



County Line Orchard

Field Trip to County Line Apple Orchard

Autumn has arrived and the chill is in the air, it is the perfect time to visit the apple orchard. We will have our first field trip of the school year on Friday, September 30.

Everyone going on the field trip needs to be at school by 8:30 am.

The bus leaves at 8:45 am and expected to be back by 2:00 pm. There is no before or after school care, so all children leave with chaperon or need to be picked up at 2:00 pm. There will be no school for children not going on the fieldtrip.

If you are driving in your vehicle please let office know if you will follow the bus or meet the group at **200 S. County Line Road, Hobart IN 46342 Phone #219-947-4477**

All children will have their name badges for fieldtrip. **Wear your FMS T-Shirt or sweatshirt.**

If you do not have one, we have some pre-ordered T-shirts, check with the office if you would like to purchase it or use the order form for FMS paraphernalia.

Thank you very much



The Walk-A-Thon @ FMS

We had a great turn out for the Walk-A-Thon on Sunday, September 25. Thank you FMS community for coming together and making our Walk-A-Thon, a fun filled fundraising event. Children enjoyed their time playing on the playground, working on crafts, eating the

food donated by parents and walking around the path. Special Thanks to Ms. Varsha for doing Henna designs. We collected \$34.00 from the donation for Henna. We have some pledge sheets returned to school and have collected \$704.00. What a great start! All families should have the pledge sheet that was sent home. Please let us know if you need one. Last year, we raised \$1540 from the Move-A-Thon. Our goal this year is to beat that and collect \$3000.00. This funds will be used towards the expense for installing air-conditioning for school. The quotes that I have received are all close to \$50,000.00. Many thanks are extended to the FMS parents, grandparents, friends and our *wonderful children*, who are participating in the fundraising efforts.

Parent Night: Tuesday, October 4. 6:00 pm

[Child care is available, please sign up by Friday, September 30, 2016](#)

Encouraging order, independence, and self-motivation are fundamental to the Montessori approach. Bringing Montessori principals into your home can be a valuable bridge to what your child learns at school. Join us for the discussion on **“WHAT CAN I DO AT HOME TO HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED AT SCHOOL?!”** Come and share thoughts specifically geared to the level your child is in. Ms. Varsha will host for the Elementary parents, Mrs. Renzi and Ms. Lauren will co-host for the Primary and Pre-Primary Levels parents.



Picture Day

Picture Day is on Wednesday, October 4. All children will be photographed for individual and class portraits. The class photo will be a single portrait of the group. Picture order form and money should be turned in by Friday, September 30. Otherwise, you will have to make arrangements with Thomas Photographic to order pictures. If you have any questions, please see Ms. Lisa.

We are pleased to have Ms. Rickeyta Gagliardo join our team as classroom assistant.

Pre-Primary Newsletter

It's hard to believe we have already had a month of school!

Pre-Primary is moving along very well. After initially beginning with mornings on the playground, we began greeting children inside, seeing that they each needed individual help putting on their indoor shoes, and the staggered arrival allowed for that nicely. The children have mostly all mastered this skill now, so we will be greeting on the playground more often. A reminder to parents who are interested in sending bug spray or sunscreen, we are having a very buggy year, if you send some in, please also ask the office for a permission form to apply the items.

I would like to congratulate Hazel on the birth of her new little sister. She turned two at the beginning of September, had a baby sister, and moved up into the 2's classroom! So welcome Hazel!

We have a new student who started her orientation this week, welcome Lyndon!

We have been focusing this first month on learning routines and expectations in the classroom. I am so pleased to see the children getting out rugs for "rug work", choosing one work at a time, and returning things to the shelf. They are also now experts on after meal cleanup. Now that the children have a handle on the ways of the classroom, I have begun bringing out more challenging materials which require more concentration and time from them. I am pleased to see the children choosing these works and being ready for the challenge.

I have sent home two suggestions of things you can work on with your children to make them more successful not only at school but at home as well. I will continue sending tasks to practice at home throughout the school year that will directly aid in skills needed for the work we are doing at the time. We will also have a wonderful opportunity on Parents Night to discuss more in depth Montessori in the Home.

In last week's memo there was a note about backpacks, thank you to those who have already sent one in. We will be using the backpacks to streamline communication between home and school. Your folders will stay in the backpack and notes will go home any day of the week, so please check it every day for communication or a wet bag. You may also send notes, payments, and forms in the folder, placed in the backpack. For more detailed communication, feel free to email me at ms.laurenfms@gmail.com. I will get back to you within 24 hours.

Any time sensitive communication needs, please call the office.



I would like to thank every one of you for entrusting your children in our care. It is such a privilege to have each and every one of them in my class. I look forward to getting to know each of them and each of you better as the year goes on, and working together to tap into their inner potential and individual interests.

