



# Newsletter

After adjusting to the first weeks of transition and enjoying our annual family picnic, the children are feeling comfortable and have settled into the daily routine of school. Our fall weather has recently taken on a "summer" quality which we are all enjoying!

**Montessori Quote:** "Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed."  
- Maria Montessori

## October Events

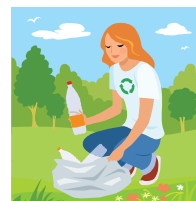
Date	Event	Details
Oct. 6, Wed.	<b>Fire Drill</b>	Fire Drill slippers sent home afterwards for washing
Oct. 6, Wed.	<b>Elementary Workshops- Upper 3:15-4:00</b> <b>-Lower</b>	Math in the Czech Program; Montessori Math. 6-9 yr.old child at home & school
Oct. 11, Mon.	<b>Photo Day</b>	Individual photos/siblings
Oct. 12, Tues.	<b>PA Meeting 8:45 - 9:45 am</b>	Come and join us in the lunchroom!
Oct. 13, Wed.	<b>Primary Workshop 3:15-4:00</b>	Practical Life: Care of the Environment
Oct. 14, Thur.	<b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>	Deadline is October 14th
Oct. 15, Fri.	<b>Teacher Workday (no school)</b>	Free childcare by reservation (deadline 10/8) 8am-3pm
Oct. 20, Wed.	<b>Toddler Workshop</b>	3:15-4:00 pm
Oct. 22, Fri.	<b>United Nations Day</b>	Celebrated in class during school hours
October TBA	Elementary Field Trip	TBA – More information to come
Oct. 26, Tues.	<b>School Halloween Celebration</b>	Elementary & Primary information exchange; masks and insect costumes...
Oct. 27-29	<b>Fall Break- No school No Childcare</b>	

## Reminders:

The use of plastic bags has come into discussion once again at IMSP. Our focus, as a school, is education. We ask for your support at home in conversing with your child about the potential dangers in playing with plastic bags or otherwise using them inappropriately. We feel that, much like the story of Sleeping Beauty, that if we try to completely remove plastic bags from a child's environment, he/she will never learn to use them correctly! Our teachers discuss and model the appropriate use of plastic bags on a daily basis.

We do encourage parents to use cloth bags or the larger, woven, recyclable plastic bags, though, when transporting items to and from school. They are no more than 30kc for the largest bags and can be washed and reused. Please stop by Ms. Wendy's office if you'd like to see an example of the bags that we'd prefer are used for school. Please be aware that the small, thin, filmy bags are not allowed at school and will be immediately put into recycling. Parents and teachers are also encouraged to punch multiple holes in plastic bags that arrive at school, even in the larger ones, for added protection. A hole punch will be accessible in the primary coat room on top of the cubbies.

Thank you for being proactive in helping to maintain a safe and environmentally friendly environment for our children!



## Classroom Events

### Toddler News

Our first month of school is behind us and what amazing progress we have already made! As you know, the beginning of the year can be challenging with young children entering a new community for the first time, but we are celebrating a nascent circle of friends who all know each other's names and join together to learn and play. Tasks of self care, especially in the coatroom with the fluctuating weather, and when toileting, during food preparation and when eating, are visibly improving day by day.

In addition to discovering our playground, with favorite activities including playing in the sand, climbing, kicking a ball and riding tricycles and bicycles, we have also begun exploring our forest. We listened to the birdcalls and also found blackberry bushes in full bloom.

Thanks also to parents for providing the necessary clothes, especially rain boots and rain coats. If you haven't given us your child's picture or family picture yet, please do so. It means a lot for the children to be able to show their friends a picture and talk all about their families!

Thanks to those who attended our first Parent Workshop! Please join us October 20 at 3:15 for the next one, entitled, *Talking to Toddlers*. Please, parents, if you have any suggestions for Workshop topics, let us know. We are here to serve your needs.

### Primary News

Our first month back at school was full of many wonderful moments. New children have been entering with greater ease each morning and returning children have enjoyed using the familiar works. We had a lovely Grandparent's Day celebration and we would like to thank all of the grandparents and sponsors that attended this event. The children had a wonderful time making the banana bread and sharing a few of our favorite songs with the guests.

We also had an enjoyable visit from other teachers that traveled to the Czech republic from Kenya. We were happy to greet them and wish them the best for their schools. In our meeting they sang songs to us and we sang songs to them.

As the first month of school has passed, it is important that the children keep all toys at home. Please help us by checking your child's backpack and pockets before they leave home in order to insure that the toys have a safe place to stay while the children are at school. The only exceptions are for specific sharing days, of which will be discussed in the future. By helping the children keep their things at home, the children become more likely to share the materials that we use at our school.

We would also like to thank the families that shared their books and puzzles of the solar system. This month we will look more closely our planet earth and talk about the various landforms. Our artist of the month study will focus on Czech landscape art. If you have any books

about landforms or Czech landscape art we invite you to share them with the classrooms this month.

Our annual Halloween celebration's theme this year is insects. All children may come to school on Tuesday, October 26 with their insect costumes in bags, labeled with their names. In the afternoon, the children will change into their costumes and share with each other what type of insect they are. If you need an idea for different types of insects, you are welcome to borrow a book or ask any of the elementary students. We look forward to this month and we hope to see many different costumes!

### Lower Elementary News

Since the first day of school, the Lower Elementary class has been working hard on remembering the routines and ground rules that we established together. The first graders have been adjusting to the new challenges.

First grade students have been focusing on spelling phonetic words and making sentences. Sometimes it is hard to remember that a sentence begins with a capital and ends with a period! The second and third grade students have been writing stories and working with more specific grammar and word study activities.

