

Mrs. Irre's Classroom Notes
November 2019

11/2/19

Dear Parents,

November is upon us! Halloween is finished and we move on to beautiful fall days and colder temperatures. We have had some fun with the season learning the parts of the pumpkin and the life-cycle of the pumpkin. Materials included books, puzzles, and a song to the tune of Muffin Man. Next, in preparation of Thanksgiving, we have a series of pictures describing how a pumpkin can become a pie! It is great for children to sequence such activities - it is a fabulous reading skill.

Many parents are not aware that reading instruction in the Montessori setting begins right away - no matter a student's age. Come learn more about the pre-reading and reading activities with me on the 21st of this month when Coffee, Cake and Curriculum features the Language materials in your child's primary classroom. You will be awed and inspired when you see the fascinating materials Maria Montessori developed for children to learn to read and write.

It is also never too soon to learn more about Mountain Laurel's elementary class, especially if your child is in kindergarten. Mrs. Nixon is featuring language in the elementary classroom next week. Details to follow.

Parent teacher conferences are on November 11. Since many parents are off on this day to honor Veterans Day, we set it aside as a great time to meet with you. If you haven't already done so, please sign up for a parent teacher conference with me. I remember as a parent how fun it was to have time to talk to the teacher specific only to my own child. It is a great time for us to get to know each other better and for you to learn more about what your child's days are like in the classroom. Remember, I urge you to come and observe, too. I promise if you make time to do so, you will have fun seeing the students in action. Simply schedule with Ms. Burling in the front office if you are able to observe. The link for signing up for parent teacher conference is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4eacab29a5ff2-mrs1>

Currently we are spending some practical time learning about putting on and taking off a coat, how to get one's sleeves turned right side out, and how to put a coat on a hanger and fasten it so it will stay hung up. Just like putting on shoes was a focus at the beginning of the school year, coats are the new challenge for the little ones. The older students in the class are often the helpers for the younger and become expert zippers! It is heartwarming to see the interactions between children from the helper to the helpee. I will once again put in the plea for your child's belongings to have a name on them. It not only protects your belongings, but it makes transitions much more safe and pleasant when there are so many articles of clothing plus water bottles to keep up with.

Keeping with the theme of this letter I have included pictures of a few of the stories from the kindergarten students writing about Halloween. If your kindergartener is not pictured it simply means they cleaned up their movable alphabet prior to me snapping a picture. Rest assured all kindergarteners wrote about the Halloween topic using the movable alphabet and also illustrated their writing. This was done in preparation for this week's upcoming events when the kindergarteners will all develop a Christmas, Hanukka, or winter story to submit to the Samuel's Public Library as part of their annual writing contest. Mountain Laurel enters stories from each grade level each year in this competition. It is

quite an honor to win since there are entries from public, private and homeschooled students throughout Warren County. I am proud to say Mountain Laurel has had many winners for lovely stories and amazing art work throughout the years. I look forward to this tradition and know children gain so much from the experience no matter the outcome.

