

The Crescent Chronicle

Crescent Montessori School Newsletter

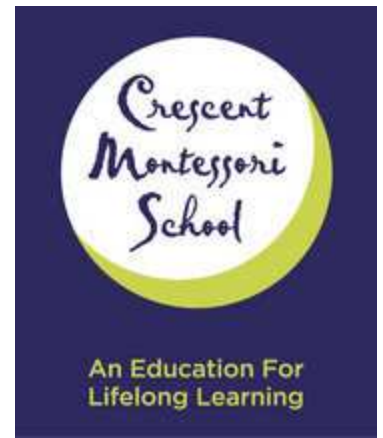
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VOLUME I, ISSUE 1

September/October
2008

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Dear Parents,

September and October have been busy active months for students and teachers. The days begin and end with enthusiasm. Here are a few highlights from the classes.

Elementary

We had a great start to the school year. The students settled into the routine of the school day and have quickly renewed friendships and formed new bonds. We opened the school year with two of the five "Great lessons" that Maria Montessori and her son Mario developed for the elementary level to engage and excite the student's imagi-

nations. Maybe you heard about Cathy Neff and I acting out the story of language about long ago before people had words to communicate their thoughts. Did anyone hear "the Paper that sees and talks", the story of written language? Ask your kids about it if you haven't heard. The second Great lesson for this year describes the birth of the universe and the fundamental laws of physics and chemistry that made it possible. Students have followed up by carrying out some of the lesson's science experiments on their own.



CITY HALL CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!

The entire elementary class made a trip to City Hall on Thursday September 4th to celebrate the 100th birthday of the lovely historic building. We walked around the building and compared the four identical sides. The story goes that shop owners around the plaza wanted the entrance to City Hall to face their shops. The solution; design all four sides the same, and so they are.



ELEMENTARY

The Juniors have been very busy learning about nouns. Ask your child what a noun is and you're likely to hear them proudly announce that it is "a naming word that names people, places and things!" The students labeled many areas and items found in the classroom: the music room, the bathroom, many plural nouns, etc. The Kindergarteners went on several scavenger hunts, of sorts, to find the words and enter them into their noun journals. The first grade students have learned singular and plural nouns, abstract and concrete nouns, common and proper nouns, to name just a few.

Speaking of Botany, our group is exploring roots. We have learned the parts of a root sitting on the front lawn right on top of the roots of the Liquid Amber trees. We take our Botany journals along to sketch and label roots from our playground. Pulling out the last of our summer garden will be exciting this year. It's all about the roots hiding underground, ready to tell their story.

We have also been doing quite a bit of reading. The library always has one or two students reading and enjoying books. We have two literature-based book groups based on "Half Magic" and "Ramona".



TREES IN THE PLAZA

On Thursday September 18 the seniors made a trip to the plaza for a tour of the trees.

We visited the oldest tree: an Italian cypress across from the Swiss Hotel. We strolled through the walkways lined with London Plane trees, lovely. We considered what some believe to be the oldest tree, the big Blue Gum, the debate goes on. We held hands to see if we could embrace the massive trunk and we made it! We even took a look at the bee tree. The students sketched the fountain. Look for sketches and poems

from our trip in this newsletter. And before we leave the topic of trees the students each have adopted a tree in the front lawn of the Community Center. We each have a tree to observe to sketch and to watch through the seasons. This activity initiated the work in our Botany journals.



PRIMARY CLASS NEWS

It's so good to be back together, enjoying the school year routine.

Returning students feel familiar and glad to be back in their classroom. New children find themselves stretching with this new experience and feel at home in what is now their classroom, with new friends and activities that peak their interest.

Primary Perspectives

Children usually spend 3 years in the primary class, continuing to develop their concentration, independence, fine motor skills, and eye-hand coordination through practical life activities. They learn letter sounds. They learn to write, read and to count. They learn about the world around them through geography

and science studies.

Children's development comes together during the magic of their Extended Day Year when they fully organize their social and academic learning by becoming class leaders, being models for younger children and carrying out responsibilities on behalf of the entire class. It is an honor to witness and to be a part of this process with your child. Thank you to your family for being such an important part of our school community.



EDUCATION MATTERS SERIES

A new addition to our school community events this year is the Education Matters Series. Our first meeting featured speaker Kelly Griffith Mannion, Montessori trainer and consultant.

