

# Montessori Pathways School

## November 5, 2009 Teachers' mini-news

### Notes from the Classroom: Ms. Karen and Ms. Ambreen

*We have certainly enjoyed the past 2 weeks. There are always lots of events unfolding ...big and small. As noted, we continue the harvest theme. Plans include making applesauce. Our science lesson included land/air/water which is the Montessori introduction to geography. You may see some land and water maps coming home that the children can create themselves. That involves vocabulary such as continent, island, and even archipelago. We are working in science with the living and non-living presentation. This will be followed with plants and animals.*

*We will continue the season theme with calling attention to the migration of the birds. Of course, not all animals migrate, so that brings up discussion of hibernation too.*

*We had a lovely celebration of Divali. Miss Ambreen and Prakhar shared the core idea. That also lead to the fact that when we were celebrating, the people in India are sleeping. Yes, when it is day on this side of the world, it is night on the other side of the world.*

*Speaking of celebrations, Happy Birthday to Aizah Kagdi (3), Ciara Jackson (4), Keaton Munter (5), Kayden Shatzer (6) and to Marcelo Candia (6). Our children are growing up. Lots of November birthdays coming.*

*We enjoyed **giant** treats recently: a 5 # Hershey bar from Mila's grandfather (no we did not eat the whole thing) which he brought to us from Hershey Pennsylvania. A man after my own heart! A 5 pound candy bar is impressive. And we shared a **giant** decorated chocolate chip cookie from Marcelo.*

***Our speech pattern this month is:** "A penny saved is a penny earned" which gives us a different rhythm that last month's speech pattern. We continue to clap first and last names. Good to hear from you that many children have already learned both the first and last names of their friends.*

**Special song for November:** *I celebrate my family*

*People close to me*

*There are many branches on my family tree*

*Loving caring, helping sharing (repeat the line)*

*Repeat first 2 phrases*

*We are still finishing conferences. We have scheduled some for this Saturday. It has been a great chance for us to get to know your child and family better.*

Many "thank yous" to all of the following families:

*Rapisarda and Altman families for apples*

*LeGrand family for dried corn needed for grinding*

*Munter family for cream cheese for snack (we are practicing spreading)*

*Nieckula family for the pumpkin the children love to scrub*

*Wagler family for the special Halloween treat for each child*

*Basch family for treating the teachers to bagels and to Halloween donuts*

*Thanks to Charlin Toby who gave us access to the Follett book sale and thus we were able to get several books for our school library and our personal teacher library. Thanks Charlin!!!*

*ALL the families who made Saturday morning FUN!!!!*

### **Notes from the Classroom: Ms. Christine and Ms. Cindy**

*With the excitement of Halloween almost here the children of all ages practiced their pincer grip skill to improve their handwriting by poking out pumpkins, bats, cats and ghosts. Poking exercises helps the children build hand strength, to be able to begin handwriting. Some children made theirs into hanging ghosts or bats, while others glue their pumpkins and cats onto paper.*

*Keeping in the Halloween spirit our Kindergarteners have been working on the parts of the skeleton. This is a matching and language work that helps the children learn the different names of the skeletal parts. To reinforce the parts of the skeleton we have been reading books and singing the skeleton song Dry Bones:*

*Dem bones, dem bones, dem bones...  
The toe bone connected to the heel bone,  
The heel bone connected to the foot bone,  
The foot bone connected to the leg bone,  
The leg bone connected to the knee bone,  
The knee bone connected to the thigh bone,  
The thigh bone connected to the back bone,  
The back bone connected to the neck bone,  
The neck bone connected to the head bone.*

*In our Geography focus of the week, some of the children took a field trip outside the classroom to collect land, air and water. We were so excited to have puddles to collect the water. The children are sorting and matching the picture cards to the collected geographic elements. We talked about the earth and the three elements it is made of, "land is what we stand on", "air is all around us" and "water is what we drink".*

*Thanks to all the children who brought in apples. The children enjoyed another apple tasting. We discovered that the Honeycrisp apple is sweet and very crispy.*

*Tuesday and Wednesday were parent /teacher conferences. Thanks to all the parents for taking the time to meet with us. We always enjoy the time talking with you about your child's accomplishments.*

*This is one of the songs we have been singing:*

*Five little pumpkins sitting on the gate*

*The first one said "my it's getting late"*

*The second one said "there are cloud's in the air"*

*The third one said "but we don't care"*

*The fourth one said "let's run and run and run"*

*The fifth one said "let's have some fun"*

*And Whoo went the wind*

*And out went the lights*

*And five little pumpkins rolled out of sight*

*After weeks of washing the pumpkin, we finally carved it on Friday. We gave the children a choice between a funny face and a scary face. Almost everyone voted for the scary face. Ms Christine drew the face and carved the pumpkin into a jack-o-lantern. Each of the children had a turn scooping out the seeds. With the lights down low, during lunch, the jack-o-lantern lit up the classroom to much cheer and joy. Thanks to all the children who brought in Halloween goodies. Yum...*

*Enjoy all your treats!!*

## **Notes from the Classroom: Ms. Laurie and Ms. Terri**

*The kindergartners have a very busy week due to Halloween. Along with all the pumpkin activities we have delved into the general autumn life of all plants. Our field trip to Countryside was interesting and informative. Our class was taken on a tour of the nursery by Ms. Anastacia. Along with viewing different kinds of plants we smelled, touched and observed differences among different types of plants. We learned about dormancy in plants and the role of roots (to find and supply food). The field trip was appreciated and interesting to the students and adults. Now a classroom "sensory" garden is in the planning stages.*

*In reading: we have been focusing and reviewing the differences between the vowel sounds.*

*We will continue to practice the 26 vowel sounds in the English language and their many different spellings. We are doing estimates to explore and enforce knowledge of counting and quantity. It's a very busy time with a very busy, wonderful group of students.*