

# Miniapple Int'l Montessori Newsletter

## March 2010

### Directors' Corner

Spring is just around the corner! We are anxious for nicer weather to enjoy the outdoors and are waiting for the first signs of spring. We know many of you may be planning Spring Break vacations, and we ask that you let us know when your child will be gone, to help us schedule our staff. Just a reminder: please return your applications and registration fees for the summer. Summer registration forms and applications are on the sign-in table. Please return NO LATER THAN 3/15. Fall registrations are due as well. If returned by 3/31, you will receive ½ off (\$25) your registration fee. We also will have a School Age Program for 6-10 year olds. If you haven't already received a registration form for the School Age Program, let us know.

#### Dates to Remember:

**March 17<sup>th</sup>: St. Patrick's Day: Wear green!**  
**March 26<sup>th</sup>: Field Trip to Children's Museum**  
**April 2<sup>nd</sup>: MIM closed**

Just a reminder, when the school day is over, the Children's Houses are "closed". This means you may still come in the room to get your child's belongings, but we ask that you refrain from touching the Montessori materials. Many of them have small pieces that are easily lost and the materials take a lot of maintenance and organization. We appreciate it.

Najat will resume teaching both classes of French and Peter will teach music on Monday mornings. Peter is a talented musician and is very knowledgeable of music theory, history and fundamentals, and we're excited to learn from him. A letter explaining his class was placed in your child's cubby. Welcome Peter! Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.  
Lee

Dear Miniapple Families,

It is with heartfelt appreciation that a big thank you is due to all those who contributed towards "Help for Haiti".

I am so pleased to say that the total collection was \$2667.92 with Miniapple matching this amount, bringing the grand total to \$5335.84. This is a tax deductible donation to Worldwide Village, Inc., [www.worldwidevillage.org](http://www.worldwidevillage.org), tax ID 412014011.

We have requested that the money be used for rebuilding schools, orphanages, medical and other needs for children. I was especially struck by the creative ways our staff, children and parents used to collect money for this worthwhile cause.

We are proud to be a part of teaching children how to grow up to be responsible and empathetic members of society who will learn at a young age to give back to others in need. "It's a small world after all"! Again, all I can say is THANK YOU DEARLY.

With Deep Appreciation,  
Udi Perera  
Administrator

### MARCH CLASSROOM NEWS



#### Toddlers

*Hello Toddler parents! Thank you so much for sharing Valentine treats and making our Valentine week very successful by donating food items. Our March calendar is full of fun activities. We are going to talk about senses, opposites, animal homes and of course we will do fun activities for St. Patrick's Day and Easter. Our new friends are doing a great job. We are working on using a work mat and taking out and putting away work when we are done. Please welcome Manuel Wahyu and his family to our room. Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday to Zoe (5<sup>th</sup>), Larissa (10<sup>th</sup>) and Audrey (14<sup>th</sup>). For a short time, we will have 15 toddlers in our room until toddlers transition in April. Because of this, we will have an extra teacher (Krista) helping us out three days a week. If you have any concerns or questions, please let us know.*

*Reshma and Crystal*

## 2010

### Children's House One

Hello families! I know that everyone is in a hurry at the end of the day. I just wanted to remind everybody to read the bulletin board to keep up to date on the current activities. As usual, we will change art and practical life materials according to the seasons. For March we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Please feel free to either call or text me with any questions or concerns. My cell phone number is (612) 703-3858.

Thank you, Wangmo and Najat

### Children's House Two

*In From Childhood to Adolescence,*

Dr. Maria Montessori says, "From birth to twelve years, nature should constitute the child's primary interest." In Children's House Two, we plan to explore Zoology and Botany first hand with the potted plants in our room, the seedlings we will start, nature walks, bird watching out of our book corner window, and books about life cycles. You are welcome to bring a small non-toxic plant for your child to care for in their classroom. Thank you for keeping us informed of schedule changes and/or vacations by leaving notes on the clipboard outside of our room.

