



MONTESSORI CHILDREN'S GARDEN NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2009

Friendly Reminder

State law requires that the children's nap/rest time bedding **MUST** go home on Friday to be washed and then returned on Monday. All bedding is now kept in the bathrooms of each classroom. Check with the teachers if you are unsure where your child is resting.

Announcements

Show and Tell

When your child brings snack for the week, they are welcome to bring a "show and tell" on Monday to share with the other children. We prefer they bring something meaningful.

Openings Available for Afternoon

We are off to a good start this year with 72 children enrolled. We have only three openings for the afternoon program, so tell your friends and neighbors.

Spanish and Music class

As most of you know, we offer Spanish and Music class each week. Miss Blair, a graduate of Cornell College, is our Spanish teacher. She will be giving weekly Spanish lessons. Schedule is on the bulletin board in the lobby. Miss Angela (Frantz), a trained Kindermusik teacher, teaches music every Friday.

Pennies for Peace

Our Pennies for Peace program is underway and will go through November 23rd, so bring in your pennies! Information for parents was distributed in the files outside the classrooms.

Staff News

We are proud to introduce our two new teachers, Reiko Ono-Fullard and Laura Zeigler.

Reiko and husband Ken are longtime North Liberty residents with two children, Izaya and Keiko (former and current Montessori students). Reiko was born and raised in Japan and came to the United States in 1990. She has two bachelor degrees and masters in teaching.

Laura just recently moved to Iowa City from Boulder, Colorado, where she was teaching at a progressive school in the infant toddler program. She earned her BA in Boulder and studied abroad in India for a semester. Her daughter, Leilani, attends the afternoon class.

We are so happy to have such caring, gentle teachers here! Both will be attending a two-day Montessori class in Moline September 18.

Many Thanks to:

Jaden Menezes' family for the donation of three comfortable chairs for the office. Thanks so much for thinking of us!

Classroom News

Mrs. Honey's class is studying life cycle of the butterflies. *Mrs. Jones and Miss Tina* are studying living and non-living things, and *all of the classes* are studying the elements of the earth: fire, water, land, and air.

Grace and Courtesy lessons are introduced at the beginning of the school year to provide the children with the "language" they need to operate successfully in the Montessori classroom. We role-play these lessons in a group setting so everyone gets to practice. *(continued on back)*

Here are a few of the key phrases we use in teaching grace and courtesy lessons in the classroom.

- May I work with you? (“Yes, you may,” or “maybe later”)
- May I watch you work?
- Please don’t touch my work.
- Please and Thank You.
- Stop! (outside)
- Excuse me, please, may I get by?
- May I be excused? (lunchtime)

We have also been spending time teaching the children how to carry a tray, how to roll up the rugs, how to walk in the classroom, how to use the bathroom, how to put work away, how to clean up the floor, how to clean up the table, how to get snack, and how to use a sponge.

Mr. Sultan’s Music Lessons

Mr. Sultan’s music lessons start Tuesday, September 15th. Sign up sheet is in the lobby.

On Wednesday September 23, at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Sultan will offer a Parents Night for prospective students and their families. He will explain his method and the steps that the students go through. Anyone interested please ask Mr. Sultan for more details.

Quotable Quotes

For those new to the school, each month in our newsletters we include some of the great things that the children say to us. This is one of the reasons it is such a joy to come to work everyday so thank you for the privilege of working with your children.

A little girl was looking up at the sky and saw a contrail. She said, “Look! There’s a skyscraper!”

Student: “Aw...it broke!”

Teacher: “How did it break?”

Student: “Easily.”

“Do you know how to write a silent E?”

Teacher: “This is a sand dollar.”

Student: “If you gave that to me, I could spend it on something.”

“Can I have pepper and Mr. Sultan on my noodles?”

“Do you have a fly swapper?”

Teacher: “Do you know what ‘celebrate’ means?”

Student: “Celebrate means tackle.”

