

Mrs. DeMato's Classroom Notes  
October 2019

10/6/19

Dear Families,

Our little community continues to come together as children are beginning to help each other, help the class, and help the environment. Children at this age naturally strive for independence. No doubt you have heard your own child say "I can do it myself!" There are times that assistance may be needed to complete a task. Rather than the adult rushing to help, children seek out the help of other children. Sometimes other children just jump in to help without being asked. The children are constructing their own community and taking care of their village. Below you can check out a series of ways children can help each other.

In the afternoons we focused on the local community--we talked about our homes, local landmarks, the plants and animals we can find around us, and the importance of keeping the spaces we use beautiful--culminating in a school beautification afternoon cleaning up the woods! We finished Charlotte's web, and started reading a few Emily Dickinson poems. We also practiced a new greeting/introduction song in Spanish.

**New Books We Read:**

Apples and Pumpkins by Anne Rockwell

**New Song:** "Five Fat Sausages" - a fun finger play song where we count backwards by twos!

*start with all ten fingers up and sing...*

Ten fat sausages sizzling in a pan.

Ten fat sausages sizzling in a pan.

And one went pop (*put one finger down*)

And then other went bang (*put another finger down*)

Now there's eight fat sausages sizzling in a pan

*Continue until you reach no fat sausages*

**Snack:** yogurt, strawberries, blackberries, cheese, apples, carrots, green peppers, cream cheese, eggs, and apple sauce. Thank you to the **Hall Family** for bringing in snack, flowers and Clorox wipes this upcoming week.

Sincerely,  
Meg



Milo helping Jaci tie her sparkly laces.



Declan and Lily wiping up a river of water that ran across the classroom from a friend's table washing work.



Max helping Solomon stack the Geography Folder picture cards for South America, so that he can fit them back into the folder.



Asher and Milo holding Scarlett's hand in the parking lot as she is feeling a little worried during a fire drill. (Did I mention that we have a fire drill every week in the beginning of school?)



Trey looking for rubbish to pick up during the community clean up in our woods.

10/13/19

Dear Families,

With temperatures finally dropping, we are starting to feel Fall all around us! We started to learn about how pumpkins grow, as well as all of the parts of the pumpkin. Similar to the life cycle of an apple, pumpkins start as seeds, and even have a pumpkin flower! It will be fun at the end of the month when we dissect our class pumpkin to see, smell, and feel all of its parts.

In the next few weeks, you are welcome to come in and observe in the classroom. Seeing your child in action is a great way to learn more about what's going on in his/her day, and will give you a chance to see the Montessori environment in action. If you would like to come visit, please call the front office to schedule an appointment for the morning.

We have lots of fun opportunities coming up at the end of the month as well. On Friday, October 25th, a grandparent or special friend such as a neighbor or relative, may come to class with your child to visit from 10-11:30. This day also happens to be our Fall Festival. You and your child may join the festivities to win prizes, enjoy lunch, and play with friends starting at 11:30 that day. The Fall Festival is a fundraiser run by our older students to help them with their spring trip to Chicago for Montessori Model UN.

This week, Lily's mom came in to bake with the children. Thank you, Michelle. We also celebrated **Aiden Martin's** fifth birthday. Happy Birthday, Aiden!

**New Books We Read:**

Pumpkin Pumpkin by Jeanne Titherington

**New Song:** Skinamarinky Dinky Dink

**Snack:** apples, pretzels, grapes, Triscuits, cheese, bagels with cream cheese, strawberries, goldfish, yogurt and bananas. Thank you to the **Hoopess Family** for bringing in snacks, flowers, and wipes for this upcoming week.

Sincerely,  
Meg, Katie and Tanya



Trey learning about polygons in the Geometric Cabinet



Jesse working with the Solid Cylinder Blocks



Milo and Asher counting to 1,000!



Capone exploring the parts of the pumpkin



Declan practicing writing his letters in cursive



Dane organizing numbers 1-100

10/20/19

Dear Families,

We have lots of events coming up over the next few weeks! If you have any questions about any of these days, please let me know.

**Thursday, October 24th** - The second in our series of Primary Parent-Education Talks - We will cover the topic of the Sensorial Area in the Primary classroom. This includes work such as the Pink Tower and Brown Stairs, as well as Geometry and Geography. Come learn about this unique set of materials found in the Montessori environment. The talk will begin at 3:15 and end by 4:15. Your child may join Laurel Club that afternoon with an RSVP.

**Friday, October 25th** - Grandparents and Special Friends' Day - A grandparent or special friend may join your child in the classroom that morning to see their exciting work. If your child does not have a special friend for the day, we will be their special friends! ❤️

**Friday, October 25th** - Fall Fest Jr. High Fundraiser - Parents, Grandparents and Special Friends are invited to accompany their little ones to play games, win prizes, and enjoy fun food from 11:30 - 2:00.

**Monday, November 11th** - Parent Teacher Conferences - School is closed this Monday so that teachers may meet with parents regarding their child's progress. Please click the link here to sign up for a time slot. If none of these times work, please let me know so that we can find another time to meet.

[Parent-Teacher Conferences Sign Up](#) Your child can join Laurel Club on November 11th or any of the other days that you sign up for conferences.

#### **New Books We Read:**

[How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin](#) by Margaret McNamara

[It's Fall](#) by Linda Glaser

#### **New Songs:**

"Days of the Week"

"The Continents Song"

**Snack:** graham crackers, bananas, tomatoes, peppers, goldfish, strawberries, Triscuits, cheddar cheese, apples, crackers, yogurt, pretzels.

Sincerely,

Meg, Tanya, and Katie



Maggie, Scarlett, and Lily working "together" on the puzzle maps.



Max and Maggie exploring new patterns with the Pink Tower and Brown Stair



Trey making a book of leaf shapes

10/27/19

Dear Families,

We had a beautiful week filled with baking, visitors, parent-education and the Fall Festival. Thank you to all the special visitors who came to visit our classroom. I hope you enjoyed your time with the little ones. Thank you also to all the families who came out for Fall Festival and our Parent-Education talk on the Sensorial Area. A special thank you to Erin Kelley who came to bake yummy banana bread in fun Halloween shapes with the kiddos this week.

With Halloween just around the corner, many children are getting excited to celebrate! We do not wear costumes that day or pass out candy at school. We will try to keep the day as calm as possible so that your children can enjoy a fun evening with you and your family in your neighborhood. If you are new to Front Royal, many families venture out to the Hometown Halloween for trick-or-treating on Main Street. The roads are closed off so that children can safely navigate the event with their parents. [Hometown Halloween](#)

[Parent-Teacher Conference Sign Up](#)

[Baking Sign Up](#)

### **New Books We Read:**

Bats at the Beach by Brian Lies

Fancy Nancy and the Fall Foliage by Jane O'Connor

(\*Note - I love reading Fancy Nancy books with the children because the author uses big words within the text, and immediately explains them to the reader!)

**New Poem:** "Five Little Pumpkins"

**Snack:** bagels with cream cheese, dates, bananas, apples, carrots, Triscuits, cheddar cheese, Wheat Thins, peppers with ranch, Goldfish, and raisins. Thank you to the **Jackson Family** for bringing in snack, flowers and wipes for this upcoming week.

Sincerely,

Meg



The older students enjoying a quick snack while on our hike



Some younger students raking up the leaves on our playground



Aiden using his leaf identification booklet



Dane showing his grandma a number chain



Trey showing his grandma the puzzle map of the United States



Owen and his mom playing the bean bag toss at the Fall Festival