

April 2010



We must support as much as possible the child's desires for activity; not wait on him, but educate him to be independent.

Maria Montessori

OSMS Summer Camp Ages 3 to 6

The OSMS Summer Camp provides the perfect first summer camp experience for young children. Our camp has a mix of indoor (air-conditioned!) and outdoor activities. Your child will enjoy arts and crafts, songs, movement, water play, field trips, swimming lessons, and food prep—all in the company of experienced staff and great friends!

Safari Adventure

June 21 - July 2

Under the Big Top

July 5 – July 16

Round and Round We Go

July 19 - July 30

Neighborhood News

August 2 – August 13

Additional brochures are available online or on coffee table in main hallway.

From Erica...

I would like to begin this newsletter by thanking everyone who worked so diligently to make the Venetian Carnevale the fun, entertaining, and successful event it turned out to be, as well as everyone who attended the gala and bid on the live and silent auction items! Together we raised over \$11,000!

There were many people involved in the numerous different aspects that go into putting on an event of this kind. And while I can't begin to thank everyone who helped, I would like to extend an extra special thank you to the VC planning committee: Shana Santow, Kate Kenworthy, Amy Andrews, Lesley Bunnell, Todd Sniffin, Karen Schaper, and Marc Streisand for their work in planning the theme, selling tickets and masks, making centerpieces, soliciting prizes, and attending to all the details that helped create such a special night; to Jennifer Lesser for her beautiful artwork on the poster and invitations; to Ilira Steinman for taking care of the auction items and setting everything up so beautifully; to Judi Goudreau for her work with the classroom platters; and to Cristina Ondis for the artfully painted masks for the centerpieces. My not mentioning everyone else who helped sell tickets, solicit prizes, set up, clean up, and work at the event is not meant to belittle those contributions of time and effort. It does indeed take a village...

It's hard to believe that there are just over 2 more months of school left in the 2009-2010 school year. April is a relatively quiet month but May is packed full of activities for all our students.

Dates to Remember

April 2010

April 2	No School/Good Friday
April 3	Family Events Cosmic Journey at Roger Williams Planetarium
April 19-23	No School/April Vacation Camp

May 2010

May 3-6	Kindergarten Step Up visits (returning K students visit LE)
May 7	Kindergarten and Middle School Mothers' Teas
May 11	Lower and Upper El Mothers' Socials
May 12	Elementary and Middle School trip to RI Philharmonic
May 13	3 rd -6 th grade Cape Cod Overnight Trip
May 13	New Parent Orientation (Wee Threes and Primary)
May 17	Lower & Upper El Step Up visits (lower el to upper, upper to MS)
May 18	1 st - 8 th grade trip to Mt. Monadnock (rain dates May 19 or 20)
May 24	Wee Threes Step Up visits (returning visit Primary classrooms)
May 24	Middle School End of Year overnight field trip
May 31	No School/Memorial Day

**Units of Study
Primary/Wee Threes**

April

Asia
Ecology/Recycling
Solar System
Being a host or guest;traveling
Folk Music
Georgia O'Keeffe
Dr. Seuss
It's Raining, It's Pouring
April showers bring May flowers

May & June

Land & Water Formations
Family
Health/Nutrition/Human Body
Music: Prepare for End of Year Program
Artist: Mary Cassatt
Author: Eric Carle
Rhyme/Poem: Hey Diddle Diddle
Saying: Better Safe than Sorry

**Units of Study
Elementary & Middle School**

April 2010

April Fool's Day
Traveling-being a guest/host;
how to act with special
guests/presenters
Dance and Movement: square
and line dancing;
aerobic/fitness
Paul Klee

May & June

Thank you notes
Beach Boys
Judith Jans Leyster

A Very Happy Birthday to

Kinara	April 2
Benson	April 2
Aliya	April 3
Aurora	April 4
Lucy	April 11
Olivia	April 23

From Ms. Amy's Primary classroom...

As I write this newsletter, I am reminded of our saying last month: "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." This year the "lion" reared its ugly head with lots of rain. I'll be happy to see the "lamb" come in April. I am ready to open the windows, dry out and clear out the winter germs. With warmer weather approaching (I am optimistic!!), please check your child's extra clothes boxes. They will need to be replenished with clothes that fit (these children are growing like weeds) and perhaps a short sleeved and long sleeved shirt as well as pants, underwear and socks.

The highlight this month was Pajama Day. The children and staff put on their comfy PJ's and spent the morning visiting 6 classrooms for a day of fun. Our classroom was the Dancing Room. We danced the Electric Slide, Cha Cha slide, Cotton Eyed Joe, YMCA, Limbo and Macarena to name a few. The other classrooms provided crafts, flubber, reading, building blocks and games. After a yummy snack of popcorn, the Wee Threes and Primary classes met in our classroom to watch Big Bird Goes to China.

I would like to thank all of the parents who came to observe and conference with me during the month of March. I hoped you enjoyed seeing how much the children have matured and changed since your visit in the fall. Thank you for taking the time to meet with me to discuss your child's progress.

