
The Montessorian

February 15, 2013

Nurturing the hearts, minds and spirit of children and adults for 33 years!

Calendar

- Feb. 18 – 22 **NO SCHOOL – Winter Recess**
- Feb. 25 Snack Week for Mary Hopkins, Aiden Shen and Gabriela Gonzalez
- Feb. 25 – Mar. 6 Scholastic Book Fair
- Feb. 26 Upper Level Demonstration Night
Two Sessions as Assigned 6:30- 7:30 p.m. / 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Feb. 27 Junior Level Demonstration Night 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 27 Middle School Portfolio Night 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Feb. 28/Mar.1 **NO SCHOOL – Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- Mar. 6 Board Meeting 4:15 p.m.
- Mar. 7 Ski Club
- Mar. 9 “Mary Poppins” Family Fun Fest at the Hangar Theatre,
Begins at 2 p.m.
- Mar. 14 Upper Level Third Year Students Field Trip
to Johnson Art Museum 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Mar. 14 Ski Club
- Mar. 15 No Trumansburg Busing
- Mar. 29 – Apr. 5 **NO SCHOOL – Spring Recess**

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Our Spring Parent-Teacher Conference schedules have been sent by e-mail. Please call Whitney or Rebecca to confirm your scheduled time.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention.

Busing Note

All requests for transportation for the 2013 – 2014 school year are due to your school district's Transportation Department by **April 1, 2013**. It is necessary to submit a request each year. Forms are available in our office if you need one. If the district receives the request after April 1st they reserve the right to deny transportation.



Important News from Ryan!

As part of the **March 9th “Mary Poppins”-themed Family Fun Fest** (Sat, 2:00p.m. – 6:30p.m. at the Hangar Theatre), Concert Band members will be performing an overture at 2:45p.m., and again during the movie's intermission.

Please dress as your favorite “Mary Poppins” character.



And planning ahead... please note in your calendars:

2013 Spring Concert

Featuring: Beginning Band, Junior Band, Big Band,
Chamber Players, Concert Band, and Percussion Ensemble.
Thursday, May 2 7:00 p.m.
Hangar Theatre, Ithaca

...and – what's this?...

Ithaca Festival Parade is on a Wednesday? Yes! On May 29th our Marching Band (*any and all* students and parents), will be strutting down Cayuga St. with heart and soul. The theme of this year's Ithaca Festival is “From the Heart”!



Scott & Deb's Class Newsletter

The past six weeks have been busy and rich with learning. We had a wonderful assembly to mark Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This year, all three Junior Level classrooms collaborated in song and dance to celebrate Dr. King's life.

In History, we started studying all the different ways humans have kept track of time. From marks notched on bone to keep track of days gone by to our modern solar calendar, we studied the seasons, the lunar calendar and origins for the names of the months and days of the week. Did you know that Friday gets its name from the Scandinavian goddess Frig? For our next study of time, the children will be making their own personal timelines and this work will segue into our study of the timeline of the Earth.

Carolyn Chang-Martin (Quinn's Mom) gave the class a beautiful lesson on how to make Chinese dumplings. Carolyn and the children made dumplings for the whole class as part of our study of Asia. The children made dragon puppets and learned what their Chinese zodiac animal is for the Chinese New Year.

In Science, the children started using a microscope to view slides of bacteria assisted by Leslie Allee. This began our study of microscopic life that continued with the organisms from the kingdom *Protocista*. Cole's mom Kathy Hodge gave the class a great lesson on fungi with delicate and gnarly specimens that showed the range of fungi. We are growing our own oyster mushrooms thanks to Kathy who provided our class with the starter. Kathy writes a great blog on fungi and you can check it out at: <http://blog.mycology.cornell.edu/>.

If you are looking for something to do over the Winter Break, we have a few recommendations. Ithaca's best sledding can be found on Rice Hill, adjacent to Taughannock Park off of Route 89. Rice Hill is a long and steep hill, very fast and bumpy. Bring your sled or tube and helmet and you are bound to have a good time. Don't forget that Cass Park is open for skating all day that week. If you love to skate, try driving up to Ottawa, Ontario for their annual winter celebration, Winterlude. Ottawa has the longest outdoor skating rink in the world! It is 7.8 kilometers to be exact. They do a remarkable job grooming the ice and they have all sorts of activities going on all day. You can check out their website at www.canadacapital.gc.ca/ or Google Winterlude and get the full schedule of events.