Parent, Stephanie Anagnostou summed up her thoughts on the presentation.:

I attended the "Education Matters" event to increase my understanding of Montessori's principles. How many of us knew she was seeking world peace through her methods? I continue to be fascinated by her discoveries and I am very interested in finding ways to incorporate her methods at home. The more I read and learn about Montessori the more I realize that all children want to develop on their own and become independent doers and thinkers. I find when I try to superimpose my judgments of what I think is "best" onto my child's decisions or actions we both end up frustrated and discontented. The jewel I picked up that night was an understanding that the child doesn't learn in the lesson, but only when she interacts on her own. When I step back and watch, I see they get a satisfaction that I could never have given them and most times I learn something new about their perspective or way of thinking. We all end up happier. I think all the parents that attended the event showed a real interest in participating in a community rooted in a rich philosophy that we all wish to know more about so that we can support our children's develop-

ment. We as a community should find ways to continue that pursuit and who knows maybe we will find an answer to world peace--at least in our own homes. Thank you for a giving us an opportunity to appreciate the gem of a school we all have.



THE EGG

Many of the elementary parents had a chance to see the end result of our first classroom experiment The Egg in Vinegar. We carried out the observations for five days and then opened the jar poured off the vinegar and punctured the egg which was still intact. We carried out this experiment again and this time weighed the egg at the beginning and at the end. The question that came up is: did vinegar get inside the shell membrane? Yes quite a bit of vinegar almost doubled the weight of the egg. Interesting.

WELCOME!

Please join me in welcoming back Mari Contreras to our classroom staff. Mari is a blessing to our class. Her spirit and her love of fun infuses the morning and lunch time with love and Spanish.

Welcome teacher Beth Bush-Donovan to our classroom. Beth brings her love of children and her dedication to helping them fulfill their potential with joy and fun. Beth is creating a wonderful outdoor classroom experience for the Primary group. Each day she takes a group of six to enjoy one hour outside on the play yard where she has developed activities that support their learning and compliment the activities found in the indoor classroom. Sweeping, scrubbing, painting, gardening and shoveling are just a few of the activities Beth has prepared so far. This is such an important aspect to the weekly routine and we plan to keep it going as long as the weather allows.

Dress for the weather.

THANK YOU!

To all the parents that helped at the August work party:

- ◆ **The Hatcher Family** for the classroom rug
- ◆ **Ara Malkhassian** for building the shelves in the shed
- ◆ **The Neff Family** for the log cabin
- ◆ **Barry Serota** for repairing the boat
- ◆ **The Hart family** for the library shelves and the office accessories.
- ◆ **Mary Padilla** for sewing the curtains.
- ◆ **Alex Cole** for the pencils.

Thank you to all the families who have helped by bringing the morning snack.



"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing."

-Albert Einstein

FITNESS, MOVEMENT AND MUSIC

Robin Cordano our visiting movement/fitness instructor has been working with the Elementary and Primary groups for the past two months. The children enjoy the games and stunts and the songs Robin weaves into the physical challenges. We have noticed students playing the games together during recess. We appreciate the independent spirit that carries over from well-placed challenges.

SONG REVIEW

Way up in the sky

The little birds fly

Down in the nest

The little birds rest

With a wing on the left

And a wing on the right

The sweet little birdies sleep all through the night

Then the bright sun comes up

And the dew hits the ground

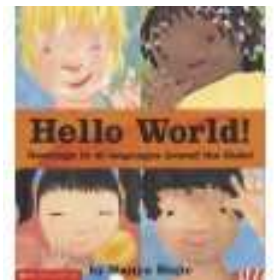
Good morning! Good morning! The little birds say!

The children delight in singing together as well as learning poems, finger play and movement. You may be hearing your child sing some of the songs we enjoy together. At left is one of their favorites.

BOOK REVIEW

We love our story time together. The children recently enjoyed hearing one of our new classroom books,

Hello World, by Manya Stojic. It helps us to learn how people say "hello" in 42 different languages. The children get a kick out of trying to repeat the Russian word for hello, Zdravstvuite pronounced Zzdrahst-vet-yah.



October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 School photos	8	9	10	11
12	13 School Holiday Columbus Day	14	15	16	17 Staff Meeting Minimum Day Elementary Departure at 11:30am	18
19	20	21	22	23 Int'l Dinner	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN Minimum Day for all Departure 11:00am	

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Conferences No Class Scheduled	7 Conferences	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Staff at Montessori Conference. Elementary Departure at 11:30am	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Conference Make- Up Day. Elementary Departure at 11:30am	22
23	24	25	26 Minimum Day Departure at 11:30am	27 Thanksgiving Holiday	28	29
30						

Crescent Montessori School
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We're on the Web!

www.crescentmontessorischool.com