



It's hard to believe that it is already November, but the weather is certainly a clue! The children have begun working on the Winter Concert and teachers are looking forward to meeting with all the parents to talk about a favorite subject of us all, the children!

Montessori Quote: "The child's conquests of independence are the basic steps in what is called his 'natural development.' In other words, if we observe natural development with sufficient care, we see that it can be defined as the gaining of successive levels of independence." - Maria Montessori

November Events

Date	Event	Details
Wed., Nov. 3 rd	Fire Drill	Fire Drill slippers sent home afterwards for washing
Wed., Nov. 3 rd	Upper Elementary Mask Exhibition	2:00-3:00 pm in Upper Elementary Come Join Us!
Thurs., Nov. 4 th	Lower Elementary Mask Exhibition	6:30 pm in Lower Elementary Parent Event!
Tues., Nov. 9 th	PA Meeting 3:15-4:15 pm	Come and join us in Upper Elementary!
Wed., Nov. 10 th	Primary Workshop 3:15-4:00	
Fri., Nov. 12 th	Teacher Work Day	Childcare reservation deadline by Nov. 5
Wed., Nov. 17 th	Czech Holiday	No school/No childcare
Thurs., Fri., Nov. 18 th , 19 th	Parent Conferences No School	Childcare reservation deadline Nov.11th
Mon., Nov. 22 nd	Newsletter Articles Due	Deadline is November 22nd
Tues., Wed., Nov. 23 rd , 24 th	Book Fair at IMSP 2-4 pm	Children's and some adult literature available in the lobby
Wed., Nov. 24 th	Toddler Workshop	3:15-4:00 pm
Fri., Nov. 26 th	Holiday Gift Exchange	Gifts are due , labeled with, To Whom and From Whom
Fri., Nov. 26 th	Elementary Field Trip	Lower Elementary-Geology Park Upper Elementary-Dance Theater
Mon., Nov. 29 th		1

Reminders:

- **The new Parent Board is in the foyer leading to the playground. Check it out! There is a variety of tips and information posted by IMSP parents.**
- **The IMSP Parent Handbook is now available in Czech! If you would like a copy, please contact Mirka or Martina in the office.**
- **Each coatroom area now has a Lost & Found box for missing items.**

Alice's Corner:

November is a cold month, but there is still time for outdoor activities! If you are interested in Czech folk architecture from the High Middle Ages, go to Prague 5 Stodulky and Reporyje, where you can find The Řepora, open-air museum. There are replicas of buildings using traditional building materials.

Here is the link for the website, unfortunately in Czech only:
<http://www.repora.cz/mapa.html>

If you do not like the autumn weather and you would rather stay somewhere warm, there is an interesting opportunity to visit Kralovství Železnic (The Railway Kingdom) at Prague Smichov's Anděl City. There are three floors exhibiting a model railway. Every three months a new section will be added. For more information follow the link:
<http://www.kralovstvi-zeleznic.cz/en/>

Enjoy!

Classroom Events

Toddler News

The toddlers are settling into their routines and weaving closer relationships. Morning goodbyes are becoming easier and the children's self-care skills are growing. The English language is less mysterious with each passing day, and the children are joining in our daily sing along, learning the words to their favorite songs.

The season of autumn is expressing itself dramatically. The ever-changing weather is a constant conversation piece in our community, and each trip to the forest offers the children new concepts and materials in nature to investigate. In the garden, the children have been practicing their balance on the run-bikes and the balance beam, venturing on the climbing structures and, of course, enjoying the sandbox, among many other tasks. They are also learning to rake up the fallen leaves, which they can then move to the compost bin to help biodegrade the food!

Thanks to those who attended our October Parent Workshop on *Talking to Toddlers*. Please join us November 24th at 3:15 for a discussion on *Fostering Independence in Toddlers*.

Primary News

Our Halloween celebration was a great success. We saw many different insects and had a great time in the afternoon. We have also enjoyed many "leaf parties" outside and beautiful walks through the brightly colored forest. Autumn has graced us with the opportunity to study different types of leaves and their parts.

Autumn has also brought colder weather. We encourage all children to bring hats and gloves to school, (with their names written on the tags or on the inside). Please keep all scarves at home as we do not allow them on our playground. They become a hazard when paired with the climbing equipment, swings and bikes. Be sure that your child has rain pants and a raincoat each day.

This month we will study the continent of Europe. We invite all families to share stories, music, recipes or pictures from any country in Europe. We also will look at different European artists and art techniques.

The children will be practicing songs and poems each day for the Winter concert in December. Please practice the songs and poems with your child at home or during your travels to and from school.