The Kindergartners finished reading the chapter book Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard and Florence Atwater. After reading each chapter, we discussed the setting, plot and characters and tried to predict what would happen next. They are now taking a closer look at the Human Body by creating their own life-sized bodies complete with organs, muscles and bones. They are learning how their organs work, where they are located and what they are used for. They will complete this study in the next few weeks.

During the month of April, we will finish our study of Asia with a visit to India, continue our journey through the Solar System, learn about the importance of recycling, read stories by Dr. Seuss, listen to Folk music and look at the beautiful pictures of Georgia O'Keeffe. In Practical Life, the students will decorate the classroom with flowers and then paint what they see. We will learn to make homemade orange juice to keep our bodies healthy and hydrated. If anyone is interested in sharing their knowledge, pictures, music or stories about any of these topics, please let me know.

Happy spring! Happy Passover! Happy Easter!

From Ms. Betsy...

As I write this, with the rain pouring down, I have my doubts about March going out like a lamb. Then again, it's not snow!

March is the month when all things seem to coalesce. I was happy to see that so many of you were able to spend time in the classroom. Meeting with you afterward for conferences was a highlight of my year. The children, one and all, have grown so much. They are observers, they are participants, they are explorers. They are members of a community who make friends, work out their differences, and care for one another. They are independent workers who know how to seek help when they need it. The classroom simply hums with busy bee-ness and Cammy and I have the pleasure of being both witnesses and guides.

Many thanks to our two special guests this month—Gordon Ondis (Julian's dad) and Zureen Khairuddin (Gavin's mom). Gordon sang some blues, some Beatles, and introduced us to a song about picnicking that will now be part of our repertoire. Zureen talked to us about growing up in Malaysia (did you know there are twenty different kinds of bananas, and they taste even better than the ones we get in the supermarket?).

The recent AMS conference was terrific. I heard some inspiring lectures and especially enjoyed a talk on the difference between arithmetic (computing answers) and mathematics (thinking and problem-solving). Problem-solving is already a big part of the Montessori curriculum; I just learned some new ways to extend this and I can't wait to get started.

Start getting your banjos ready—coming up in April, we will be listening to some folk music. Georgia O'Keeffe is our artist of the month, and Dr. Seuss is the author. We will finish our study of Asia by taking a closer look at Japan and India. We've already done some work on constellations; we'll also be talking about the moon, and, what exactly does that line in our birthday song mean—the one that says "the Earth goes around the sun—it takes one year"?

On a final note, thanks to all for your concerted effort to get to school on time. I know it is not always easy but it certainly gives your child a better start to his/her day.

From Ms. Leah...

March has brought many changes: Spring has arrived! Ms. Elly had her beautiful baby girl, Layla; and Ms. Judi is doing a wonderful job filling her shoes. Unfortunately March came in like a lamb and went out like a lion. We are all hoping that the April showers are less productive so we can enjoy our recesses outside.

We have been learning about the Solar System by observing through our telescope, singing and spinning to the planet song, and putting models of the planets into order. The children have really enjoyed "visiting" different planets and learning about our own planet Earth.

In Asia we have visited China and Japan. We have been counting to 20 in Japanese and learning a little about what it is like to live there. We will visit India and the Arabian peninsula in April.

We have really enjoyed listening to the Beatles. On sunny days we play Here Comes the Sun for our clean up song. Thank you to Gordon Ondis (Ava's poppa) for coming in and singing Black Bird and other fun songs with us.

We have learned about consideration for people with special needs by learning some sign language and with a special visit from Sarah Everheart, Ellie's mom. Thank you for coming in.

Thank you all for coming in to observe and for participating in parent teacher conferences. Happy Spring!

From Mrs. Winston's Lower Elementary classroom...

We are all eagerly awaiting the warm breezes of spring. It will be nice to dry out and open the windows. I'm ready and so are the children. Please be sure to have your child dress in layers to accommodate the varying temperatures in the classroom and at recess. Check the lost and found shelf in the coatroom for any items that may belong to your child.

As the weather gets warmer we will be spending time walking the neighborhoods in preparation for Mt. Monadnock (anticipated date May 18 with rain dates of May 19 or 20). The children need to wear good walking shoes to school each day. In addition to walking, yoga and dance will help us get our bodies ready for the trek. Moms and Dads be sure to keep up your exercise routine for the climb!

As I look back on March we were very busy. Besides our usual daily work we found time for fun and community service work. Olympic Day was a big success. Everyone participated in relay races, however the closing ceremony was truly memorable. Everyone performed the "RI Chicken Dance" and received a blue medal. What was even more successful was the camaraderie and school spirit which all of the teachers happily observed.

A special thank you to Emma Brown, Nathaniel's sister, who so graciously took the time to write up directions, and make a sample yarn doll. Each child made a doll which was then packaged and sent to the children of Haiti through the Providence Haiti Outreach Program. Judi Goudreau also helped us finish weaving the scarf the children were making on our new classroom loom.

