



September 2017 Newsletter

# October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Picture Day	4	5 Brookfield Zoo	6	7
8	9 No School	10 No School	11	12 Picture Make-ups	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Parent's Evening	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**Parent's Evening**  
 Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 6-8PM  
 Child care is available; please sign up by Friday, September 28, 2017. 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?!"



### Picture Day

Picture Day is on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 29<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise, you will have to make arrangements with Thomas Photographic to order pictures. If you have any questions, please see Ms. Brittany.



We will have our first field trip of the year Thursday October 5<sup>th</sup>. Join us for fun at the Brookfield Zoo. The bus will leave at 9:00 AM from FMS and pick us up at 1:00 PM at the zoo. Children younger than 4 will need an adult chaperone assigned by parents/guardians. Each child will bring a sack lunch from home. There will be no before and after school care. There will be no school for the children who will not join for the field trip. Please fill out the permission slip and return with payment of \$15 per adult.



Dear FMS families,

It has been a great start of the 2017-2018 school year. Thanks to all the families for attending parent welcome meeting and Splash pad social, despite of cooler temperature.

I sincerely appreciate all parents for choosing FMS and giving us an opportunity to be part of your child's critical period of educational and emotional development

*The most important period of life is not the age of university but the period from birth to the age of six, for that is the time when intelligence itself is being formed and carried throughout a lifetime.*

-Maria Montessori

Most of you have submitted all required paperwork for enrollment. You may receive a phone call or an email if there are any missing documents for completion of your child's file.

We may have been late sending the invoice for the first payment as school started towards the end of August and many families joined from September. We will be sending out tuition invoice before the end of the month to receive payment by October 1, 2017.

Mrs. Alexandra spends an hour on Monday and Wednesday morning in Primary classroom and some time with young toddlers. I will share the information with parents by next week, if we will have a group Spanish class starting at Young Toddler age group. Spanish for 3-6 years is on Wednesday from 3:00 to 3:45 pm.

Ms. Laura has her Music class from 3:30 to 4:15 on Tuesdays. She had sent out an email to parents of children, participating in her class.

### **Volunteers needed**

This year we have many families walking to school for drop off and pick up. It will be very nice for our community to have a side walk to help promote safe and healthier lifestyle. Please contact me if you have any experience in drafting a petition requesting to add sidewalks to the village of Flossmoor.

We have not been able to offer Chess club this year as only 3 children 4 years & older are interested in attending. Chess club requires 6 children to register. Please contact office if you love to play Chess and are interested in spending one hour per week to lead a Chess club.

I will not be in the office for one week but will be available by the email, starting from Wednesday September 20 to Tuesday 26.

FMS newsletter will be sent home and emailed on last Wednesday of each month during the school year. This time we are sending it out one week sooner due to Field Trip and Picture day in the first week of October.

Have a wonderful week and rest of the month of September.

-Bansari Modi



## Young Toddler Corner

Time really flies when we're having fun. Thank you to all the parents that came out to our Splash Pad Social. I enjoyed talking with all the parents and watching the young Toddlers having a blast running thru the water.

Our Young Toddlers are getting very comfortable with their new environment at FMS. Their morning starts with the music area. This is their



opportunity to meet and greet their friends before starting their work cycle.

Parents please make sure to check your child's back pack for information to send pull ups, change of clothes or any other needs. The children are doing a great job on trying to dress and undress themselves. If a child

comes to school in a pull over hoodie and lace up shoes, this makes it difficult for them to take off or put on their jacket and shoes without assistance. Please consider their journey to independence when selecting their clothes in the mornings.

We will have our Picture day Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> and a field trip to Brookfield Zoo Oct 5<sup>th</sup>. More information will be shared on these two events coming up in October.



