



October 2016 Newsletter

Dear FMS Families,

October is all most over and we will celebrate the last day as "Fall Fun Day".

Many of you participated in Parent Night during the month of September to have improved understanding of "Montessori at home". **Classroom observation** is a wonderful way for parents and grandparents to connect deeper, understand greater, and reinforce more of the Montessori way of life.

Most of the observations are scheduled in the morning as it is the time for what is referred to as the "children's uninterrupted work cycle". This is the time of the day when children (who had a good breakfast and good night sleep) are at their best levels of attention and very focused on their 'work.' Children work at their own pace and interest. This provides them opportunity to concentrate on the task they have chosen independently or with help of the directress if unable to make the choice. When the child is hard at work, any interruptions are discouraged including questioning a child, "what are you working on?"

Dr. Maria Montessori spent many years observing the behavior and developmental patterns of children. She suggested following [guidelines for observation in the classroom](#).

- Remember that you are visiting the classroom as an observer, not a participant.
- Be seated to the assigned chair and not walk around in the classroom.
- Appreciate and watch what the students are doing. Child may have different aim to the activity then adult may think about it.
- View the class as a community; get a feeling for the overall tone. Watch how the students interact with one another, and the adults in the environment, watch how they choose work and how they receive lessons, and how they like to observe others when it may look like they are doing nothing, and the variety of activities going on at once.
- Notice how students display different levels of independence, self-motivation, concentration, and problem solving skills.

Parents are encouraged to observe in your child's classroom prior to the conference. Call the office or email Ms. Lisa at flossmoormontessorischool@yahoo.com to schedule. It gives you better understanding of information you will receive from directress or ask specific questions at the time of parent-directress conference in November. You will be surprised that after the observation instead of asking, "What did you do in school today?" to which the answer is usually, "Nothing," you may ask something like, "What was it like working with the Pink Tower or Number rods or Stamp game?" You will probably get a much different answer.

We are grateful to all the parents and parent volunteer committee for supporting **Walk-A-Thon** fundraising. We have collected \$1512.00, including the difference of field trip money donated to fundraising. Please return the pledge sheets to school by October 31.

Thank you children and parents for joining us for Family Reading Night and book donations.

Please review the attached letter that was sent home on Monday, October 24.



ClassNotes Montessori has been working with FMS to provide efficient parent communication that is created to convey specific information about activities in Montessori environment.

Thank you parents for signing up, your participation is valuable.

Please inform the office or contact the support team at support@primets.com. if you have not received email with password and username.

This newsletter will be available to parents as a link sent on **ClassNotes**.

Parent – Directress Conference

We will start assigning times for conference per your request. Wednesday October 26, is the last day to turn in your request to secure your chance of getting the preferred time that would fit your busy schedule. However if you haven't turn your form in please turn in the form as soon as possible so that we can get everyone scheduled.

Thursday November 10, 2016: Children will be dismissed at 11:30 am

Conferences are from 1:00 pm -7 pm by appointments

Childcare is available on Thursday if signed up in advance

Friday November 11, 2016: NO SCHOOL for children

Conferences are from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm by appointment- No childcare

NOVEMBER 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4 Career Day @ FMS
7	8 Teatime Tuesday 10-11 am Prospective Parents Tour	9	10 Parent-Directress Conferences 1 -7 pm by appointment Early Dismissal 11:30 am	11 Parent-Directress Conferences 8 am – 2 pm by appointment NO SCHOOL

Pre-Primary Newsletter

Happy Fall to all! The cool weather has arrived and we are loving it. The children love kicking around the leaves in the yard, and trying to catch falling leaves.



The children have gotten into a wonderful rhythm during our work cycle, and transition times are also going more smoothly. Our friend Lyric moved up to Primary last week. We sent her off in style with a small bridging ceremony over to the Primary classroom where they all gave her a warm welcome. We would also like to celebrate our friend Erin becoming a big sister!

