

Mrs. Irre's Classroom Notes
January 2020

January 12, 2020

Dear Families,

I had planned to start my parent email with a poem we have been learning:

"First Snow" by Mary Louise Allen
Snow makes whiteness where it falls
The bushes look like popcorn balls
And places where I like to play
Look like somewhere else today!

Then the weather turned so warm! It was a lovely weekend following back-to-school week. We have come back together after the winter break and are fortunate to welcome three new students: Conor and Carrigan Peterson have returned to Mountain Laurel after living away for a short time. It is FANTASTIC to have them back at MLMS. We also welcome Aya McBee, a rising toddler. You would be so proud of the children as they welcome new friends and also say goodbye to Connor Gordon who moved away during the break.

Each of your children have picked up right where they left off on the continuum of Montessori lessons. The class as a whole is learning about the five senses and singing together each and every day. We have been singing and performing hand movements to Ram Sam Sam. The children laugh with glee each time we sing and then delete certain parts. During afternoons we have begun learning about the USA's independence from Great Britain and the first flag. We have many civics lessons to follow during our afternoon group time. We are also beginning some science lessons regarding matter: solids, liquids and gases. The children are loving it!

We have added dates to our Primary baking schedule through to the end of the year if anyone would like to come bake with the children: [Primary Baking SignUp](#)

This week, don't miss out on the final installment of Coffee, Cake and Curriculum on **Thursday, January 16th**. We will dive into the Math Curriculum in the Primary classroom. I encourage you to come and hear about the math curriculum. I guarantee you will learn a lot and be astonished at what your child is exposed to during the three-year primary Montessori cycle!

The following week, there are two orientations that might be of interest to you. The first is for Rising Kindergarten students. That takes place on **Tuesday, January 21st**. This is open to all families, but is specifically geared toward parents with children who will be in Kindergarten next year. The second orientation on **Wednesday, January 22nd** is for families who would like to learn more about the Elementary program at Mountain Laurel. Laurel Club is available for all three of these events (which begin right after school at 3:00ish) Please RSVP to Anna Burling at aburling@mlm-school.org.

Finally, please mark your calendar for our annual Art Gallery Opening on **February 14th** Every student from Mountain Laurel will have a piece of artwork on display in a local art gallery on Main Street, right alongside professional artists. This is our sixth year for this fun event! The evening features not only artwork, but also food, drinks, music and fun with friends! In the past the event has been for adults only. This year we are opening it up to the children as well. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. You can purchase your child's work, as well as bid in the silent and live auctions. If you would like to help with the event that night, or with the preparations leading up to the Art Gallery Opening, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Carrie

January 25, 2020

Thank you to all of the families who attended our Rising Kindergarten meeting this past week. Building on all that Carrie presented, here is a brief video regarding the importance of the Kindergarten year for children in the three-year cycle [Kindergarten Video](#) if you would like to hear more information.

On **Monday afternoon (January 27)**, we will host a meeting for Rising Primary students. This meeting will be for new students, but all families are welcome to attend, especially if you would like to hear more about what goes on in our Primary community. If you know any families who are interested in attending MLMS, they are welcome too! **Wednesday afternoon (January 29)** will be our Rising Elementary orientation. This meeting is mostly for current Kindergarten parents, but again, all are invited to join the information session.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our upcoming **Art Gallery Opening on February 14th!** The children are excited for their masterpieces to be on display. Also on February 14th, we will celebrate Valentine's Day in our classroom. This is how we celebrate in our classroom: Each family please send in **29 valentines** from your child to their friends. (We have special plans this Valentine's Day to send valentines to Germany, Hungary and China to classmates living overseas, and to our friend Connor who just moved to a new town! Sh, it's a surprise!) The children's cards can be store-bought or homemade. A simple paper with stickers or a cut out heart are lovely. Your child may have their own ideas too! Please have your child sign their name (or help them!) but DO NOT address the valentine. The children will have the chance to open their valentines with you at home, and share stories about their special day! A fun tip: if you have the supplies ahead of time, making Valentines is a great snow day activity for children if school is cancelled.

We will welcome Augustin Flores to our class soon. He is moving up from the Toddler Community. Please be sure to welcome the Flores family back to our classroom!

Have you heard we are Mad About the Solar System? I would like to thank Amy Singleton and Matt Branco for sharing their artistic expertise and some material donations with us to create the most amazing Solar System mosaic for the art auction. The children have been busy designing the project on paper and setting the tiles for each of the planets in order from the sun. Let's also give big thanks to Ms. Irwin who has spent many hours this past week designing Galaxy tiles with the children using an alcohol ink technique. I love seeing little artists at work! The upcoming art auction is one of my favorite extracurricular activities of the year and this year children are invited! That will make it even more special for me to see the little ones admiring their collective works. I hope you can attend.

Have a great weekend!
Carrie