

Lakes Area Montessori Center

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From Ms. Suha's Desk: A Holiday of Cultures



As the holidays begin, we are surrounded with joy and laughter, family gatherings, and an abundance of grace. With the many cultures in our school community, the students were excited to learn about some of the holidays that are celebrated around the world. From Diwali to Hanukkah, to Christmas and Kwanza, the students listened to songs and stories, and viewed pictures of outfits, accessories, and artifacts. The students' faces were filled with excitement as they listened to these presentations. Teaching children about diversity and cultures not only teaches them to respect other people's traditions, but also fosters an appreciation for the differences and similarities between ethnicities. They learn about experiences that other families have and can compare that to their own. By discovering and understanding cultures, the children learn that no matter our ethnic background or preferred celebration, we are all humans with the same goals of being happy and living a peaceful life. The students can carry these lessons with them as they mature, interact with new people, and even share this knowledge with their families.

This holiday season, take the time to plan your celebrations, and involve your children in the preparations and traditions. Utilize the practical life skills they learned in the LAMC classroom. Bake special recipes and dress your children in your traditional clothing. For immigrant and first-generation families, allow your child to feel as if they are in your homeland and surround them with the beauty and sound of the culture. Let's bring back unity in our world and show the respect and value each human deserves by appreciating the cultures which we each came from and the traditions that guided our lives.

**“The land is where our roots are.
 The children must be taught to feel and live
 in harmony with the earth.”
 - Dr. Maria Montessori**

Wishing you and your family a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!
Ms. Suha



Pictures from our Diwali presentation by Ms. Neeyati, Ms. Manju and Ms. Kiran.

Thank you for sharing your culture with us!





Office News



- ◆ **All children are required to go outside every day when the temperatures/wind chill are as follows:** Toddler - 30 degrees or above. Preschool/Kindergarten - 20 degrees or above. Elementary - 0 degrees or above.
- ◆ For **morning drop off**, please dress your child **only** in a winter coat, hat, and mittens. Snow pants and boots should be in their backpacks or already in the classrooms.
- ◆ Please make sure all your child's belongings are labeled with his/her first and last name. This includes boots, snow pants, mittens, hats, coats, and everything that belongs to your child. This will ensure proper return in case of misplacement.
- ◆ **Please hand notes directly to staff/office.** Please make sure to check his or her backpack daily for notes from school.
- ◆ **Child Information Card (i.e., White Card):** If there are any changes to information on your child's White Card (kept in the office) e.g., address, phone numbers (work, cell, or home), etc., we ask you to please notify the office staff.
- ◆ **Chapstick:** A **Medication Permission Form must be completed** for your child to use chapstick or lip balm at school. Forms can be obtained from the office.
- ◆ If you need a tax statement, please send it in at least 3 days in advance so that we have time to process it.
- ◆ Please call the office to let us know if your child is sick or going to be out of town.
- ◆ **Drop-Off:** Thank you so much to all parents for being mindful every morning of your drop off times. Mornings have been running much smoother. **We are asking that you allow the staff to help get the students out of the car due to possible ice in the parking lot.**
- ◆ **Pick-Up:** Please remember that we ask all parents to be patient in the pick-up line and **DO NOT** drive around other cars. This is especially important in the winter due to slippery conditions in the parking lot AND the extra time it takes to put children into the car. Parents/guardians are responsible for buckling the students in.

Stay Warm!

Ms. Colleen and Ms. Jessica



Thank you to everyone who donated to our Winter Collecting Drive for Lighthouse of Oakland County. We donated: 28 pairs of gloves/mittens, 20 children's jackets, 5 adult jackets, 16 hat + glove sets, 6 pairs of boots, 2 pairs of snowpants and more! WOW!



ELEMENTARY NEWS MS. ROXANNE'S CLASSROOM



The Elementary students have been listening to stories about empathy and diversity which has led to discussions and ideas that foster the culture of peace in our classroom.

During the month of October, we enjoyed our field trip at Three Cedars Farm. Our Halloween parade was a great success, and our Halloween Fun Day was enjoyed by all. The Thanksgiving feast was delicious. Thank you to all our families for the donations.



We enjoyed meeting you at our parent teacher conferences. Your child's education, progress and happiness are especially important to us. The work in the Elementary classroom helps students achieve skills that allow them to become independent, self-directed students. This in turn, allows them to become competent and confident.

In math, we are working on telling time, learning coin values and counting money, memorization of math facts and practice in all operations. In addition, work is being done on fractions, decimals, and word problems.

Our STEM activities have included

learning about how leaves change colors, chemical reactions and building electric circuits.

In science we will begin learning about the five kingdoms and the human body. In Geography we will explore North America, the U.S.A. and Australia. Students will study the different regions, customs, languages, food, and lifestyles.

In language we are working on writing letters, using correct punctuation with complete thoughts and journal writing. Contractions, compound words, prefixes and suffixes are worked on with the Montessori skyscraper material. Reading is done every day in the classroom. Students read for comprehension, for research and for pleasure.

Reading and writing are a major part of the Montessori Elementary curriculum. Please help your child strengthen their skills by encouraging them to read every day. Daily reading strengthens comprehension skills and helps with developing ideas for creative writing assignments. The practice of neat handwriting in every work is also encouraged.

We wish you tons of Love, Peace, and Happiness during this holiday season.
- Ms. Roxanne, Ms. Sue, Ms. Elyse





PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN NEWS MS. NEEYATI'S CLASSROOM



The Holiday season waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful. You can feel the magic in the air this time of the year. Be sure to take the time to hug the ones you love and spend time creating happy memories with them. The one thing you can never get more of is time.