Parent teacher conferences will be Thursday the 18th and Friday the 19th. Be sure to sign up in the lobby for a time to meet with your child's/children's teachers. Progress Reports will go out November 11th.

During the Primary Workshop this month we will explore the sensorial materials through our stereognostic sense. If you don't know what a stereognostic sense is or you are just very excited to learn more about the materials that your child uses at school, please join us on November 10th at 3:15 in Primary 2.

We look forward to sharing more with you about your child at the conferences and at the workshop. Have a wonderful month.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Update:

In our ESL time, we start with the expression of feelings and slowly go through colours and objects in the school such as fruit and vegetables. We do some drawing and writing in lessons, too. It is helpful for children to see written words even when they can not write their own. We play games for relaxation and fun:-). The English can be retained in children's minds more easily through activity.

I am always working with my students on understanding the real meanings of words, not only in repeating and listening. It's important that they gain understanding through the asking and answering of questions, using complete sentences. This gives them the opportunity to hear and become familiar with the sound and placement of words. They will soon receive exercise books so that you and your children can also work at home on our themes.

- Sandra Cabajova



Primary Forest activities Tuesday and Thursday:

Since the beginning of the school year, we have been walking with the children to the forest. We have been walking to one specific place that they found very interesting, where there are many pine branches for building their own houses or for making one big one! The play is different with Primary I and Primary II. Primary I made one big house and they keep working on it every Tuesday when we go there. Primary II also made very tiny houses from small branches. One day we found a tree cut down so lots of children were balancing on the cut trunk. That's what makes me happy. It is nice that children spontaneously went and tried that alone. They were motivated by their own interest to try it and not by my influence. That is how to work with children in the Forest, nearly always like this. Ideas are always coming from their minds and we can find activities to build upon those ideas. It is difficult that we have such a short amount of time there. Because of that, I usually let them play how they decide and they always find in the forest what they actually need. I play the flute as a signal for them to come to me and they like it and are very good listeners. That was a nice surprise for me at the very beginning. Now we are about to visit another place with colored leaves on the ground; just right for autumn weather. I am curious as to how they will play there and what we will find to learn or discover together :-). Children enjoy our forest days, as some of them are always asking me when we will go and what we are going to do. I am very happy about it and feel comfortable with it. It is my nice time there with children. :-). Sandra Cabajova

Lower Elementary News

The Lower Elementary class is excited to share the masks they all prepared for Halloween. Each child chose a country, then researched facts about the mask and recreated the mask from that culture. On Wednesday, November 3rd they will share the masks with the kindergartners. They have already shared their masks with the Upper Elementary class for our Halloween celebration. On Thursday, November 4th they will have an evening event for all their parents. Please note that this event will replace the scheduled workshop for November. During this event they will present their research and show their masks. During the weeks leading up to the event the older children have been helping the younger children to prepare for the presentation. They are all practicing to use a loud voice, stand with their feet still and articulate the words. Excitement is growing in the classroom for this event.

All students have begun to study for the memorization of math facts. Math facts are the addition, subtraction, multiplication or division of single digit numbers, i.e. $2+2$. Each day they work at school with the math materials, testing themselves to see if they know the answers before they count the beads. At home they are studying math facts cards to help them to recall the answers. Each Thursday they are timed to see how many math facts they can answer in five minutes. Everyone works on this at an individual pace and the goal is to achieve more than they did the week before. They learn graphing skills as they keep track of their progress. The children enjoy challenging themselves and seeing the improvement from week to week.

In November we are extending the study of Physical Geography to include Geology. We will begin to look at the ways igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks are formed and how they can change in the rock cycle. The children can choose to research and classify different types of rocks and minerals. All children are welcome to bring in any rock collections they may have to enhance our study.

Upper Elementary News

In math Upper Elementary is working to get all our multiplication facts memorized by the end of this term! We are also refining our writing in the notebooks to create a neat and useful presentation in which we can record our work. Our Math system is decimal, so we are working on fractions in relation to the corresponding decimal parts. On these, we work on their value, their name, their positions (351.068453) and their correct written names (tenths, hundredths).

On fractions, we are working on equivalences ($\frac{3}{4} = \frac{15}{20}$), mixed number subtractions with different denominators ($3 \frac{1}{8} - 2 \frac{1}{2}$), multiplication and division.

We are also doing prime factorization problems and multiples for solving different denominators. We are working with divisibility of numbers by 2, by 5, by 9 and by 10. Abstract square rooting with written procedures are continued from last year. Some are starting with binomial squares.

