

# Miniapple I nt'l Montessori N ewsletter

October 2011

## Director's Notes

We hope all our new families are doing well and our returning ones are enjoying being back. If there is anything you need, or questions you have, please let me know. As the leaves fall from the trees, the days grow shorter, and the air becomes colder, it is time to be thinking about warmer clothes. Please remember to dress your child for outdoor play. We will continue to meet outside beginning at 8am until it gets too cold, so please have your child dressed for cooler weather. Also, switch the clothes in your child's extra clothes box to long sleeves and pants. (Don't forget the socks!) Remember, all things brought to school should be labeled with first and last names. If you are missing jackets/hats, etc., they could be outside on the playground or in the activity room. If they are labeled, we'll return them to your child's cubby. We will be closed Thursday & Friday October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> for Education Minnesota. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Child care will be provided during conference times. Please make alternative arrangements if you can't attend on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Parent/teacher communication is important to your child's success. Each classroom has times available posted outside on the bulletin board. We look forward to seeing you!

We will be having classroom potlucks so each classroom can get to know each other and share good food. There will be a sign up sheet

posted outside of each classroom. We hope you can join us! Halloween is almost here! Watch for notes about your child's classroom plans. The whole school is invited to dress in costume on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. The preschoolers and kindergartners will have a parade through Dinkytown to show off their costumes! The toddlers will parade through each Children's House and show off their costumes. If you decide to bring treats, we encourage pencils, stickers, etc. Please remember, **Miniapple is a peanut free facility.** For lunch on Halloween day, we will have a pizza party. Each child can bring \$3 and we'll order pizza and provide fruit and milk. There will be more information to follow.

Please let us know if there is anything you need!  
Lee & Danielle

## Dates to Remember

- 10/6- Read for the Record
- 10/18- Tuesday-CH4 potluck
- 10/19-Wednesday-CH1 potluck
- 10/20--Conferences-MIM CLOSED
- 10/21--MIM CLOSED--Staff training (CPR and First Aid)
- 10/24- PICTURE DAY!
- 10/24-Monday-CH3 potluck
- 10/25-Wednesday-CH2 potluck
- 10/27- Thursday-Toddler potluck
- 10/31-Monday-Halloween Parade & Pizza Party

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## ***CLASSROOM NEWS***

### Toddler Room

Hello Toddler Parents!

Fall is here now and winter is around the corner. Please check your child's extra clothes box for appropriate clothes and please label jackets, hats and mittens. Our October calendar is full of fun activities. We will learn about shapes, fall leaves and colors and Halloween. We don't have school on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>. Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is parent-teacher conferences and a signup sheet is posted by the bulletin board. Picture day is Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>. If you don't come on Mondays, please come in the morning and we'll fit you in. Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, is our classroom potluck and it's a very good opportunity to meet other parents. For this, a signup sheet will also be posted for dishes to share. We will have a Halloween parade on Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> through the Children's House classrooms. Dress your child in costume and we will parade through the Children's House rooms. They really look forward to seeing us! We will change into their clothes after the parade. You are welcome to bring treats to share. We have a total of 15 friends, but please remember we are peanut free. If you have any questions or concerns please talk to me or Crystal. Thank you!

With love,  
Reshma & Crystal

### Children's House One

September went as smooth as can be. Thus far everyone has been enthusiastic about the environment. They all appear to feel more comfortable and have adapted quickly.

In the month of October we will focus on "care of self" and "care of environment" which develops independence. Independence is a key aspect of the Montessori Philosophy. "In our environment children enjoy each other. It's like they're part of each other, instead of who they sit in back of, or next to. And they're kind to each other. The older ones help the younger ones. They are not competing. They learn how to be independent, to maneuver on their own"- Maria Montessori. Montessori also viewed independence as being crucial in the child's development.

At school and at home the children should learn how to be independent by putting on their clothes, washing their own plates, brushing their own teeth, folding their laundry, carrying their own backpack, etc. These activities will help the child grow more independent.

### Upcoming events:

Wed. October 19<sup>th</sup> Potluck (6-7pm)

Thurs. October 20<sup>th</sup> Parent teacher conferences (8am-4:30pm)

Mon. October 31<sup>st</sup> Halloween parade and pizza lunch. We will collect \$3 per child for the pizza. If you would like to bring a treat to share, there are 18 friends in CH 1.

Wangmo & Najat

### Children's House Two

We will continue our observations of the changing of the seasons. We have enjoyed studying apples, trees, leaves, and weather. We ask that you continue to arrive by 8:30 so that we can maximize the time and efforts of your children during work time. It also helps in maintaining a focused, calm, and consistent group of friends. If you must be late, it is helpful to give a call in the morning. We may be waiting on the playground for you to arrive so that your child can start the day with us.

