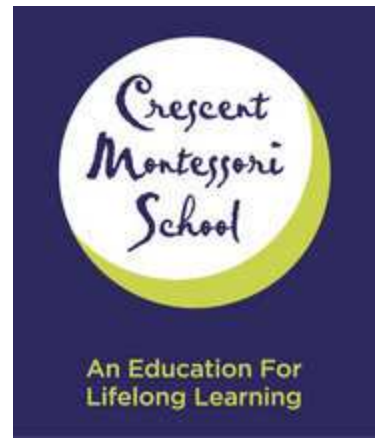


The Crescent Chronicle

Crescent Montessori School Newsletter

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Primary and Elementary Class News
An Historic Montessori Conference
Events



Volume I Issue 2

November/December
2008

FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADOLESCENCE

"There is no description, no image in any book that is capable of replacing the site of real trees, and all the life to be found around them, in a real forest. Something emanates from those trees which speaks to the soul, something no book, no museum is capable of giving. The wood reveals that it is not only the trees that exist, but a whole, interrelated collection of lives. And this earth, this climate, this cosmic power are necessary for the development of these lives. The myriads of lives around the trees, the majesty, the variety are things one must hunt for, and which no one can bring into the school." - Maria Montessori, "From Childhood To Adolescence"

Senior Elementary Making History

On a misty rainy day we gathered under a Coast Redwood as Tom Rusert of Sonoma Birding.org reminded the group of eight students that Sonoma City Hall was celebrating its 100 birthday this year and that they were

the first group in that 100 years to make the guided walk around the Plaza arboretum. Rain didn't dampen our spirits. With maps in hand we walked the oval path, stopping next to our trees as each student reported on a different tree and bird found in the Sonoma Plaza. Our students have developed a deeper relationship with the Plaza park, a place in their home town they have come to know and love. Our deep thanks to Tom Rusert and the Sonoma Valley Visitors Bureau for creating this walk as a resource for everyone to enjoy.

Thinking of taking the walk yourself?

Pick up a map at the Visitor's Center and you're on your way.



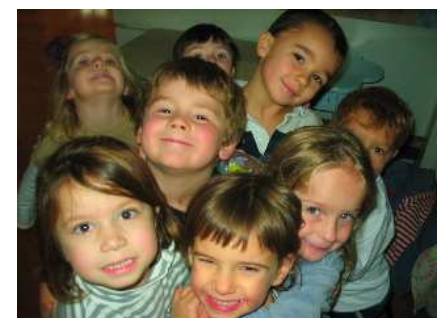
GOING OUT

By Karin Niehoff

"Going Out" is a significant part of the elementary experience. It teaches students how to relate to each other as well as how to relate to places and people outside the school environment.

Real-life experience helps students discover and define their place in the world as they broaden their independence. The inspiration engendered by going out revitalizes the intelligence. It fuels imagination. Students are shaped by these valuable experiences and they

want to learn more about everything. Going out highlights one of the strengths of our school; balancing predictability, structure and responsibility with freedom, creativity and adaptability.



JUNIOR ELEMENTARY

By Cathy Bell-Neff

First year students have been busy working with math materials such as the subtraction strip board and the stamp game, while the first graders have had the chance to expand their math knowledge to include advanced snake game and the table of Pythagoras Board. Both groups learned about mollusks or snails as they are more commonly known. It seems that these little critters that we so commonly find chewing holes in our garden plants actually have fascinating characteristics and rather cute little faces!

We have been looking in depth into the concept of friendship, community and collaboration, by creating projects together, role playing different social scenarios and reading many books on the subject.

We are also busy at work creating a class collection of stories based on the book, "The Big Orange Splot" by Daniel Pinkwater". The book is a wonderful portrait of how important it is to be yourself and to allow your personality to reflect through. Our collection will show each student's rendering of what their "house in their dreams" would look like with words to describe it.



PRIMARY CLASS

By Pam Higi

Thank you parents, for attending our fall conferences. This is always such a rich experience. Parents are experts of their children within their home life. Their child's teacher comes to know their child well within the school environment. When we come together and share our observations we all can learn a lot and be there for your child in the best way at this very important time in their development.

We are well into our school year and are quite busy in the primary. The children are comfortable with their routine and the days seem to go quickly as the children are engaged in their activities. We often look up at the clock and are surprised at how quickly the time goes. Giving the children a place to come consistently, that is designed with their development in mind, allows for

this to occur. It is heartwarming to observe a child in this sense of ease and contentment.