Long multiplication is done in The Great Bank, in which they are working as comptrollers and bankers. Long division is done in different levels. Some are dividing with 2 divisors in test tubes and writing the procedure for later abstraction. Some are doing long division with one digit divisors abstractly. Some are constructing the division facts tables.

The younger ones are working on the study of seven kinds of triangles and their parts (e.g. isosceles and obtuse angle triangles) with the nomenclature.

In Language some are conjugating the past tense of regular and irregular verbs. Others are studying the types of conjunctions in sentences. Some are reviewing parts of speech on a regular basis. Using articles and short stories helps to motivate them in their creative writing and challenges them in their use of language and composition.

In culture, we are reviewing the correlation of the Universe with our galaxy, planet, biosphere, biome, ecosystem, plant and animal life. We are also studying the cell and atom concepts. We have begun our study of the biomes and their fundamental parts.

In addition to this, we are practicing for our Masks presentation and refining the research.

In Czech culture, we are continuing the study of living things, leaves and parts of plants. To correspond with this topic, we chose our fieldtrip to the Botanical garden in Troja.

November Birthdays

Toddler	Primary	Elementary	Teachers
Manit Sareen Nov. 5 th , he turns 3!	Elisej Raskind Nov. 8 th , he turns 3!	Valeria Pytyuk Nov. 14 th , she turns 9!	Nobody!
Lily Giles Nov.6 th , she turns 2!	Tomas Mucha Nov.15 th , he turns 4!	Anna Slegrova Nov.12 th , she turns 8!	
Ludvik Tomas Nov. 18 th , he turns 2!	Oliver Pisarik Nov. 22 nd , he turns 6!	Anezka Beckova Nov. 23 rd , she turns 7!	

Announcements:

- ❖ Please **sign-up for a Parent Conference**. The schedules are posted on the Parent Information Board in the front lobby.
- ❖ The holiday **Gift Exchange** has been posted. Please label the gift with from whom it is being given and to whom it is being presented and give it to your child's classroom teacher.



Example:

**To Jana D., Primary 1
From Sara T., Primary 1**

- ❖ Science Fair Date – The date for the science fair **has been moved to April 13th**, before spring break. The Elementary teachers will send home information at the beginning of March.
- ❖ The **April Toddler Workshop has been moved to April 27th**, after spring break.
- ❖ Judo is now 3:15 – 4 pm.
- ❖ There will be NO Afternoon Enrichment Classes held the week of Dec. 6th-10th.
- ❖ Younger dancers ONLY, 3-5 yrs. will have a dance practice at their regular practice time on Monday, Dec. 6th.

(3:00-3:45 and 3:45-4:30 PM)

Library

Dear Parents,

We've begun primary library visits and I'm enjoying the children very much. They are always excited to select books for their classrooms. The older children also enjoy discovering new "favorite" books and will especially appreciate all the new books we've just purchased from Scholastic!

Below are some recommended book selections that you might enjoy sharing with your children.

Many Moons by James Thurber illustrated by Louis Slobodkin
ages 4-7

Once upon a time, in a kingdom by the sea, there lived a little Princess named Lenore. She was ten years old, going on eleven...

This classic book is about a sick princess who wants the moon. The princess is perhaps more sick at heart than body.

A comic royal romp ensues as the King and his wizards all try to deliver the moon.

How far away is the moon? According to the Lord High Chamberlain, the moon is 35,000 miles away and is made of molten copper.

The Royal Wizard is certain the moon is 150,000 miles away and is made of green cheese.

And the Royal Mathematician says the moon is 300,000 miles away. The Jester may have a solution....

Caldecott medal winner in 1944

Frog and Toad are friends -I can read book! by Arnold Loebel
ages 6-8

The endearing pair hop along through five enchanting stories, looking for lost buttons, greeting the spring, and waiting for mail. Their genuine care for each other makes Frog and Toad two of the finest amphibious role models around. Young readers will chuckle with Frog as they watch Toad's silly efforts to make up a story. And they will applaud Toad as he finally wakes up after hibernating all winter. The fifth story will warm the hearts of any would-be pen pal--or anyone who has ever known what it's like to have a true-blue (or green) friend.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle ages 9-12

It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger.

"Wild nights are my glory," the unearthly stranger told them. "I just got caught in a downdraft and blown off course. Let me sit down for a moment, and then I'll be on my way. Speaking of ways, by the way, there is such a thing as a tesseract."

A tesseract is a wrinkle in time. To tell more would rob the reader of the enjoyment of Miss L'Engle's unusual book. *A Wrinkle in Time*, winner of the Newbery Medal in 1963, is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe (athlete, student, and one of the most popular boys in high school). They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem. It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger.

Happy Reading!