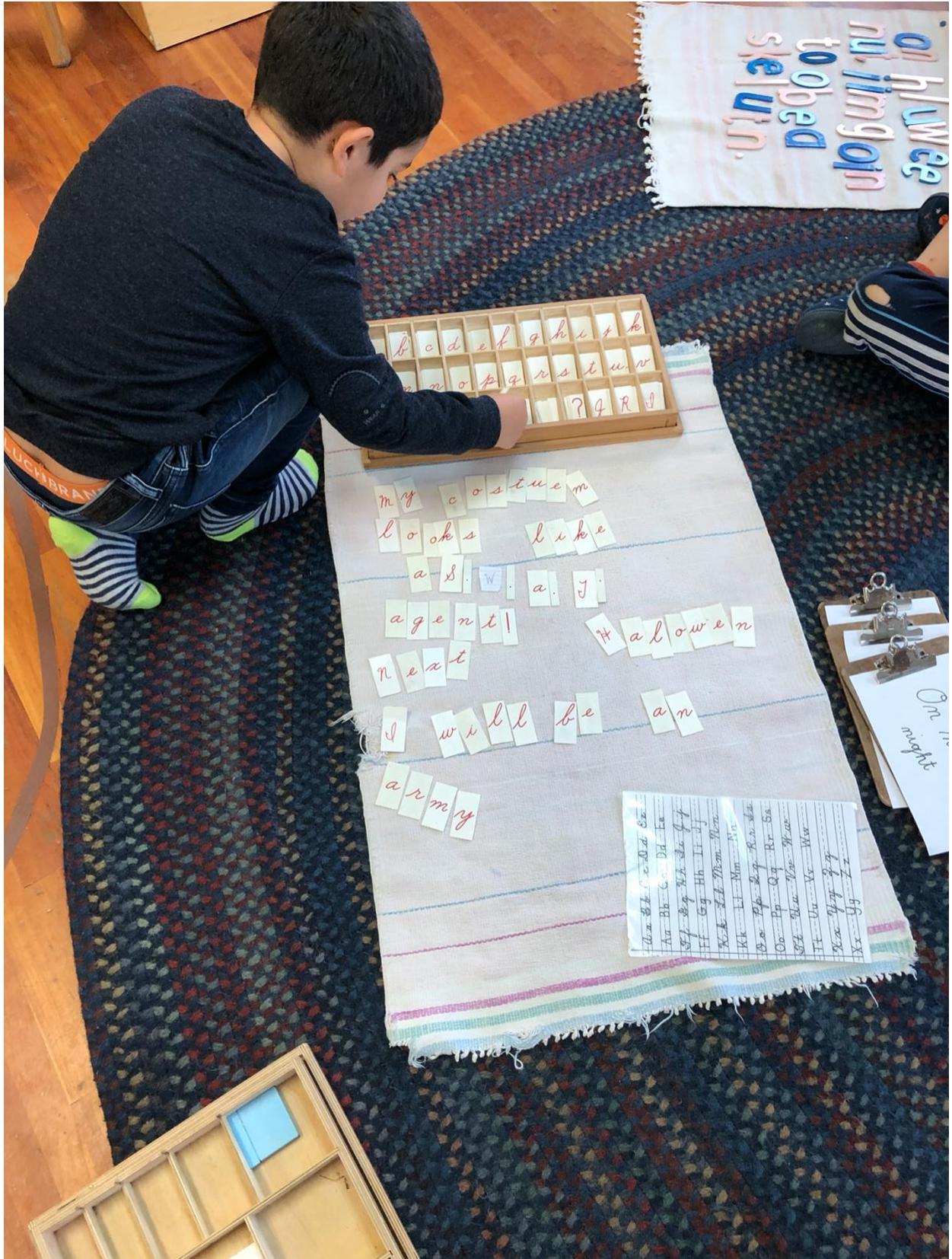
Have a wonderful weekend,
Carrie

The Elementary Great Stories
Thursday, November 7, 2019
3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Join us next Thursday, November 7th at 3:30 as Mona Nixon shares Dr. Montessori's gifts for our children through the Great Stories and Dr. Montessori's approach to Language in the classroom.

Free After Care is available for MLMS students during this workshop with an RSVP; and time spent at the workshop will count toward your volunteer service requirements! Please RSVP to Anna Burling at aburling@mlm-school.org. We hope to see you there!



