

November 2, 2009

Dear families,

Thank you all for coming to parent /teacher conferences. We are always grateful for the time we get to spend with you, the information we share about your children and the connections we make. We all have busy schedules and really appreciate the conscious time to slow down and think about each child and family individually.

Your great participation in the ink cartridge/used cell phone collection has generated \$83.34 so far! This wonderful extra donation will go toward purchasing plants for our gardens. Special thanks to Kit Rowland for making this all happen!

And...speaking of funds for the garden...our pumpkin raffle raised \$105.00!! We had 6 happy winners! Thank you to Bill Palmer for raising these giant pumpkins and donating them to us for this cause!

"Make A Difference Day" was recently held at Cal Poly. Carolyn Eicher worked hard to set up 10 Cal Poly Fraternity members to come last Saturday to scrub our doors (something that made me so, so happy), plant new grass, move heavy wine barrel planters and unload compost. Kit Rowland, Bill Palmer and Kevin Selman also worked hard before and on the day to make this a success. Sabina Zink and Elijah Selman (Philosopher and alumni) also joined in and Jack Kern (Philosopher) even helped on the dump run-what a day! I am joyfully dreaming of next years' projects already!

PLEASE ADD THESE NEW FAMILIES TO YOUR ROSTER:

Trailblazer Class –

Hannah Bilicska	Silvana and Michael	1841 Lima Drive San Luis Obispo, CA 93405	544-8955
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Stargazer Class –

Taylor Smith	Janae and Monty	P.O. Box 2346 Avila Beach, CA 93424	627-1842
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Explorer Class-

Aine O'Toole (pronounced Anya)	Siobhan O'Toole& Brian Orazetti	730 Anchor Street Morro Bay, CA 93442	225-1616
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Montessori Parent Night!

Come to school on Tuesday, Nov. 10 to hear Nancy and Satia talk about those mysterious Montessori materials! This session is on the "sensorial materials"- what they are, why we use them and what their purpose is. You will go away with new insights and terminology to use with your child at home. Instead of saying "what did you do today?" when they get in the car- you may be saying, "did you use the geometric solids today or the matching fabrics?" Wow! The time is 6:30 to 8:00 – WE WIL PROVIDE CHILDCARE IN THE EXTENDED CARE ROOM!!! PLEASE COME!

Insets For Design are a Montessori material that we use for many purposes- mostly prewriting, design and pencil control. We have a few sets for sale from our own Montessori institute. They are \$110.00 and \$5.00 of that comes to our school. We can give you a quick

“lesson” on how they can be used and then your family can go wild! My family has them on the coffee table and it is great to see young people, old people and in-between people talking and designing at the same time! A great holiday surprise! Let us know if you would like to come in and see them!

School will be closed next Wednesday, November 11 in honor of Veteran’s Day.

We will hold a Thanksgiving feast for the children on Tuesday, November 24, 2009. The children all bring something for the feast and all eat together. It is truly something to be thankful for! Please sign up in your child’s class for your contribution. Please note-this feast is for the children ONLY! Our International Day potluck, which is held the last day before we leave for winter break is for the whole family.

PICK UP TIME AFTER THE THANKSGIVING FEAST, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 IS 1:00 FOR EVERYONE! THERE IS NO AFTERNOON EXTENDED CARE AVAILABLE!!

School will be closed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday-Nov. 25, 26, and 27 for Thanksgiving. Enjoy your time with family and friends!

Our school hosted a “Choice and Motivation” workshop for elementary Montessori teachers on Sunday, Nov. 1. We were happy to have 20 participants from around California and to have the opportunity to hear two-experienced Montessori elementary presenters-one from Boston and one from the bay area. They were knowledgeable, inspiring and insightful. We talked a lot about the 6 to 12 year old child, what motivates them, how to provide choice within our prepared environments and so much more. I loved talking about adverbs and their value in writing and great games to play to get comfortable using them. I am still smiling and thinking slowly, methodically, humorously and enthusiastically about that particular part of speech! Ah, the joys of being with like-minded people!

As we continue to count our blessings we remain particularly grateful for the community of people gathered at our school and the opportunity to spend our days with your children. There really is no other place we would rather be. Happy Thanksgiving.

P.S. We now have about 53 families on our e-mail newsletter option! If you are one of these families please respond that you received this letter. If you are not on the e-mail list and would like to be – please e-mail us at kernzoo@aol.com!