



Newsletter

Everyone has settled happily back into the routine of school and we are all thankful for those occasional warm days as we vacillate between warm and cold temperatures. We know that Spring must be just around the corner..We hope!

Montessori Quote: "As soon as children find something that interests them they lose their instability and learn to concentrate."

- *The Secret of Childhood:* - Maria Montessori

February Events

Date	Event	Details
Feb.4th	Re-enrollment	The forms will go home during the first week of February.
Wed., Feb. 2nd	Elementary Workshop-Orff Music	3:15-4:00 Lower & Upper Elementary together in Lower Elementary classroom
Fri., Feb. 4th	Teacher Work Day	No School - 8:00-3:00 childcare by reservation
Tues., Feb. 8th	PA meeting	8:45-9:45 in the lunch room
Wed., Feb.9th	Come Work With Me Day!	8:30-9:30 am in each primary
Wed., Feb. 9th	Chinese New Year Celebration	Upper Elementary - Dragon parade through the school
Fri., Feb. 11th	Montessori Madness	Group meets 8:45-10:00 am in the lunch room-all are welcome!
Mon., Feb. 14th	Happy Valentine's Day!	Individual classroom teachers will provide more information
Tues., Feb. 15th	Re-enrollment due	
Wed., Feb. 16th	Toddler Workshop	3:15-4:00 pm
Thur. & Fri., Feb. 17 th & 18 th	Auditions for Talent Show	Sign-up sheets- on the Parent Board 3:15,Thur.,P1; 3:15, Fri..P2
Fri., Feb. 18th	Elementary Field Trip 9-12:30	Lower and Upper Elementary both go to the National Museum
Wed., Feb. 23 rd	Home for the Elderly Chodov	Upper Elementary will visit the seniors' home from 1-2:45 pm
Mon., March 4th	Re-enroll deposit due for 2011/2012	

Announcements:

- ❖ **Observation sign-up sheets are available for the Primary and Elementary classrooms on the Parent Board. Parents of kindergartners, please sign-up to observe Lower Elementary, as well as your child's current classroom.**
- ❖ **Parents, please be diligent in accompanying your child into the school at drop off time in the morning or making sure they are signed in and received by a teacher. Also, please be conscious about not letting people into our school building that you don't recognize. We continually endeavor to maintain a safe environment and need your help. Thank you.**
- ❖ **Talent Show audition dates are February 17th and 18th. Please sign-up on the Parent Board in the lobby. More information will follow via email. The Talent Show has been moved up to Friday, March 4th!**
- ❖ **IMSP's Science Fair has been moved to April 13th and our celebration of Earth Day has been moved to Friday, April 29th!**

Classroom Events

Toddler News

The Toddlers returned from Winter Holidays a bit taller, talking more and full of enthusiasm to get back to work in their classroom! With the changing, often unpredictable weather - from wind and snow to sun and slush to ice and rain and back again, we are experiencing a huge variety of sensorial experiences outside. The children were happy to reconnect and continue to build their friendships. This strengthens the sense of community in the Toddler environment.

We have welcomed Ms. Ruth, the new music teacher, to our class with her guitar and rhythm exercises. We are learning a lot of new songs and musical concepts. Thanks to all the parents who joined us on January 26th, for our sing along workshop. It always helps parents to get to know the music their toddlers are singing!

Please join us on Wednesday, February 16th, at 3:15 for the next Toddler Parent Workshop. The theme will be, *Cooperation with Toddlers*.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Primary News

We hope that your holidays were peaceful and relaxing. After a long break everyone seemed to be happy to return to school. In the first week back we observed children joyfully using familiar materials. Of course, they were also happy to see their old friends and meet some new ones, Emil Haase and Natalka Romanova in Primary 1.

This past month we looked at the continent of Antarctica and the people that live there, (scientists). Next month will give us a chance to look at the continent of Asia. Being the largest continent in the world, we hope that the children may be able to share any books, photos, music or recipes that come from this continent throughout the month.