Renee and Lara

### Children's House Three

Yeah it is March! That means spring is close, right? Since we are in Minnesota, that is up in the air. I do know that we will start going outside more as the temperatures begin to rise. So, having all the winter gear and some extra pants and socks are a good idea as we will certainly get wetter as the snow melts.

We will finish our learning on recycling

and composting this month. We will keep track of how much waste we can recycle and reuse and at the end of the month we see just what an impact we can make. Happy Birthday this month to Winston, Maya, Ethan and Andrew.

Andrew and Ellyn

### Children's House Four

Have you ever had anyone ask you "What is Montessori?" and find yourself fumbling to encapsulate what a Montessori education means? Your child is engaged in many daily life lessons that build academic as well as emotional and social skills, making it difficult to create a concise response to such question. The following is one brief description of what Montessori means in 25 words or less:

Montessori education holistically works with children in an environment, which is prepared with developmentally appropriate, purposeful and constructive work.

-Erica and Jamila

### Montessori Services

Thank you to all our families who purchased Montessori materials through Montessori Services and "For Small Hands". MIM received a credit of \$113.77, which was 10% of items purchased! The money was divided equally between classrooms and each room received about \$25 worth of new materials! Thank you so much to the following families: Tuite, Hinckfuss, Monsen, Thiede, Pearson-Cater, Hartreeve, Townsend, Godecker, Goodrich/Fuller, Evans, Lamparty, Obrien, Peterson and Gonzales.

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### French

*Bonjour à toute les familles. To learn about the days of the week and the months of the year, we sing these two songs: "Il y a sept jours dans la semaine" (There are Seven Days in a Week) and "Il y a douze mois dans l'année" (There are Twelve months in a Year). The children love to learn while singing, so I use this technique to have fun and learn at the same time. Ce mois de Mars (in this month of March), we will go forward in our counting by trying to reach 100 (cent). The alphabet for this month will be U, V, W, X, the show and tell will be on Thursdays. Thank you for all the parents who are involved in making it so special. For storytime, we will read about spring, gardening, and for our song, we will practice "Savez-vous plantez les choux" (Do you know how to plant a cabbage?)*

*Merci et joyeux printemps. Najat*

### Music with Peter

One class down! In my introduction to music, so far I've focused on timbre, which is a way to figure out how sounds are classified and differentiated. I brought household items and had the children bang on these objects to make a song using things they never thought could be instruments. Everything in the world makes a sound, and music is sound. Does that mean that every sound in the Universe is, in fact, music? In March we will continue to explore this question using visual means to describe music. We will paint to music, and turn famous paintings into music. We will also have our first foray into genre exploration: a rock n' roll overview. We will touch on tempo and rhythm in the music fundamentals department.

Shortly after this we will start to work on our material for the Program in May. Any questions or thoughts, please let me know.

Peter

### ZOO MOBILE

WE REALLY ENJOYED THE 5 ANIMALS CHRIS FROM THE MN ZOO BROUGHT FOR THE ZOO MOBILE. WE SAW A BLACK CHINCHILLA FROM CHILE NAMED CHIMNY WHO TOOK A BATH IN DUST, AN AFRICAN FENNEC FOX NAMED FOXY, A CHILEAN ROSE TARANTULA NAMED ROSIE, A BOX TURTLE NAMED POKEY JOE AND A TALKATIVE AFRICAN GREY PARROT NAMED EINSTEIN. THE CHILDREN SEEMED TO REALLY ENJOY ALL THE ANIMALS AND EVEN GOT TO PET THE CHINCHILLA.



"Foxy", a Fennec Fox from the Sahara Desert

### Employee of the Month

Congrats to Ellyn our March employee of the Month! Thank you for a job well done! Other nominees were: Ela, Erica, Wangmo, Najat, Peter, and Lara. Thank you to all who voted! If your candidate did not win, make sure to vote again next time.

## 2010



Thank you so much to Artie Thompson for her wonderful dancing and the fun she brought to MIM! She had the boys wear "tribal armbands and headbands and the girls wore grass skirts. Artie showed the children some dances and helped them learn the steps. She let the children play an African drum and then the children danced different animal moves to music. The children enjoyed her so much, we hope to have her back again!

