Montessori Children's House of Peoria

December 2011 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

- Book Fair
  Dec. 1-2
- Hot Lunch
  Dec. 16
- Holiday Sing-Along
  Teacher Luncheon
  Dec. 22

Dear Parent,

What? December already? I know some of us get tired of always hearing how fast time goes by, but really? If it weren't for last week's Great Feast, I would hardly have known it was this late in the year already. And what a feast! Thank you so much to all of you who helped make it yet another wonderful success for the children. It's one of those events that even the oldest children (the ones who have been here for *nine years*) can't help but enjoy. We thank you for your help, for all the food, and for all of the support you give throughout the entire year. Working as partners for the welfare of the children certainly makes the work of everyone (parents and teachers) much easier, doesn't it?

If you don't mind, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few easy opportunities to increase our Development Fund. If you haven't gotten the letter about the new Scrip program we have begun, please pick one up outside the Office. This program seems truly beneficial to everyone, and if we can get everyone involved, there's no reason we can't raise thousands of dollars each year. Also, don't forget, if you shop at Target, you can apply for their store Red Card, link it to Montessori School of Peoria (ID #1846), and 5% of every purchase goes to the school. These are two great ways to help the school *without having to spend anything extra!*

I hope that everyone can approach this holiday season with as little stress and apprehension as possible. Whatever your beliefs, it's always a nice time of year to spend extra time with family. And, I don't know about you, but the Upper El kids and I have been saying, *"Let it snow!"*

Thanks,

The Kindergarten Enrichment class is once again setting out a **mitten tree** this year! They are asking for donations of new mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, etc. for the tree. These donations will be given to the Salvation Army. Look for the tree in the next few days outside the K.E. classroom!

Thank you also very much for all the effort and generous bids on our **Bake Auction**! We raised $356 for the Development Fund which will go straight toward purchasing new materials. Check with your child's teacher in the next couple of weeks to see what new *works* are on the shelves!

As we approach colder weather, it is important to be aware of our **snow-day policy**. Check the three major television stations (WEEK, WHOI, or WMBD) or our website (peoriamontessori.org) to see if we have closed in the event of inclement weather. Make sure to check on succeeding days, as well, as we may reopen before District 150 schools do. In the event of early dismissal due to weather, parents will be notified by phone.

On the 22nd there will be the annual holiday **Teachers' Luncheon**. Our staff loves to get together on this day before the holiday. Please help us by volunteering in your child's classroom to have lunch with the children. The time would be from 11:30 until 12:45. Sign-up sheets will be available outside each classroom. Thank you so much. And, by the way, the Staff provides the food for this luncheon, so as much as we love your culinary donations, they aren't necessary!

Hot Lunch

Hot Lunch this month will be on Friday, the 16th. We will again need a few parent helpers from each classroom for this meal, so please see your child's teacher if you would like to help. Thank you.

Dressing for Winter

Don't forget that all children go outside everyday during the winter! They *must* have appropriate winter clothing, labeled with their name!

Holiday Sing-Along, Dec. 22

On Thursday, December 22nd, we invite you to attend our annual ***Holiday Sing-Along*** *with the students. It starts at 10:45 and will last until 11:30. Please join us if you can. That is also our last day before Winter Vacation.*

Just to remind you, our **Winter Vacation** begins on Friday, the 23rd and goes until January 8. School resumes on Monday, January 9th. Have a wonderful vacation!

Blue Room News

What a wonderful Great Feast! Last week the children were busy learning about the pilgrims and the friendships formed with the native Indians. We made buffalo hides and shakers and decorated them with native Indian pictographs. Our traditional campfire was built and we all danced around it with our shakers. Did you know that the first Thanksgiving lasted for three days and there were more Indians than pilgrims?

We wish to thank Ellen's, Mathilda's, Harrison & Rebecca's families for providing our famished students with snacks this month.

We also received a new work from Mathilda. It's a balance-rocker. The children are having quite a challenge, as well as plenty of fun, balancing themselves while standing with straight legs. Thank you, Mathilda.

November was a very productive and fast-paced month. And December will be full of activities as we prepare for winter and the holiday season.