



October 2016

Monthly News

*"Character formation cannot be taught. It comes from experience and not from explanation."
-Maria Montessori*

Curriculum:

Grace & Courtesy: How to ask someone to play or join you. We will spend time helping the children become more comfortable and confident about inviting another person to work or play.

Cultural: Halloween will bring bats, spiders, skeletons and pumpkins to life in the classroom.

Science: Trees are nice! Parts of a plant and leaf will bring new light to our contact with nature. Exploring properties of buoyancy (sink/float) will spark your child's interest.

Geography: We will focus on North America, its people and mammals after acquainting the children with the Earth's land, air, water and the seven continents. Your child may already be able to put them to song!

Dates to Remember:

- **12 Wednesday:** Parent helper day, 9 a.m.
- **18 Tuesday:** Pre-K meeting for parents, 7 p.m. All parents are invited (no children) to review the curriculum and learn about the benefits of the 3rd year..
- **26 Wednesday** Racing to read visits our afterschool program.
- **31 Monday:** All children sing Halloween songs for the Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg. The kindergartners will attend prayer service and stay for lunch with the sisters. *See separate note for details on volunteers.*
- **Nov. 1 Tuesday:** No School, All Saints Day

Additional Messages:

- **The Observation Room:** The observation room is now open. The hours are from 9-11 a.m. Monday through Friday. If you are new or a returning family we strongly encourage you to come in and observe your child. Please don't forget to sign in and make comments if you wish.
- **Small Hands** catalogue orders are **due Oct. 17**. Your orders will allow VMM to earn credit toward its own purchases of classroom activities and supplies. Gets a jump start on your holiday shopping!
- **Spirit wear mascot:** The children will soon be voting (Election Day lesson) on a mascot to print on their 2016 "spirit wear." Please send in a *plain white t-shirt* (new or slightly used) for your child with *his/her name written on the inside label by Oct. 28*.
- **Ongoing Fundraisers:** Continued support for Kroger, Remke Markets, Box Tops are appreciated! Our first Box Tops collection deadline is Oct. 14. VMM car magnets are \$5, available in the office. And those Mabel's labels have been wonderful! Thank you for using them to identify belongings!
- **Backpack checks:** Your child will be cleaning out their drawers weekly. Please check his/her backpacks daily for classroom work, art creations and school notes.
- **Absentee reminder!** Please call the office if your child is sick or won't be attending school. **Do not email this information**, as the teachers don't normally access email in the morning before class starts.
- **Weather change!** With the weather changing, and our children playing outside, please be sure your child has a jacket to wear (*that is labeled with his/her name*). Thank you!
- **Maggie the bunny:** Thanks to all who have volunteered to take Maggie home. She is booked up through October! Let us know if you'd like to get on the calendar to take her for a weekend in the future.

May peace prevail on Earth, The Montessori Staff