Our **Primary Workshop** this month is titled, "**Come Work With Me**". Parents are invited to "work" with their child from **8:30-9:30** on the morning of Wednesday, **February 9th**. If you are not able to attend, please send a grandparent, other relative or a close friend. The children will be eager to show you their favorite work/s or something that they are currently using for mastery. If you have one child in Primary 1 and one child in Primary 2, you may spend time working in both classrooms throughout the hour.

This month we have more opportunities to observe in the Primary classrooms. You may sign up to observe in either Primary 1 or Primary 2 on the sign-up sheets on the Parent Board in the main lobby. We encourage parents of kindergartners to sign up on the Lower Elementary observation sheets, as well, in order to become familiar with that environment.

Valentine's Day is Monday, February 14th. We will be doing some writing and other activities pertaining to Valentine's Day, in the classrooms. If your child wishes to bring Valentine cards, please bring 25, one for each child in the classroom. The cards should be signed only, From (your child's name), and not be addressed to specific children. This makes passing out the Valentines easier and eliminates the possibility of someone being left out.

This past holiday season helped us clear out a lot of missing items from our Primary coatroom. However, unclaimed clothing is beginning to gather once again in this common space. Please be sure to clearly label all of your child's clothing so that his or her things may return if ever they are lost. We would also appreciate you taking the time to go through the Lost & Found, in the Primary coat room, to see if you have any items to claim.

When the weather turns from very cold to wet, be sure that your child also has a pair of rain pants at school. If you are not sure what your child may have, you are welcome to check his or her locker after 3:15 or just send us an e-mail to check. Thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the "Come Work With Me" workshop.

Lower Elementary News

In February we will focus on writing in the lower elementary classroom. The first graders will be polishing up their sentence writing skills each week by writing sentences using their weekly spelling words. This begins as a great challenge and after much practice, the children are proud of all the great writing they do. The older children continue this practice, as well as writing stories, book reports and individual interest research. Each time someone writes a story or report in our class, we share it with each other. Presenting their accomplishments is a learning skill as well!

We will also enjoy sharing our Valentines cards with each other on Valentines Day. Information regarding Valentines cards will come home in your child's homework folder.

We will continue our study of the Time Line of Life with looking at what the earth was like long ago. We will also learn about the different eras of time, as well as beginning research about dinosaurs...always a favorite!

This month please join us for our workshop on **Wednesday, February 2nd from 3:15 to 4:00**. Mariyo will enlighten us about the history of **Orff Music** and share what she has been doing with the music classes. This workshop is for both lower and upper elementary parents. -- Amy and Stephen Ball

Upper Elementary News

Children in Upper Elementary are preparing a Chinese New Year celebration project for the 9th of February. History, traditions and special crafts will be shown in our classroom. The Chinese New Year begins on the 3rd of February. It's the year of the rabbit!

In Language, Upper Elementary students are working on new Spelling exercises. Spelling rules, dictionaries and creative writing are being practiced throughout the week.

In Math, children are working, depending on their level, on the processes of long multiplication, long division, fractions, binomial-trinomial squares, areas, pre-algebra and percentages.

Children are working cooperatively (in teams) studying all the Biomes. Learning and using cooperative skills will help them to build a social foundation and a proactive attitude towards work.

On February 23rd, the children will visit the Home for the Elderly Chodov, at Donovalska 2222 in Prague 4. They will prepare a short presentation and get to know and ask questions of some of the elderly people living there. It'll be a great community lesson and both the young and the old will benefit!

February Birthdays

Toddler	Primary	Elementary	Staff
Barbara Beckova Feb. 11 th , she turns 3!	Maria Jelcic Feb. 2 nd , she turns 4!	Adam Pisarik Feb.28 th , he turns 9!	Ruth Svandova, Sing Along music teacher Feb. 9th
	Nela Nesetrilova Feb. 4 th , she turns 5!		Alice Randova, Choir teacher Feb.12th
	Sophie Wells Feb. 9 th , she turns 5!		
	Tim Grafe Feb. 15 th , he turns 6!		

Alice's Corner:

If you are not a lover of winter, I am sure you can't wait to see the first flowers in bloom and celebrate spring. To make that waiting shorter and more pleasant, you can spend your afternoon or evening at the Minor theater, which has a wide range of performances for children.