If you are looking for something indoor and closer to home don't forget the Corning Museum of Glass and the MOST Science Center in Syracuse. These are two great places to go and spend a whole day having fun and learning things. We hope you have a great break!

Looking ahead to March, we have Parent/Teacher conferences and Demonstration Night coming up. Please take time to fill out the conference questionnaire. It helps us to make the most out of the thirty minutes we have together. Demonstration Night is always a favorite parent night of the year. It is so enjoyable to see the children give lessons and share with everyone the lessons that they love.

Scott and Deb

Music News from Linda

Extended Day

The children have been singing and dancing in their music classes, moving to tunes such as “Rock n Stop”. They’ve developed a repertoire of songs: “Bloop! Bloop Went the Little Green Frog”, “Hello and Howdy”, and “Trot Old Joe”. Using these songs, they perform different rhythm patterns on drums, woodblocks, finger cymbals, triangles, maracas, and claves. In class, we practiced locomotion: walking, skipping, hopping, galloping, and sliding, and non-locomotion: clapping, stamping, waving, pulling, and patting.

Junior Level

Junior Level children have also enjoyed movement activities. One of the activities is to design a sculpture for the museum. The first child forms an interesting shape, followed by the next child. Each person then adds on by attaching somewhere to the original shape. Students were challenged to incorporate as many movement elements as possible; shape (straight, curved, angular), levels (high, medium, low), and energy (tension, relaxation). The children were motivated and enjoyed being part of this activity. The sculpture was beautiful! In addition, we listened to a great story with music called “Carnival of the Animals” by Camille Saint-Saëns. This offered us a lovely opportunity to integrate storytelling with the playing of various instruments, as well as listening to the timbres within each family: string, woodwind, brass, and percussion families.

Upper Level

Our first year students are in the process of learning spirituals like “All Night, All Day”, “This Train”, and “Train Is a-Comin’”. In small groups, students created their own dances in one of the forms: AB or ABA. They were encouraged to make use of instrumentation and body movement in their dances.

The second year students continue to build an appreciation for the art of music. They learned a song originally from Canada called “Land of the Silver Birch” and “Canoe Song,” which is a traditional Native American folksong. The children were asked to create a 4 beat *ostinato* – a short, repeated phrase of notes, and perform rhythmic patterns on percussion instruments, while singing it as a round and as a partner song. A partner song means singing two or more songs at the same time to create harmony.

The third year students are now moving forward on the unit of African music and drumming. The children have sung, danced, and played the drum and bongo. The drum is played either by hand or by using sticks, and is an important instrument in African culture. Other African instruments include rattles, claves, shakers, and thumb pianos. We have been learning the songs “Funga Alafia,” which is a welcome song from West Africa and “Sansa Kroma” from Ghana. In addition, the third year students danced to the “Pata Pata” traditional dance from South Africa. Many of them enjoyed and moved rhythmically to the beat of the song, which made “Pata Pata” even more fun and memorable for all of us.

UPPER LEVEL DEMONSTRATION NIGHT

On **Tuesday, February 26th** from **6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** and **7:30 – 8:30 p.m.** you are invited to explore the Montessori Upper Elementary environment.

Demonstration Night is a time for Upper Level students to demonstrate work from their curriculum that they have mastered. We welcome parents of these students as well as Junior Level parents to come and see our students shine! **Please do not bring Primary, Extended Day, or Junior Level children**, as they will already have had these works presented to them in a practice session during the school day and classroom space will be at a premium.

We have split the evening into two shifts, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Students have been assigned to one of these times trying to balance the lessons presented so families can experience the widest variety of lessons. Upper Level students and their families should remain for their assigned time only. **We ask that children arrive 10 minutes early for their session, nicely dressed and well fed.**

*Be sure to stop by our Book Fair in the Main Building, Melani and Becky's Classroom, from 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. You can pick up some new books and help support our school library!

JUNIOR LEVEL DEMONSTRATION NIGHT

On **Wednesday, February 27th from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.** parents of **Junior Level** students and any other interested parents are invited to explore the curriculum of the Montessori Junior Elementary environment.

Demonstration Night is a time for elementary students to demonstrate work from all areas of their curriculum. We welcome the parents of these students as well as any interested parents, to come and see our students shine! **We ask that children arrive 10 minutes early for their session, nicely dressed and well fed.**

Please do not bring Primary & Extended Day children, as they will have these lessons presented to them in a practice session during the school day and classroom space is at a premium!

*Be sure to stop by our Book Fair in the mini-gym from 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. You can pick up some new books and help support our school library!