Due to uncooperative weather the ice skating field trip turned into a terrific morning of bowling. A great time was had by all children, teachers, and chaperones alike! Everyone was in agreement that bowling should be on the schedule for next year's events. Thank you to all the moms and dads who helped transport us all.

The Montessori conference in Boston was especially great this year. A big milestone for the AMS (American Montessori Society) was celebrating its fifty years in existence. Montessori continues to grow in leaps and bounds across the US. I attended many useful workshops giving me new ideas to implement now, as well as to renew my enthusiasm for teaching. It is such a terrific way to exchange ideas with fellow Montessorians as well as to catch up with acquaintances from my training days.

I enjoyed meeting with everyone for parent conferences. Thank you for your enthusiasm and encouragement. It is a wonderful time to sit and chat about the great progress your child has made over the past year. Enjoy the spring break in April!

From Ms. Courtney's Upper Elementary classroom...

Whew. March has, to put it simply, flown by. We started off by celebrating "Read Across the Country Day". Each Upper El student chose a favorite poem to read and then paired up with a Lower El student or two (who had also chosen a poem) and they took turns reading them aloud to each other. It was wonderful to hear them reading and discussing all kinds of poetry.

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate with us this year and our ice skating field trip was cancelled. Luckily, a quick thinking parent suggested that we go bowling instead. Our class really enjoyed the Rock n' Bowl duck pin bowling. Thank you to all of our parent drivers and chaperones who made it possible.

March was also host to our Montessori Olympic Games. Everyone enjoyed playing different "Olympic sports". Curling and walking boards were both very popular. We ended our Olympic Games with a medal ceremony where every student in the school received a medal that was designed by the Upper El students.

March 14th is also known as Pi day (3.14...). We celebrated by listening to The Pi Song (set to American Pie) and seeing how many decimal places of pi we could recite. One student managed to remember Pi to 72 decimal places! In science class we have been learning how to bond with our classmates by pretending we are various ions. The sixth and seventh graders have been studying prominent female scientists and writing reports on them. I think that they were surprised to find out that Lady Lovelace, who wrote what is regarded as the first computer program, was born in 1815!

The Civil Rights Movement is our current topic in history. The students have been working together to create a classroom timeline of Constitutional Amendments and Supreme Court cases that extended civil rights to all. I've been very impressed with both their research skills and their ability to communicate with each other.

Finally, I would like to thank Maureen Brown who was the substitute in my classroom during the American Montessori Society Conference. It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to learn from leaders in the Montessori community. I've come back inspired by their efforts and ideas and I look forward sharing what I've learned with my classroom.

From Ms. Linda/The Children's Room...

I am very thankful for the opportunity to attend the AMS conference recently held in Boston. I enjoyed learning new ideas from the presenters at numerous workshops and some very interesting guest speakers.

April is our first full month of Spring. We are beginning to see signs that winter is almost over. As we begin to enjoy the new things that the Earth is bringing us we will also learn about how we can help take care of the Earth. We will learn about respecting the Earth and its inhabitants, recycling our trash, and keeping our environment clean.

The children enjoyed many special activities this month as we celebrated 100 days of school to start. Everything was geared to the number 100 that day beginning with 100 exercise activities, 100 stamping, 100 penny counting, and the day ended with 100 pieces of snack for each table. Lots of counting went into that day. Then along came Pajama Day. The children were very excited gearing up to this day when everyone (including the teachers) wore their comfy PJ's . To make things a little different at rest time the children set their sleeping bags and sleep gear on the floor and got to watch Virginia Lee Burton's story of Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel. The children then helped prepare snack for the day—pancakes! More pajama fun!

Wearing of the "green" was another fun day. The Practical Life area turned green as did our snack of green iced (cream cheese) shamrock sandwiches. Coloring and painting went green for the day too. There were a lot of little leprechauns in the room that day.

We have learned a lot of new finger plays, poems, and songs to go along with our units of study. Their favorite being The Planets Revolve Around the Sun. We are working on the hallway display case to go along with this. Watch for it!

Please remember the days are getting warmer so dress your children accordingly. It is a good idea to leave a sweatshirt or sweater on their hook as some mornings are still chilly and in need of a warmer coat but then much warmer in the afternoon. Please check your child's extra clothes box. Some are empty while others need updating. Thanks!

Happy Spring! Happy Passover! Happy Easter!

From Ms. Laura/Prime Time

March flew by despite it being the month with the most school days! The first part of the month, Prime Timers enjoyed the animal theme. We focused on jungle animals, farm animals, and sea animals. The students' favorite game called "Grandmother's trunk" involved packing different items for a trip. Among other items, we packed a camera, binoculars and a tent for the jungle. To visit sea animals we needed a submarine and snacks. This game is tricky because each student must add to the list and recite what was said before them. For the second part of March we have been getting ready for spring. The winter decorations came down and students have been brainstorming and working on spring decorations. They are creating a spring scene with a tree that will blossom as the real trees blossom, with birds and a park. Looking forward to April the themes will include sports and origami.