Thank you to all the families who have been so thoughtful as to bring items from home to share in the class. Some have asked how they can help our environment. We will always appreciate your donations of fresh flowers for our "flower arranging" job, whole nutmeg for spice grating and baby dills for pickle slicing.

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to make it that day, we can certainly find an alternate date to meet with you.

We invite you to join us for a potluck dinner on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30 in Children's House Two.

October 31<sup>st</sup> is the date of our annual Halloween parade. The children may come dressed in their costumes. If you choose to share a treat, we have 22 friends and it should be nut free. Please be sure to bring a change of clothes for the remainder of the day. Parents are welcome to parade along with us!

We are so pleased with the way the school year was begun and are anticipating a fun filled year!

Renee and Colin

# Miniapple Int'l Montessori Newsletter

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## Children's House Three

In Children's House 3, one of the most highly anticipated events is a dance party. The children love to move their bodies and express what they are hearing. The music brings a smile to every child's face.

You may have heard your child singing "Days of the Week", the "Continent Song" or any number of other songs at home. We work very hard to incorporate music into daily life in CH3, both for pure enjoyment and as a teaching tool. We even have several musical instrument works, and it is very common for a spontaneous band to form.

We love new music! The children will sing songs they learn from Ms. Barb to themselves or even in a group. October will be our music month, please feel free to share your family's favorite song or CD with CH3 this month. In peace, Ellyn and Krista

## Children's House Four

A Montessori education works with the whole child's mind, body and spirit, not just their academic self. Developing a child's social and emotional skills carries as much value as any academic work in a child's quest to reach their full potential. Your child develops these skills in everyday tasks such as conflict management, expression of emotions, creating/developing friendships and holding conversations with adults and peers. We present ways to peacefully handle oneself through daily Grace and Courtesy Lessons. The children are invited to participate in dramatizing these lessons for the class at circle times and asked to use these skills whenever the need arises. The way you handle standing in a long line, respond to another driver cutting you off or the attitude with which you approach your child's other parent are indirect Grace and Courtesy lessons. Parents truly never rest! The world will be a better place with children that are being mindfully guided to be thoughtful, caring, expressive, as well as an academically intelligent person.

Happy Fall! - Erica and Jamila

## *FOR SMALL HANDS*

For Small Hands is a holiday catalog filled with child-size, age-appropriate materials that support Montessori in the home. These items would make great holiday gifts for friends and family. 10% of each purchase made over \$25.00 will go toward free materials for Miniapple and our classrooms from October through December! All children received a catalogue in their cubby. Please use our Customer #: 114507 when ordering.

Thank you for supporting Miniapple!

## *FRENCH*

Bonjour a toutes les familles. It seems that all the children are having fun during French class. Mr. Patate is also happy to see all the children introducing themselves, counting from 1-10, learning their alphabet song, naming the six colors in French (rouge, bleu, jaune, violet, vert, et orange), singing Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes (la tete, les epaules, genoux, les pieds). For story time, we finished reading "Une maman dans l'ecole" and we started "Justine entre au CP". Because singing helps children learn languages we always end our French class with songs such as, Alouette, Petit Poisson, Meunier tu dors, Pomme de Reinette etc. Merci et joyeux mois d'Octobre.  
Najat

"Whoever touches the life of the child, touches the most sensitive point of a whole, which has roots in the most distant past and climbs towards the infinite future."

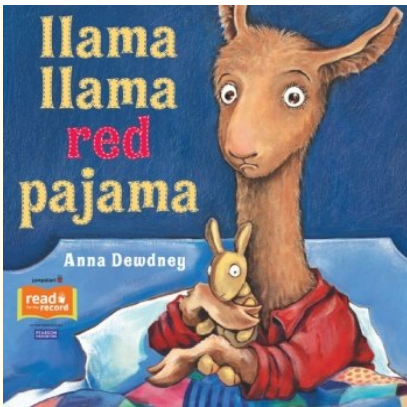
-Maria Montessori (1965)

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## Read For The Record

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, Miniapple classrooms will join millions of children worldwide to break the world record of the number of children reading the same book on the same day! We will be reading Anna Dewdney's Llama Llama Red Pajama as part of Jumpstart's Read for the Record campaign to raise funds and awareness for quality early childhood programs.



## NOMINATIONS

### NEEDED!

We are looking for parents to nominate an employee they think deserves to be "Employee of the Month". By the 29<sup>th</sup> of each month, nominations can be submitted (in the tuition box) for your favorite employee. Each winner receives lunch and other perks. Be sure to thank a staff you think is doing a great job!

OUR OCTOBER  
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

IS RENEE!!!

CONGRATULATIONS!