*The greatest sign of success for a teacher ... is to be able to say "The children are working as if I did not exist"*  
*Maria Montessori*

Ms. Lisa





## Pre-Primary

It's hard to believe we have already had a month of school! Pre-Primary is moving along very well. I am so happy with how well our bridging children have transitioned into their new classroom, and how well our new students have adapted to our Montessori community. I am also very happy with our new arrival procedure, having parents bring their children into the school. I am not always able to be outside the classroom in the morning to greet you, but please wave me over if you have any quick questions for me, or need to share something about your child. Since the start of school, we



have welcomed 2 new classmates, Bianca and Genevieve, and have said farewell to Hazel who bridged to Primary after her 3rd birthday.



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. If you have visited the classroom, you may notice the language theme is on farm animals. We have been reading books about farm life, and the children have been

working with the materials. We have also done apple prints which you can admire above the cubbies.

The main focus in Pre-Primary is working on independence. You may see your child begin to ask or demand to do things for themselves. I encourage you to give them many opportunities for independence at home. A great addition in your home could be command hook by the door for them to hang their coat on. At school we are working on the over the head coat trick for the children to put their own coat on. If you don't know this trick please ask someone at school and we can show you. Please also work on shoes at home, a lot of the kids have become independent in this task, but some still need some assistance. I would like to thank all families for being supportive of our efforts at school by sending in appropriate foot wear and clothing!



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

Team Primary is really coming into functioning as a well-operating "Children's House" (the formal Montessori terminology for this level). Though there will still be the occasional separation issue, or delayed reaction, by October most Children's Houses are set in their routines and functioning smoothly. This is when we will start our parent observations.

Ms. Alicia, Ms. Tami and I have really had fun getting to know our new students and learning more about their interests. Our song and fingerplay roster is expanding, and our ability to reach out and ask others for help is too. Children with so many different temperaments and backgrounds can come to appreciate and value each other; the aim of the Grace & Courtesy lessons is HOW we do this. Those lessons are progressing beautifully.

The Extended Day children are gearing up to do their best with their "after-lunch jobs". When we all do our part and are responsible for our piece of "Care of the Environment" great tidiness is accomplished! Year of Leadership children host lunch and are responsible for setting the tables with the placemats, flatware and (flameless) candles. They have been taking pride in this job.

We all have enjoyed using the yard to play in and practice large motor skills such as climbing, balancing and hanging on. Basic safety rules are now being remembered (sticks get thrown over the fence line, run in your own space etc.) and friendships are further explored in a free form way.

My favorite moments as a guide are when the children have interesting things to tell me, and each other, or when they have Aha moments when using the materials. I will include "Comments from the Crew" and "Montessori Moments" in my posts on ClassNotes. Our first "Comment from the Crew" is from Elizabeth who informed me (as a wasp flew by), "Mrs. Renzi, that biggest bee is called a waffle". I chuckled all weekend about that one. More to come!

Remember that minimal screen time (1 hour per day total for computers, i-pads, TV etc.) allows children to come to school ready to engage with the materials. So far, our 3-year-olds have been practicing the preliminary materials



that relate to all the other materials in the classroom (how to roll a work mat, roll a rug, pour, carry a tray, use knobs on pieces and set them down on the table carefully, manage closures such as buttons and zippers, roll an apron etc.) and are now getting ready to enter some of the longer sequenced lessons. Our Extended Day students have been practicing their sounds (we don't use letter names until later), reading materials, number materials, continents, writing skills, and sensorial area lessons. We have

started the science area again with a remembering of the first lesson which is "living/non-living". Regarding this, we do not kill anything in the classroom. Insects and other visitors are live-trapped and put back into nature outside.

Thank you all for sharing your children with us. We have a great group and a lovely year ahead. Watch our new bulletin board for our schedule of themes. We will start with animals based on our trip to the zoo. You may have a special book or material at home to share regarding the topics as they come up, just make sure the item comes to school in a cloth bag with your child's name clearly marked on it, and send in only one at a time.

Note: We appreciate all donations of **sunflower heads and dried corn**. We use these for practical life lessons in tweezing out the individual seeds (fine motor skill) which we then place outside for the squirrels. Thank you!

**Nan Renzi, Primary Level Guide**