We had a fun Pajama Story Time last week, thank you very much for Andrew's mom and Mia's mom for organizing the story time and craft in our classroom.

With the cool weather, comes winter gear. Please practice putting on coats with your children using the over the head trick. If you need a demonstration, come in, or look up "Toddler Coat Trick" on YouTube. Also a reminder to label all your child's gear, we will soon have many hats, gloves, scarves and snow pants to keep track of, and labeling will be one way to prevent them from making their way into lost and found.

The children have all been enjoying the addition of clementine peeling and banana slicing in our practical life area. Thank you to everyone who has sent in supplies. We will continue these works, and I will begin sending out supply requests via Class Notes. If you are having any problems with accessing the app or your account, you can contact their support team at support@primets.com.

A reminder that Conference are coming up on November 8th and 9th. November 10th is early dismissal at 11:30, and there will be no school on November 11th.

Our best to all!

Ms. Lauren, Ms. Renee, Ms. Anna Maria, and Ms. Rickeyta

Primary Level Newsletter

The classroom has become a beehive of fruitful activity and positive pursuit! As the children "master" different levels of materials, and make their way through the curriculum in the different areas they are able, then, to provide assistance to others who are struggling with the sequence or concepts of these materials.

Then, as the children rely more on each other the head teacher (guide) is able to give more individual lessons and the assistants are more able to help the children focus on their tasks. Children enjoy being "experts" and are happy to be available to help. It is an amazing thing when October comes and this dynamic is now set and in place for the rest of the year. That Montessori "buzz of activity" is a satisfying energy. This whole interaction is what makes Montessori education unique and prepares children for "real life" where teamwork may reign and people skills matter.

Often I am amazed that a child knows something just by having been exposed to it in the classroom environment. Or I will also hear the comment "I remember when Henry did this work last year! The culture of accomplishment builds as the individual students realize their progress and prowess, and are amazed that they are doing the "big work" that they saw when they were younger.

Watch for interesting updates coming in the Primary Level **ClassNotes Montessori** feed! A funny "Montessori Moment" will be posted soon, along with "Year of Leadership News" and highlights from the various areas of the classroom. The shopping list will be posted for the currently responsible family as well. Sign on!



Monday, October 31st will be Fall Fun Day. We will not use the classroom materials, but have fun with arts, crafts, games and special activities. Please contact me at mrs.renzifms@gmail.com if you would like to donate healthy treats for the day! We will appreciate all donations!

Thank you to those who arrive on time (before 8:30)! In extenuating circumstances just explain at the door.



Call the office to schedule observation before the conferences.

Enjoy your fall and the beauties of nature.

Elementary Newsletter

It's official. Winter is coming. October flew by so fast! Our children have been settling into the work routine beautifully. We are gradually resuming previous year activities such as library trips, field trips, writing to pen pals, etc.

Many of our older children have reached the realm of abstraction. Abstraction is a word used in the Montessori community to refer to the ability to comprehend ideas in symbolic form. So a lot of work for them would involve work on paper; not so much with the materials.

We're planning a field trip to the Field Museum soon! A lot of children still haven't met Sue the T-Rex. Some of our older children helped look up information about the museum. I hope to watch them plan future trips independently (which is the true essence of elementary Goings Out).

If you haven't turned in permission slips for the December Talent Show, please send them in as soon as possible. Rehearsals will start sometime next month.

Please plan to arrive to school by 8.30AM. Children make their days plan first thing. If they're late, I am unable to guide their planning process. Moreover, children arriving later than 8.30AM will be marked as tardy.

Lastly, I request parents to sign up and start using the **ClassNotes** app. It will be utilized to share elementary specific information with parents. For instance: sometimes, children independently plan to cook in class. We will send reminders for children to bring ingredients from home.

I am still reachable by email: ms.varshashankarfms@gmail.com

Have a fabulous month!

**Not blinking makes my eyes
feel spicy.**

- Antron

