 or more in any place value, you need to exchange 10 for the next place value.</p> <p>For example, if you add the units and the answer is 15, you need to exchange 10 units for 1 ten and the 5 units remaining in the answer in the units place.</p> <p>In the operation of subtraction, if you need more to be able to subtract a number, you exchange one from the next higher place value to be able to get 10 more of what you need to continue with the problem.</p> <p>For example, if you subtract 742 from 928, you need more tens to be able to subtract 4 tens from 2 tens. You need to exchange 1 hundred for 10 more tens. You can then subtract 4 tens from 12 tens.</p> <p>Division is defined as sharing equally. When you cannot share equally, what is left over is exchanged for 10 of the next lower place value. These are then shared among all division groups.</p>
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The first year children are learning the exchanging process in addition with the Golden Bead Material and the Stamp Game. Soon this concept will be reinforced using the Small Bead Frame. The second year children have had the presentation of the exchanging process in all four mathematical operations and using the Stamp Game and in addition, multiplication and subtraction using the Small Bead Frame. The second year children have also been shown how to exchange abstractly in addition. The third year children have been given all of the above lessons and have been practicing the exchanging process abstractly in multiplication and subtraction.

GEOMETRY

Many of you requested definitions for some of the geometry terms that your child is learning. We hope these are helpful!

Scalene Triangle	A scalene triangle is a triangle with three unequal sides.
Isosceles Triangle	An isosceles triangle is a triangle with two equal sides.
Equilateral Triangle	An equilateral triangle is a triangle with three equal sides.
Right-angled Triangle	A right-angled triangle is a triangle with one right angle (a perfect corner measuring 90 degrees).
Acute-angled Triangle	An acute-angled triangle is a triangle with all angles smaller than a right angle.
Obtuse-angled Triangle	An obtuse-angled triangle is a triangle with one angle larger than a right angle.
Oblique Line	An oblique line is a straight line that is not horizontal or vertical.
Whole Angle	A whole angle occurs when one ray of the angle makes a complete turn and superimposes on the other ray (a full circle).
Straight Angle	A straight angle occurs when the two rays that make up the angle are a continuation of each other (half of a whole angle).
Perpendicular Lines	Perpendicular lines occur when two lines meet and form four right angles.
Legs	Legs are the two straight lines that form the right angle in a right-angled triangle.
Hypotenuse	The hypotenuse is the side of a right-angled triangle that is opposite the right angle.
Parallel Lines	Parallel lines are two straight lines that continue on forever and do not ever get closer together or farther apart (like railroad tracks).
Divergent Lines	Divergent lines are two straight lines that get farther apart as the distance between them increases.
Convergent Lines	Convergent lines are two straight lines that get closer together as the distance between them decreases (coming together).

CULTURAL SUBJECTS

History

The children are exploring the concept of time as it relates to a year, the months and days of the week. We discussed the circular pattern of time. The children will continue to explore this concept this month.

Geography

We will continue our exploration of the continent of North America.

Zoology

The second and

Third year children: The children have been studying the various biomes of North America. The second year children have been studying the animals that are found in these biomes. The third year children are studying an invertebrate, fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, mammal, plant and the needs of humans in the biomes.

Third year children: We will begin the classification of Invertebrate in January.

Sub-Kingdom Invertebrates

The children will study the following phyla of invertebrates:

Porifera, Coelenterata, Annelida, Mollusk, Echinodermata, Arthropoda

They will then study the following classes of Arthropods:

Myropoda, Crustaceana, Arachnida, Insecta

They will finish with the following orders of Insecta:

Dipterans, Othoptera, Lepodoptera, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Odonata, Hemiptera

Enjoy learning or revisiting your biology studies!

We hope that the upcoming Holiday season brings your family much happiness and peace. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kathy and Jennifer