We have been spending a lot of project time working in Geography, making maps and learning about different continents and countries. The first graders are exploring what animals come from different continents. The older children are learning more about land and water forms, furthering their studies from last year.

Both Upper and Lower Elementary will continue our tradition of celebrating Halloween by learning how other cultures use masks for different purposes. Each child will choose a mask from any country to make at home. Children will gather facts and write a research report which they will share. More information will be sent home to parents.

Please join us for our next workshop about Expectations and Goals for the Six to Nine Year Old Child at Home and at School. This will be on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 3:15 to 4:00. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

- ❖ **Reminder:** Please call the school each morning if your child will be absent, keeping in mind that consistent attendance is very important in order for your child to reach his/her full academic potential.

### Upper Elementary News

Upper Elementary is working on different aspects in Math. Children are being assessed to create a work plan in this subject. They are also getting used to daily routines and homework.

We are beginning our mornings with daily stretches to support the production of a better quality of work. These are done soon after our morning circle in a rather slow way. We focus on our own special body parts that need to be stretched. In PE we are focusing on catching and throwing skills and dribbling.

In the Czech Program, children are working on living and non-living beings. Plants, trees and leaves are being studied and we will do more in detail on our field trip.

### October Birthdays

Toddler	Primary	Elementary
Ida Chloubova Oct. 9, she turns 2!	Emily Jaros Oct. 1, she turns 4!	Nobody!
Samuel Kopun Oct. 16, he turns 3!	Anna Zudova Oct. 3, she turns 5!	
	Jachym Vacik Oct. 18, he turns 6!	
	Riku Komiya Oct. 22, he turns 6!	
	Sofia Gatineau Oct. 28, she turns 5!	

## Announcements:

- ❖ The Parent Readers Program has begun. The children really enjoy sharing their Moms and Dads with their classmates when their parents come to read some of their favorite stories. The stories can be in English and/or Czech. We encourage both.
- ❖ Science Fair Date – The date for the science fair has been moved up to April 13<sup>th</sup>, before spring break. The Elementary teachers will send home information at the beginning of March.
- ❖ The April Toddler Workshop has been moved to April 27<sup>th</sup>, after spring break.
- ❖ Parent Conference schedules will be posted October 25<sup>th</sup>.



Ivana Sket

## Library

Dear parents,

This month I'm looking forward to starting as the new librarian at IMSP. I love books and I love reading books with children! I'm devoted to inspiring students and to engaging them in reading. My goal is to encourage them to become lifelong learners.

Each Elementary class is scheduled to come to the library on Friday afternoons and each child will be asked to pick a book. The books will be due back in one to two weeks depending upon the book. We appreciate parents' encouragement for the children to read the

books and return them to school when they are due.

Primary students are scheduled on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Like the Elementary students, they will pick their own books but will read them with their teachers at school.

Here are some suggestions on how to encourage reading at home. More suggestions can be found on the Reading is Fundamental web page. <http://www.rif.org/parents/goodbooks/default.msp>

**\*Share a book together!**

Set aside a specific time every day when you and your child can enjoy a book together. One idea is 20 minutes after dinner or before bed-time. Parents can read as long as the child is interested. It is not necessary to finish a story or a chapter if the child is tired. In this way reading can become an important part of the child's daily routine.

**\*Tips to allow the book to become interactive:**

1. Make predictions about the book or the next chapter, "what will happen next?"
2. Use different voices, allowing the characters to come alive.
3. Don't be afraid to stop at the climax of the story, leaving the child wanting more and excited for the next time.
4. Explore the characters motivations and compare them to your family's life.

**\*Start your own Library at home:**

Set aside a special reading area in your home and make sure everyone uses it. Include both books (and books on tape), writing materials, newspapers and child-oriented versions of popular magazines (e.g., Time for Kids, National Geographic for Kids).

**\*Model reading at home:**

Allow your child to see you reading for pleasure. They will naturally model after you.

**\*Cook with your child to develop literacy:**

Read recipes together or read the labels on ingredients together. You could even make a family cookbook of your favorite recipes

**\*Visit the library**

Encourage your child to go to the library on a regular basis and take out books! Librarians can be a wealth of information; Ask your local librarian about his or her favorite books!

**\*Use Internet resources!**

The internet is a great source for finding the perfect book. Check out these websites for book suggestions:

Reading is Fundamental Website:

<http://www.rif.org/parents/resources/books/default.aspx>  
You can search through thousands of children's books, organized by topic, using Reading is Fundamental's online Parents' Book Search. You'll find many great book suggestions.

International Reading Association Children's Book Council Joint Committee

<http://www.reading.org/choices>

**\*Search for books recommended by the readers themselves.**  
Children's Choices, Teachers' Choices, and Young Adults' Choices.



## **ExpatsExpo2010!**

**Our first year at the Expats Expo was a great experience. Many thanks to our volunteers, Ivana Sket and Anke Damson! Anita Ramani stopped by with her family to lend support.**

**Our booth was the only Montessori school represented at the expo and we were delighted to be able to give a brief byte of Montessori philosophy to interested passers-by. Ms. Joanna, Alice our marketing director, Katka and Wendy "manned" the booth for the day and had the pleasure of meeting other educators as well as many other attendees who were there to enjoy the exhibits. There was a multitude of things to do; ongoing performances put on by a variety of schools and businesses, children's activities such as face painting and riding vehicles. And, of course, there was delicious Indian, Mexican, Japanese sushi and traditional food filling the building with wonderful smells!**