

Buzz Bits

No. 3

October 26, 2005

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 27	----	Parent Visiting Night (A-M 5-6) (N-Z 6-7)
November 1,3,8,9	----	Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 10	----	SIT/PTA Meeting – 5:30 -7:30 PM
November 11	----	NO SCHOOL - Holiday
November 17	----	Vision & Hearing Screening K-5 – 8:30 AM
November 21 – 25	----	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break
November 28	----	Open Enrollment begins (through January 20)
November 30	----	Vision & Hearing Screening Pre-K – 8:30 AM

REPORT CARDS

Classroom report cards will be sent home (K-5th) on Friday, October 28th. Please keep the report card information folder and the report card and return the envelope signed. This first time we are sending the report cards out earlier than the Trimester so that if you have questions they can be addressed at parent-teacher conferences. The report cards from specialists, however, will remain on the trimester schedule. Look for art, music and PE report cards in Wednesday folders on November 16th. If you have questions of any of the specialists you may call school to arrange a meeting at another time. Please review the following information regarding the new standards-based report card.

- New this year for Community Montessori families are standards-based classroom report cards used by all schools in our district. You may have already experienced standards-based report cards in the areas of music and PE.
- You will receive this report 3 times a year and this method of reporting will replace the written report that was used in the past.
- This report card is NOT a traditional reporting system based on grades. RATHER, it is a standards-based reporting system. This means that standards are identified (what we expect children to know and be able to do) and the report card communicates how your child is doing in relationship to the standards taught during that trimester. It is not cumulative. These standards are also aligned nationally and at the state and district level. The communication occurs in the form of numerals 1-4. These numbers show PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THE STANDARD. PLEASE DO NOT CONFUSE THIS COMMUNICATION WITH TRADITIONAL LETTER GRADES.
- The standards-based report card is only one tool to provide information to parents. Many other tools also provide much needed information for teachers and parents—parent conferences, parent visiting night, work samples, teacher observations, Montessori checklists, rubrics, informal assessments, work plans, stenos...etc.

Preschool children do not receive report cards. Your child's teacher will share your child's progress during parent conferences. They will also communicate with you directly throughout the year if there are concerns. Please be reminded of the importance of process vs. product in Montessori, particularly at the primary level.

DISMISSAL / ARRIVAL PLEASE...

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR FOR ANY REASON WHEN YOU ARE IN THE ARRIVAL OR DISMISSAL LINES. During this hectic time, we need all of us to focus on the amount of cars and the safety of ALL of our children. Just recently we had a parent leave their car unattended for "just a minute" and it rolled into the car in front of it. **THANK GOODNESS EVERYONE IS SAFE** but there could have been a child between those two cars. As it was, there was a parent and another child in the car in front. **PLEASE, PLEASE** park if you need to get out of your car for any reason.

DOORS CLOSED & LOCKED FOR SAFETY

Southwest door—The door that children enter for elementary arrival is locked at 8:10. Once locked, children MUST enter through the front door and get a blue late slip to give to their teacher. It is extremely critical that everyone follow this procedure. If someone is “nice” and opens the door from the inside and a child enters who is already marked absent and no blue slip comes in, there is a great deal of confusion and a potentially unsafe situation regarding accurate attendance. If outside, please do not pound on the door. If inside, please do not open the door. If you find the door open, please close if it is past 8:10.

Southeast door—The door in front of the school where car seats are kept is also kept closed and locked during the day. It is open from 7:55-8:10 so that car seats can be dropped off. If you find it open any other time during the day, please help by closing this door.

Keeping both these doors locked during the school day helps us to control any “stranger activity” in the building. All visitors then enter through the front door and are accounted for. Thank you for your help.

EXPERIENCED TOUR HELP NEEDED

The open enrollment period is right around the corner. We will have several opportunities for new families to visit our school. Our ‘official’ visitation dates will be November 15, November 29, December 6, and January 17th. I (Marlene) am looking for several parents to join me in hosting these visitation sessions. I would like the content to include, presentation, parent panel, and questions/answers as well as a tour of the school. If you have been with the school or feel confident about sharing your Montessori knowledge and experience and you can make a commitment to one or more dates please contact the office. Leave your name, number and the dates you will be available. I will then get back to you with more information and arrange a planning meeting prior to the start of the OE visitation dates.

We also give brief tours at other times when families have unique needs (i.e. in town only during a certain period). We would like to keep a list of parents who could be called to give some impromptu tours. Again, there will be some training as it is critical that our many visitors have minimal impact on your children’s daily learning experience.

OPEN HOUSE HELP NEEDED

Help is also needed for the open house on January 5th. There is something for everyone at this event. All teachers will be in their classes and help is needed to assist teachers, pass out information, direct visitors, set-up, clean-up, provide refreshments etc. This event is from 5:30-7:00. Please contact the office if you can help.

WELCOME!

We would like to welcome two new employees on board – *Meredith Gutheinz* is now a para educator in Nicole’s classroom & our new night custodian is *Pat Laoboutsa*. Both have children who attend CM. We’re glad you’re here – *Meredith & Pat!*

Happy Halloween!

PRIMARY

Primary students are invited to come to school in their costumes on Monday the 31st. They will parade through the Community Montessori classrooms and Library beginning at 10:20. Parents are welcome to come and watch the primary Halloween parade. We have also invited our neighbors, the residents of The Meridian, to come and see our littlest ghouls and goblins. Parents and friends may gather in the library to watch the parade.

LOWER AND UPPER ELEMENTARY

Times for elementary party and costumes TBA in class newsletters to coordinate with class schedule

- 👉 **PLEASE LABEL ALL COSTUME PIECES**
- 👉 Out of respect for our youngest students who are easily frightened **NO MASKS, NO HEAVY FACE PAINTS**
- 👉 **NO TOY WEAPONS** (BVSD policy)

SUPER SCIENCE SATURDAY

See Parent Information Center - Free Public Event – October 29th – 10:00 – 4:00 PM