Nature has a lot to share with us in this season of Fall. Here in our beautiful valley we need only to step outside or look out the window to see the beautiful warm colors. Young children learn best when they can make a connection between their environment and themselves. We have a beautiful persimmon tree just outside our classroom window. All through the year this tree offers itself to us as a magnificent tool for learning. It may seem simple to us as adults. We may even take this process for granted. Children view this experience with fresh eyes. This tree showed us it's bright green leaves when we came together in September. Soon we discovered it had

blossoms. Then the fruit began to grow! As the fruit grew and began to turn the color we sometime call the fruit's namesake, the leaves also became this same bright rich shade of orange. In the morning the classroom even glowed from the color as the morning sun shone on it. Then came time for the children to collect and count the leaves. We enjoyed a persimmon sampling. For some children it was their first taste of the fruit.

The children continue to enjoy the fruits of fall in other ways by collecting leaves to make leaf bouquets, collecting and counting acorns and counting and even scrubbing pumpkins.

AN HISTORIC MONTESSORI CONFERENCE

Crescent Montessori School participated in an historic Montessori Conference that took place in San Francisco in November. Sponsored by the North American Montessori Teacher Association this conference gave our staff the opportunity to work with more than 100 Montessori educators from around the country.

The purpose of our work and the title of the conference was "Documenting Outcomes". From 18 months to 18 years we mapped the effectiveness of Montessori education across the planes of development. We mirrored the experience of our students by having the chance to work with and learn from our peers. The leaders of the conference termed the weekend historic for the profound sense of cohesion and purpose that developed out of the sessions. The work we accomplished will be published in an upcoming journal and on the NAMTA website. Beth Bush-Donovan, Pam Higi and Karin Niehoff represented Crescent at the conference. Money raised at last year's Paper Moon Festival made this continuing education opportunity possible. Thank you!



THANK YOU!

EVENTS:

Susie Gallo and **Marie McElroy** for hospitality at the Montessori Matters Parent Night, and **Jane and Grace Wellington** for providing child care. **Patricia Serota** for the photos.

Susie Gallo, Marie McElroy, Dulce Silvi, Alex Cole, Stacy Fucile, Kerry Bentz, Gloria Reiter and Rob McElroy for their help with planning and set up and clean up of the Second Annual International Dinner. Thanks to **Patricia Serota** for the photos and the photo journal.

Stephanie Medak for planning and executing the wonderful Halloween Fair. A special thanks to all the parents who pitched in to help including **Rob McElroy** for the great bean-bag toss and **Tiffany Masciorini** for the photo fundraiser. Fun photos. We netted \$53.

AROUND THE SCHOOL:

Greg and Gina McCaw for the shopping trip to Ikea and for laminating materials, and the burlap cutting party with **Kendra Spencer** and **Stacy Fucile**.

Tim Wetzel for picking up the tubs at Friedman's.

Gloria Reiter for help setting up the school office.

Jason Masciorini for delivering the frozen birds to the Point Reyes Bird Observatory

Tiffany Masciorini for photographing the seniors at the Plaza tree walk.

Yoli Holman for the listening to students read program in the Elementary class and for ongoing help organizing the library.

Kendra Spencer for the trip to Costco.

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Tony Fucile for the book about the White House.

Tiffany Masciorini for the area rug.

Leanna Kirk for the walnuts.

Dulce Silvi for the cucumbers.

A special thanks to the **Johnson Family** for the beautiful artwork from Equador.

Joe Hagerman for repairing our coffee grinder and building the bench.

Gloria Reiter for the Eyewitness books.

Stephanie Medak for the camera.

Susie Gallo for the books.



Crescent Montessori School
 276 East Napa Street
 Sonoma, CA 94576
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CALENDAR

Monday December 15	Food & Clothing Drive for FISH contributions accepted
Thursday December 18	Holiday Tea and student performance; Minimum Day
December 19- January 5	Winter Break
Saturday January 10	Open House
Thursday January 15	Montessori Matters Evening
Friday January 16	Minimum day Elementary – Staff Meeting
Saturday January 17	Christmas Bird Count for Kids
Monday January 19	School Holiday Martin Luther King
Wednesday January 28	Montessori Afternoon for Elementary and PM Primary Parents and students
Thursday January 29	Montessori Morning for AM Primary parents and students
Saturday February 7	CMS Pancake Breakfast
Friday February 13	Valentine Tea. Minimum Day Staff Meeting
Monday February 16	School Holiday President's Day

SAVE THE DATE: PAPER MOON FESTIVAL, CMS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

*Saturday, May 16, 2009, Cornerstone Place
 Catered by Sage Catering*