<http://www.minor.cz/?page=program>

For those who love adrenalin sports and entertainment, the company Pilotem na zkousku prepares sight-seeing flights, or for even more adventure, you can be a co-pilot. For more information visit:

<http://www.pilotemnazkousku.cz/EN/>

ENJOY!

Alice

BODY ACHES AND PAINS?

Katka and several of our parents would like to recommend the following chiropractic clinic for those of you who might experience back pain or other physiological symptoms, from time to time. (Dr. Tomas Rychnovsky, Ph.D is really good!)

Physiotherapy will often help with the prolonged and seemingly incurable problems with slipped discs, digestive issues, etc., which are seemingly unrelated to the muscles and joints...

Expert outpatient physiotherapy clinics, AVETE Omne your professional and a human hand to help get rid of your long-term difficulties.

www.avete-omne.cz



Primary Forest activities

Tuesday and Thursday:

It was nice that we had snow everywhere just the month before Christmas. Snow and frost brings us a special environment and atmosphere and started us thinking about what we could do for some of the animals in the forest.

The forest starts look so different again and it became a challenge again for the children who had experienced enough sledding for awhile.

We visited both our places, one which we had named for now, "Houses or Homes" (Where we were building houses from benches) and "Logs", (where we were piling logs on the ground). It was magical, especially at the Logs place, as we made first foot prints in new, white snow there. Children started playing immediately and some of them did bird watching. We talked about birds in winter... "What do you think birds are doing at winter time? What do they eat?" Their answers amazed me, again! We made seed balls for birds as a morning activity. We did this with each classroom and also in toddlers. Most of the Primary I children took theirs' home but there were still a few we could hang up in the forest.

Nearly all Primary II, children hung their balls in the forest. We spent one day hanging up this food for birds. Each child found a place for it and hang the ball on a tree. I helped some of the children and explained to them why birds might need that food in the winter. After the Christmas holiday snow started to melt, we got excited about the appearance of our places. We checked the seed balls and I talked about how we can know if has been a tough or not that tough of a winter. We also listened for birds and talked about sounds in wet weather.

I hope there will still be more winter so we can try more activities with ice and snow. But I appreciate all kinds of weather, as it brings new impulses and experiences to the children.

They can all discover by themselves on our walks and play in the forest. I am planning to show them a map of our forest and a compass (Some of the children asked me about it :).

I wish you a good and successful year 2011 :-). Sandra Cabajova



Library

Dear Parents,

Book Report by Barbora Casenska

Danny and the Dinosaur by Sid Hoff,

was a fun story. The setting of this story is in a city. The main characters are Danny and a dinosaur. The story is about a dinosaur who is alive. The main conflict is that the zookeeper yells at them to go away from the zoo. It is resolved that they go away.

If I was in that story I would go away too. The best part was that the dinosaur played with children. I would recommend this book to others because it is fun.

Book Report Double Fudge

By: Keo Sket

The title of the book is Double Fudge. The authors name is Judy Blume.

Fudge starts making his own money. He calls it Fudge Bucks which turns into a disaster. My impression about the story is exciting and funny. The setting of the story is New York and Washington D.C. The main characters are Fudge or Farley Drexel and his older brother Peter. I think the best part of the book is when Peter, Fudge and their family run into their long lost cousins.

A fact I learned is that the Dutch bought New York for twenty four dollars! But too bad that was a long time ago. That was a lot of money then (in the sixteen hundreds). Fudge is obsessed with money . He's going to be a miser for Halloween and has made plans to buy the whole world (or at least Toys "R" Us). But life really gets crazy when Fudge and his older brother Peter run into their long lost cousins, The Howie Hatchers. Now they have to deal with annoying twin cousins and a weird younger cousin, coincidentally named Farley Drexel... just like Fudge! Their names aren't the only similarity and before long mini Fudge is causing as much trouble as Fudge always has! I would recommend this book to 4th, 3rd and some skilled 2nd graders.



*Let's celebrate the love of learning
During
Montessori Education Week
February 27th - March 5th!*

This is an American Montessori Society (AMS) celebration commemorating the work done by Maria Montessori and the work in Montessori and peace education accomplished since then. Please take this week to spend extra time with your child exploring nature and reading...