

November 2016 Newsletter



FLOSSMOOR
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Dear FMS families,

As we welcome December, we are also preparing for our AMI consultation for Primary Program. Many of our parents know that our Primary program is recognized by AMI – Association Montessori Internationale. AMI was founded in 1929 by Dr. Maria Montessori herself to protect the integrity of her work. AMI is a no-governmental organization (NGO) recognized by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

AMI's mission is "to support the natural development of the human being from birth to maturity enabling children to become the transforming elements of society leading to a harmonious and peaceful world." FMS follows AMI guidelines and standards for a Montessori Classroom.

Flossmoor Montessori School "Winter Celebration"



Children have started preparing for our "Winter Celebration" scheduled for Thursday, December 22 at Irwin Community Center 18120 S. Highland Avenue, Homewood IL 708-957-7275.

All children will arrive at regular arrival time at 8:30 a.m. at Irwin Center. Primary and Elementary children will be dropped off and parents will join at later time.

Pre-Primary children will arrive at 8:30 a.m. with their parents and families to start the performance at 8:45 a.m. They will leave with parents at 9:30 a.m. as the performance and "Meet and Greet" is over.

Primary and Elementary parents will join at 9:45 a.m. Performances will begin at 10:00 a.m. with Primary children followed by Elementary children. Parents are requested to have children arrive at 8:30 a.m. to get orientated to new location for their performance.

To help FMS with expense of renting the location with plenty of parking and seating, there will be a **\$5.00 admission fee for all adults and children older than 12 years**. You pay \$5.00 if paid prior to the day of performance. Admission fee will be \$8.00 if paid on the day of "Winter Celebration".

From Pre-Primary Classroom

Welcome Winter! With winter and the holiday season, come cold and wet weather, but that is not keeping us inside! Movement and connection with nature is so important for the brain and development, so we do our best to get outside every day. You may notice your child's new shoes coming home covered in mud, if you would like to leave a pair of rubber boots at the school, you may send some in to be worn at recess. Also please do always send your child with a hat, mittens and a warm coat. We aim to be outside for 45 minutes and we want the children to stay warm. Please also make sure that these items are all labeled. Another great option for gloves are clips or a string that attach them indefinitely to their coat.



In the classroom, the children are flourishing. It is wonderful to see their development since the beginning of the school year. We are bringing out new material often as they learn, grow, and are ready for new challenges. We are continuing to work on Grace and Courtesy in the classroom, as we teach about kind interactions with friends, and proper table manners.

You may have noticed during drop off or pick up, the new bird feeders in front of the primary window. These were donated by a generous primary parent. They are getting lots of furry and feathered visitors right outside their window every day. I would love to set up an area in front of our classroom window as well. If you have a shepherds hook, and/or bird feeder laying around not being used, we would love to give them a new home.

Thank you to all who attended conferences, it was great for me to get some more insight on each student. Thank you also for your continued partnership in their Pre-Primary journey.

Ms. Lauren

From Primary Classroom

The classroom is truly abuzz now, and it was a delight having many of you in the Visitors Chair(s) to see and hear the interesting things going on. I have shared various “Montessori Moments” and accomplishments in ClassNotes as well. As the older children are accomplishing more, the younger children are inspired more. For example, when the “color wheel” is present in the classroom for the first time this year (which happened recently) all the work with the color boxes is stimulated because the younger children want to get to the point of being able to also create this display. Color theory is big in Montessori classrooms (and in some careers too by the way)! This display then becomes part of the learning culture of the classroom and is a milestone accomplishment, a culmination of ability, an apex to aspire to. The teacher can step out more often when a child is ready for such a creation as forerunners become “experts”, able to step in at the time when any child is ready. When something is new for the school year, or no one has mastered it, I am known to say “Ah, there are no experts on this yet so you must come to me for help, you will be the first expert”.



