

**Newsletter**  
**November/December 2006**

*Greetings!* We continue to learn how to work and play together in a peaceful and caring environment. To help our environment be peaceful in the preschool and kindergarten classes, Montessori students are taught “One Tap and Wait Your Turn” when they want the attention of a teacher. This involves the student quietly giving the teacher one tap and then waiting for the teacher to attend to the student. We also work on one person speaking at a time. The ability to wait patiently for one’s turn and to be respectful when others are speaking are valuable skills that will serve a child well throughout his or her life. Please support these behaviors in your child’s activities outside the school.

**Highlights of activities and topics of study:**

**Jr. High**

Students have been learning about time zones, the International Date Line, and latitude and longitude. In conjunction, each student selected a country from another time zone and is creating a power point presentation on that country. Some of the countries being covered are: Egypt, China, Iraq, France, Mexico, Australia, and more! These presentations will be given to upper and lower elementary students, and to parents and siblings at our shared meal at noon on December 15: a pot-luck of traditional foods from the countries studied. Students also drew on chemistry and mineralogy to make their own crystals.

**Upper Elementary**

The science table is filled with igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks. The children handled, classified, categorized, and weighed them. They all now know their basic rocks, so it’s on to rock forming minerals and gems.

**Lower Elementary**

In addition to our constant fact and operation practice in math, we are working through story problems. Remember to involve your child while figuring related equations when at home or at the store. Also, when you are Christmas shopping, search for rectangular prisms and quatrefoils, as we now know our geometric shapes and solids.

**Upper and Lower Elementary**

A Construction Zone has been newly erected in the play yard. Mr. Wayne (the Elementary After Hours teacher) will be building with children during after hours. The

children need scrap wood for their projects. Specifically, children need 6 ft. 2x4s and plywood (not pressed wood as it doesn't weather well). If you have scrap wood to donate please contact Mr. Wayne during after hours in the Elementary building or contact Diane Spehar at [d.spehar@mchsi.com](mailto:d.spehar@mchsi.com).

## **Kindergarten**

The children enjoyed learning about Native American history and enjoyed a field trip to the Schingoethe Center, a Native American Museum at Aurora University. The children are busy word-building and reading chapter books. It's such an exciting time when they begin to read. A whole new world is opened to the child! *Thank you* to the Reading Moms, Dads, and Grandmas who volunteered their time to listen to the children read. The children look forward to reading to the volunteers. Please send a picture of the front of each child's home.

## **Preschool & Kindergarten**

The children studied Kwanzaa, Hannukah and the Christmas holidays through stories, role plays, songs, games, arts and crafts, and language such as Swahilli, the main African language.

Community Service Projects: a Food Drive and Warm Things. In December please bring in "warm things" including scarves, hats, & gloves. Thanks to everyone supporting our Food Drive that began in November. We are still accepting food items to share with those less fortunate.

## **Donations Needed for Preschool/Kindergarten**

- Objects for polishing such as brass, silver, or wood (tarnished, dull decorative pieces perhaps found at garage sale); and polish for brass, silver, wood and shoes.

## **Shop for Gifts and Earn Cash/Credit for our School**

- We encourage families to do holiday shopping at *For Small Hands* ([www.forsmallhands.com](http://www.forsmallhands.com)) by Montessori Services as the school gets a 10% of all sales >\$25 credit for classroom materials. Send questions to Susan Vonderheid at [vonde@uic.edu](mailto:vonde@uic.edu) or 630-906-0569.
- Visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) to shop online and the school will earn up to 8% of the purchase.
- Place Montessori TRIP orders and earn credit for you and the school.

## **Obtain your Username and Password for Secure Information on Montessori Website**

In our continuing effort to make the website a more valuable resource for all of us, we've created a secure section where we can share information to that we may not want the general public to have access. To obtain your user name and password, please email Ms. Stacie at [info@montessoribatavia.com](mailto:info@montessoribatavia.com).

## **Parent Organization Activities Update**

- The next Meet and Greet is Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. Please join us for food and fun! We will decorate cookies!

- Where: The Plamondon's (630-443-1031) house, 6N540 Palomino Dr., St. Charles, IL 60175. Take Randall Rd to North Ave, West on North Ave to Burlington, Right on Burlington, Right on Palomino. What to Bring: Bring a salad to share and your own beverages. We will have soups and sandwiches.
- We express a huge THANK YOU/MERCI to the following families:
  - Lisa and Jim Staehli for making the Family Field Trip to the Adler Planetarium a stellar event!
  - Vera Lind and Aaron Fogelman for hosting the delicious November Meet & Greet.
  - Hillary Johnston for helping update the school website.
- Join us for the next Family Field Trip to the Wilmot Mountain Ski and Snowboard Area, WI. (only ~ 1 hour travel time) on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.! See flyer in mailbox/e-mail. Contact Ronni Verboom via e-mail [rverboom@bakermemorialchurch.org](mailto:rverboom@bakermemorialchurch.org) or phone 630-584-0441 for questions.
- Want to be or help a Room Mom/Dad, then please contact Andrea Plamondon at 630-443-1031.
- The Parent Organization meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in Miss Stacie's office. Please join us in working toward creating a stronger community for the children. If you would like to participate but are unable to attend the meetings please contact Andrea Plamondon at 630-443-1031.
- Check the calendar on the website ([www.MontessoriBatavia.com](http://www.MontessoriBatavia.com)) and bulletin boards for more information about ongoing and future events and activities. Send ideas or comments about the website to [hillary.johnston@comcast.net](mailto:hillary.johnston@comcast.net).

### **Recommended Reading to Learn More about Montessori in the Home and School**

"Tomorrow's Child" by the Montessori Foundation (<http://www.montessori.org>) is a magazine for Montessori parent and educators. Available at \$25 for year subscription. Download a sample copy at the following site [http://www.montessori.org/sitefiles/sample\\_tc\\_bts\\_00.pdf](http://www.montessori.org/sitefiles/sample_tc_bts_00.pdf)

The primary purpose of this newsletter is to inform families about the activities in the Montessori environment so that we can work together for the education of the children. If you have topics that you want to see in this newsletter please contact Susan Vonderheid Radeztsky at [vonde@uic.edu](mailto:vonde@uic.edu) or 630-906-0569.