Primary Newsletter

Ms. Alicia, Mrs. Johnson and I have so been enjoying getting to know our new students and learning more about them and their interests. It is fun to see talent blossoming with engagement and focus deepening the classroom routines have smoothed out now. I am grateful for and impressed with how willing the older children are to do their “after-lunch jobs” so thoroughly and mindfully. We are developing a great team in our environment. When we all do our part and are responsible for our piece of “Care of the Environment” great tidiness is accomplished! Our new children from Pre-Primary are so well-prepared in their abilities to sit beautifully for a lesson and at Carpool time among other things.

The weather has been beautiful this September and now, of course, comes the chillier temperatures. With that in mind please be sure that any of your child’s outerwear is marked with his or her name. We look for their names at the neckline, so this is a good place (on the tag) to write their name in permanent marker. Consider placing a piece of fabric tape at the neckline if there is no tag and write their name on that. Also help us by reminding them...”Don’t forget to bring your jacket home, remember that it is red and blue” etc. Much research has been done about our connection to nature and the children love the yard, so we will continue to use it as much as possible.

Now that school is in full swing please make sure to allow minimal screen time (computers, i-pads, TV etc.). Children who have been allowed to self-amuse come in ready to get involved in the materials and are much more engaged in their own progress at school. One hour a day is maximum for the Primary Level. Use a timer if necessary! Though we don’t encourage “homework” please enjoy as many cultural experiences as you can as a family. Being together at the zoo or the Art Institute of Chicago is memorable for all.

We have been practicing our classroom manners and role-playing some of the Grace & Courtesy lessons (social/emotional learning), that Montessori education is so famous for. Our Year of Leadership students are privy to some special jobs and privileges given that they show themselves to be models for respectful, responsible behavior. They are learning about “being in charge” and helping others in the environment to remember the ground-rules. Being in charge is a respectful process, and a firm-but-kind one. No means no and “please stop” means “do not continue”. With these basic rules in place, and our other Grace & Courtesy lessons, school life becomes a highly positive experience AND a safe one.

Our students are learning self-appreciation! Daily we are all practicing (adults and children) the art of mindful choice making. To this end we hope you are noticing your child’s efforts in this direction and are mentioning it! Comments such as “you really went and did what I asked you to do right away, I sure appreciate that” go a long way, and will result in self-appreciation down the line. We call it “catch them being good”. P.S. Spouses love it too.

Does anyone have a dried sunflower head to donate?? This makes a great “Practical Life” lesson as the children remove the seeds with a tweezer and we create food for the birds. Let me know!

mrs.renzifms@gmail.com

Nan Renzi

Primary Level Guide & Education Director



Elementary Newsletter - September 2016

It's already been a month since we started, and work is in full swing. Our first years are slowly starting to learn the ropes of the expectations and routine of the elementary classroom. We've had children cook, bake and sew amidst new lessons and reviews. We're excited to go on our first field trip of the year to the County Line Apple Orchard. We look forward to planning more trips this coming year. Since the age range in our class is quite wide, we will henceforth make trips in small groups.

We plan to resume trips to the library soon. Children who have library cards are welcome to bring them to school.

Parent night is on Tuesday, October 4. I plan to talk about how one can help create a continuum of learning between school and home. Hope to see you all then!

Remember, I am always available for a conversation or a discussion about how your child is doing at school. You are also welcome to come and observe your child working during school hours.

Email: ms.varshashankar@msd.k12.ny.us

Have a fantastic week!

- Ms. Varsha

Spanish classes

Spanish classes have been met with great enthusiasm. Our first lessons incorporated courtesy and manners. Parents are encouraged to assist in exposing their young minds to Spanish at home via their use of media. When allowing your child to watch TV, consider changing the language to Spanish and prepare to be amazed at how quickly they adapt and understand. Netflix offers a variety of popular children's shows and movies in Spanish. Also the Spanish speaking television channel Univision also broadcasts Spanish language programs on Saturday mornings. I look forward to incorporating Spanish into your children's learning experiences!

Email: mrs.alexandra@msd.k12.ny.us

Salud,

Doña Alexandra Green

All of our extra-curricular activities are in the full swing. If you are still thinking about signing up, it's not too late. Ms. Christine will be doing some make up classes on Thursday for the children who started late. Coach Cook is also accepting children for chess lessons and you pay for the remaining classes. Children have been learning Spanish in the classroom and has been participating with interest & curiosity. Mr. Dominic has started introducing music in Elementary classroom with Ms. Varsha's guidance, and a goal to work on creating your own musical instrument as children have more understanding of origin and types of music.

Have a wonderful month of October!