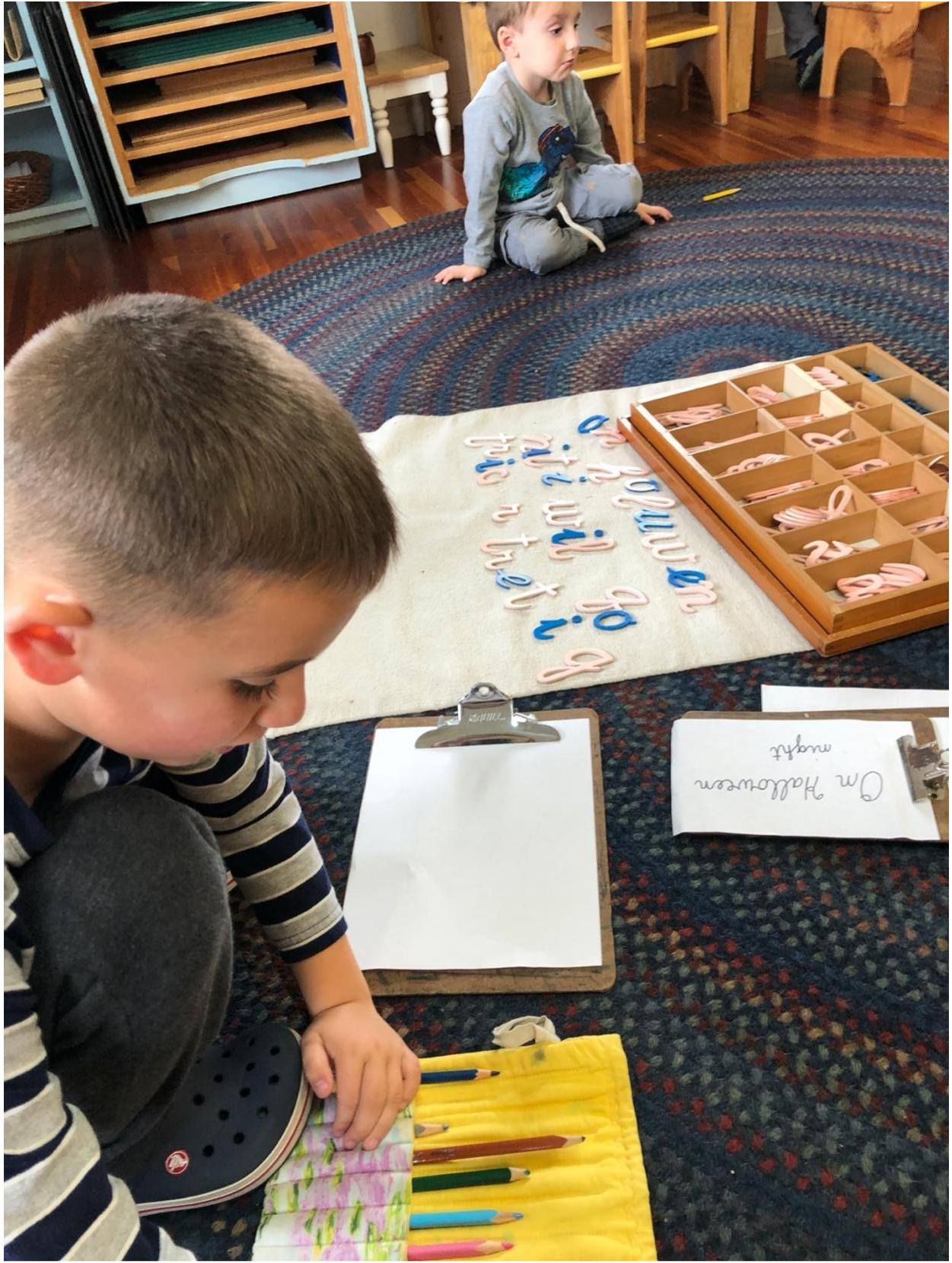


Handwriting tray containing cursive letters: k, b, o, d, e, f, g, h, i, s, t, k, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, ? 4 R J

my costume
looks like
a s. v. a. J.
agent! Halloween
next
I will be an
army

Handwriting practice sheet with cursive letters and numbers:
Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee
Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj
Kk Ll Mm Nn
Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss
Tt Uu Vv Ww
Xx Yy Zz

Clipboard with a piece of paper that says "On the night"







11/17/19

Dear Parents,

It was a pleasure meeting with so many of you on Parent Teacher conference day. As you know, your children all hold a special place in my heart. I believe it is my good fortune to have been a small part of so many children's lives over the years. If you have been unable to meet with me yet, please contact me and we will schedule a time to do so.

The hustle and bustle of the season is upon us! We have three school events coming up and hope you can join us:

Thursday, November 21st is the third in our Primary series of **Coffee, Cake and Curriculum**, focusing on the Language Area. The meeting is at 3:15 in our classroom. Laurel Club is available with an RSVP to aburling@mlm-school.org. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about important aspects of the language curriculum. Remember, each of your children, no matter the age, is involved in this curriculum - it spans oral language through writing and reading. Please come.

Tuesday, November 26th is the **Science Fair**. Elementary and Junior High students will exhibit their science experiments for parents and visitors to view. It's a great chance to check out the Montessori world beyond the Primary level. All families are welcome to attend!

Friday, December 13 is the Holidays Around the World celebration! If you are interested in volunteering for this celebration in the Primary classrooms, please contact Odalys Martin at omartin@mlm-school.org. It is an incredibly fun day for the kiddos!! And me... I look forward to it each year.

This upcoming week in class we will highlight the turkey, the meaning (and history for the older students) of Thanksgiving, and some fun-themed, traditional holiday songs such as Over the River and Through the Woods.

Carrie