Another fun and important thing that is happening more now...as we know the freedom of the Montessori environment marches hand in hand with discipline (self-discipline to be exact). What is blooming even more robustly is the child’s urge to “forecast” and begin to plan or step in when needed without an adult request. “Don’t worry Mrs. Renzi, I will take care of that” and “how about we do it this way?” are the hallmarks of why we have freedom in the classroom in the first place. However, as Guides, we also must mind when that freedom is incorrectly used. We redirect, invite responsibility for mistakes or have a Peacekeeping meeting to discuss the issue at hand, and problem solve as to what better choices we would make next time. There is a lot of character growth going on, for all of us, and we thrive best when all the individuals are thriving. “Forecasting” becomes part of that. This is the supreme value of a Montessori education, the social laboratory part. How useful forever.



Though this pre-holiday time can be challenging for focus and concentration, we look forward to continuing our classroom personal learning pursuits and getting our community goals in order as well (performance rehearsals). We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming holiday event. Also, come and visit again! We love visitors and the children are surprisingly adjusted to having observers.

In this season of gratitude, I am grateful for Ms. Alicia, Mrs. Johnson, our “learning and growing” staff and for all the support from our wonderful families.

Nan Renzi

From Elementary Classroom

Things are starting to shape up in the elementary. We’re learning, researching, knitting, and baking.

Our upper elementary children are exploring the realm of abstraction, with lessons like linear algebraic equations. Our lower elementary children are exploring the realm of the concrete, with lessons like the checkerboard.

It’s always encouraging for me as the teacher when I hear the words “Ms. Varsha, this is really hard!”. We talked about the growth mindset, and children are now guided to put a positive spin on challenging work. For example, instead of saying “I can’t do this!” say “I’m going to train my brain”.

Our field trip to the Field Museum was absolutely delightful! We had more chaperones and it made the trip fun for the kids. It’s always great to get to interact with parents outside parent-teacher conference schedules.



Some of our children are experimenting with the tone bars. We also have an organ! It was donated to us last Monday. Our children are very excited about it.

If there’s anyone who wants to volunteer and teach our children how to play the organ, do let us know!

Ms. Varsha

Community News



Flossmoor Winterfest is Saturday, December 3. Check out

<http://www.flossmoor.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=32>

for details of the schedule.



Holiday Lights in Homewood celebrates the season with a family-friendly evening of festivity on Friday, Dec. 2 from 5 to 9 p.m.



The Homewood Science Center presents a deSTEMber activity from 6 to 9 p.m. at 18022 Dixie Hwy. Participants of all ages can explore the principles of light with hands-on activities and visitors can create a snowflake for an illuminated community art installation.

We recently have been notified by parents of children in each class being diagnosed of hand foot mouth disease. We have been following all measures of proper sanitization. Please keep your child home if experiencing symptoms of illness. Child needs a doctor's note to return to school if diagnosed.

Winter Camp

Winter Camp at FMS will be offered from Monday, December 26, to Friday, January 6, 2017 (no camp on January 2) from 8:30 am till 4:00 pm for children 2 years to 8 years of age.



Ms. Alicia will take children on a journey to Winter Wonderland working on crafts related to winter fun. They will also work on food projects, Science experiments and building Lego structure

Half Day 8:30 am – 12:30 pm \$35.00/day
Full Day 8:30 am – 4:00 pm \$45.00/day

Lunch will be provided for children under age of 3.
Children age 3 and older will bring lunch from home and snack will be provided by school.

Children should be enrolled for minimum of four days. In order to assure proper staffing, parents are requested to sign up by December 2nd, and make a payment for the camp by Friday, December 16, 2016.

For Small Hands

Please help us earn free classroom supplies and materials for our school. We are participating in the Montessori Services **For Small Hands** School Credit promotion. Every time you place an order from the catalog or website by December 31, 2016 and credit FMS by using the **customer #10644**, the school earns valuable merchandise credit. Please contact office if you have questions about ordering.

We are thankful to our parents Jessica and Michael for donating play equipments and an organ for Elementary classroom. Thank you for your support.

