



**April 2017**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Spring Beautification 2:00-4:00 PM	10	11	12	13	14 NO SCHOOL Observation of Good Friday	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Step Up Week	25	26	27	28 Field Trip to Shedd Aquarium	29

**FMS Spring Camp from March 27 to March 31**

FMS calendar for 2016-2017 is a guideline of tentative school events planned year in advance. We make all attempt to follow and occasionally may need to make necessary modifications. Family reading night on March 24 is cancelled as it falls on the Friday before the spring break and many families have travel plans and we recently had Children’s Art show and action.

**Please join us on Sunday, April 9 from 2 – 4 pm for Spring Beautification of FMS grounds.** Come to help clean up the grounds and plant some flowering plants or bulbs. Children enjoy planting and seeing the plants grow and flower. They sure tell others that he/she planted it.

**Spring field trip to Shedd Aquarium on Friday April 28**

We all are going to Shedd Aquarium. All should arrive to school at 8:30 AM and we will return at 2:30 pm. Please let us know if you prefer to drive in your own vehicle. Field trip permission slip will be sent home. Please return it with payment by April 13 to secure admission at group rate.

**Mother’s Day Celebration with Young Toddlers and Twos on May 12**

Inviting all moms of Young Toddlers and Pre-Primary classroom to join us for tea and muffins at 10:30 am on Friday May 12. Please RSVP on ClassNotes by Friday May 5. We will bake muffins and enjoy serving moms a snack and some tea. Please feel free to leave with your child who may have a hard transition when you leave.

## News from Young Toddlers

We have been working on practical life activities including self-care and feeding. Last week they learned how to peel bananas and eat by biting into it. Many children are just transitioning from puree food to solids and are amazed by experiencing different textures. They help us set the table, by placing the placemats, pouring water from a small pitcher into a small drinking cup, putting their plates away, and also placing napkins in the laundry basket. They have transitioned from using a sippy cup to drinking from an open mouth cup in 1-2 weeks. Finally after one week of flowers being pulled out of the vase they have learned to touch them gently and appreciate having them on the work table. With the arrival of Spring, we will learn about different flowers, their names, colors and fragrance.

I thank all parents for coming to meet and discuss about how our youngest friends are transitioning from home to school. We exchanged ideas to follow Montessori at home and create an environment to offer them opportunities and ample time to "Help me do it myself". As it gets warmer outside children will be physically more active and require proper rest for their health. Studies suggest that children require more sleep than adults. Five-year-olds need between 10 to 13 hours of sleep per day. Here is an article shared on FMS Facebook page that can be accessed on FMS website.

<http://www.flossmoormontessori.org/>



Children's Art show and auction was well attended by FMS community. Art was created by children with their active participation and adult supervision. Our friends in Young Toddler Classroom created a sponge paint art and we embellished it using a peacock feather.

Our Pre-Primary class helped wash all the ceramic tiles, each child painted four of them and Ms. Lauren coated all the tiles with a

waterproof sealant to be used as multipurpose coasters. They also painted multicolor circles on square canvas creating a beautiful collage. Primary and Elementary children also created their unique art pieces using different paint and mediums on a canvas and chalk boards.



My sincere appreciation to all parents, children and parent volunteers for a great family fundraising event of Children's Art Show and Auction. It was made possible by team efforts of all children, staff and many families. We raised \$915.00 towards the expense of installing Air-conditioning at school. Thank you Mr. & Mrs. Graham for coming up with the idea of a photo booth and beautiful pictures. Please contact office if you would like to get your picture emailed to you.



Thank you Ms. Lauren and all parent volunteers for coordinating the family fundraising event.

## News from the Twos



Happy Spring! It seemed like we were having an early spring, we even had some daffodils in the yard blooming before the snow and cold returned. We loved being able to go back out in snow gear and make foot prints and snow angles. On the super cold days, we enjoyed longer work time inside. We are all looking forward to the rising temperatures bringing us back out to nature.

Thank you all for coming in for spring conferences. It was wonderful to share how we have seen the children growing since the fall, and hearing about what you are seeing at home.

Wishing everyone a joyful spring break! Looking forward to seeing you back in April. Please join us for Spring Beautification on Sunday April 9th, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.



## News from Primary

I enjoyed seeing all of you for conferences, thank you for attending them. Each child's personalized education plan is as much a joy to share as it is to create. You have allowed me to be a part of your child's life and I am honored. I was pleased to relay school accomplishments, social/emotional development, funny/poignant moments and next steps.

“Going Green” week and Earth Day reminded us to not only take care of the earth, as it is our home, but also to take care of our school environment. We spent extra time tidying, dusting, sweeping, and being aware of what extra things we can recycle, such as the fruit cups that come with the catered fruit.

At this time, I would like to again appreciate Ms. Alicia and Diane (Mrs.) Johnson. They have been stellar assistants and have given their all to the young children in our environment. We continue to have great Montessori Moments and even some “Aha moments” as they both expand their exploration of the valuable differences between Montessori education and more traditional methods. Thank you also to Ms. Alexandra Green who has taken our Spanish to even greater levels! The children sure enjoy their time with her. Team Primary has been a wonderful community. We all look forward to Spring and spending more time out in nature as the weather warms. The children can have growth spurts! They may mention that their indoor shoes feel small or that their clothes are tight or seem short. Continue to watch for updates and highlights on ClassNotes as this time of year can have some big jumps in academic abilities also.



Many of you have been having Aha moments as well, and shared these with me during conferences. I love to hear how concepts learned in the classroom extrapolate to conversations and adventures at home. Remember to enjoy “the big picture” with your Montessori child/children and read great literature to them. Extra workbook type homework may take the zing out of the flow of the materials in the classroom and add to overstimulation. Some children do ASK to do this type of work but it is always better as a choice and not a requirement. Sleep and “nothing” time are so very important to the brain; there should be a good dose of both. I will always let you know if extra work would be of benefit in a specific situation. The children have enriched days of productive pursuit in the “Children’s House” classroom; they love to have visitors to see it in action so stop by any time.

Blessings to you all in this season of renewal. And Cheers to more sunlight hours!

Nan Renzi

### **News from Elementary**

This month was very exciting. Our Worm Factory has been up and running, and our children are becoming more eco-friendly. We have been eating healthy, recycling, and trying to be resourceful. Mrs. Modi shared the pictures of her trip to Antarctica and Arctic region. We talked about how sea ice is crucial for the survival of polar bears who face the danger of extinction due to global warming.

We celebrated Mardi Gras with stories and a whole class craft project. We also talked about how people celebrate it, and read some stories.

The Art Show was really fun. Our elementary children did an amazing job with their art work, most of which got sold! Antron’s painting of the hippo is currently in Ms. Renzi’s class awaiting his autograph.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, we celebrated Saint Patrick’s Day with dancing, food and fun. It was a sea of green; we were all wearing green. We made mint chocolate squares, Irish colcannon and a big bowl of green fruit salad. Ms. Tami made mint ice-cream shakes for everyone, and it was delicious. Elementary students know how to party!

Parent teacher conferences were also great. Progress reports will be sent by email. If you haven’t had a chance to meet with me, please email me to schedule a date and time.

Our trip to the Art Institute of Chicago is on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. We’re looking forward to learning about American art.