We had a great Halloween celebration, we started with the costume parade and enjoyed different crafts projects and wonderful treats. During the Thanksgiving feast the children had fun preparing the "Stone Soup" and Pumpkin chocolate chip cookies.

Special thanks to all the families for contributing for the Halloween party and The Thanksgiving feast.



Practical Life- The children have been

working on stringing beads, using a screwdriver and different dressing frames such as button, zipper and buckle frames. Practicing the dressing frames helps them to dress up for the cold weather. The children enjoyed chopping vegetables for the stone soup and also baking cookies for the whole school.

Sensorial- They have been enjoying the geometric solids and have learned some new names such as Pyramid, triangular prism and rectangular prism. They are also working on the triangle box and the large hexagon box. They use different sized triangles to build shapes such as rhombus, parallelograms and trapezoid.

Math- The children are progressing well in this area. Some are working on Teen and Ten boards while others are working on the hundred board. Some younger children are working on the Spindle box and Table top rods. The kindergarteners are working on addition and multiplication.

Language- Some children are working on putting sounds together to make words while some are working on the beginning, middle and ending sounds. The readers are working on building sentences using the movable alphabets. Kindergarteners continue to work on their journal writing.

Cultural- We view this as a time of celebration for families of all beliefs. The children learn about Holidays around the world. They have been learning about Diwali, Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. They have also learned about different countries in North America and learned about their culture, food and holidays.

Reminders:

- Show and tell is every Friday. Please send an educational/seasonal book with a bookmark marking your child's favorite page.
- Please send snow pants, waterproof mittens and hat in a reusable cloth bag with everything labelled with your child's first and last name.
- Send the communication folder every day to school.

We wish you all a safe and a fun holiday with your family and loved ones. See you next year!

Ms. Neeyati, Ms. Manju, Ms. Becky, Ms. Carol and Ms. Zina





PRE-SCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN NEWS MS. SUHA'S CLASSROOM



Dear Parents:

Welcome to another Holiday season. We view this as a time of celebration for families of all beliefs. It is a time of joy, a time to share, a time to gather with loved ones and a time for new beginnings. During this time, we try to teach the children the concept of sharing and preparing for the season. We learn about respecting others by using our words to express our feelings. We learn how to set up the environment so it's ready for the celebration/gathering. We learn about grace and courtesy so that when we receive from others, we appreciate whatever is given to us. We also learn about giving to others who are in need. While all this is happening, the children continue to be engaged in everyday lessons in the different Montessori areas.

Practical Life:

Each child had the experience of cutting vegetables for our stone soup recipe, and it was delicious! and now we will be introducing some water activities to our practical life area. We will pour and scoop water and snow, so be ready for some wet sleeves coming home!! Make sure your child has extra clothes in their box to change into if he/she needs to. We have also been practicing the tying, zipping, and snapping frames. These help the children become more independent especially now that the cold weather is here. They are very proud of themselves when they can dress on their own. We encourage that you allow them to do the same at home. You will be surprised how much they can accomplish.

Sensorial:

This is a very popular area where children can work on refining their senses and use their imagination to put shapes together to create more shapes. Some names you will be hearing include rhombus, parallelogram, and trapezoid. Another work that we are working with is the Color Box II. This work presents primary and secondary colors. We will be exploring the mixing of primary colors to make a secondary color.

Math:

The children continue to learn about the quantity of number and placing numbers in order. Others are working with the teen, ten and hundred boards, and the older children have started static addition. I encourage all children to practice proper number writing on a daily basis. A chalkboard, dry erase board or plain paper and pencil may be used to practice this.

Language:

Continue to practice the following sounds daily with your children:

b, c, t, s, n, a, r, m, h, f, i, g, j, d, o, p, l, v, k, x, and e.

It is very important that children are taught proper formation of each letter in lower case style. Set a time of 5-10 minutes per night to focus on handwriting skills. Start by introducing one letter at a time and when that letter is mastered, introduce the next one.

Science & Geography:

We will be introducing the children to different cultures around the world and learn about the different traditions. Some of the cultures we will be focusing on include the Chaldean (Iraqi culture), and the American culture. Also, part of our holiday program we will be listening to and singing songs from around the world. We are looking for parent volunteers to share their culture with our class. The children will also have an opportunity to present facts about a state or a country when we begin our Geography projects. In Science, we have started learning about parts of the plants and we will be learning about the habitat of animals.

Reminders:

- Show and tell is every Friday. Please send informational/animal/plant or seasonal books with a bookmark marking their favorite page.
- Ensure that snowpants, boots, and mittens are waterproof. Send all winter gear in a reusable bag labelled with their first and last name.

Thank you:

Thank you to all the families who donated and volunteered for our Thanksgiving Feast. You made our feast a very delicious one!

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Ms. Suha, Directress

Ms. Fran, Ms. Ann, Ms. Kristen & Ms. Elyse-Assistants





Toddler News Ms. Monika's Classroom



The Montessori Method focuses on educating "the whole child". Here, at Lakes Area Montessori, we strive to help your children develop physically (improving their gross and fine motor skills), socially and emotionally (increasing their awareness of self and others), and academically (expanding their understanding of the world around them.)

At the beginning of the season we had a great time working with pumpkins, jack-o-lanterns, and Halloween crafts. Amidst all the fun, however, we never stopped learning. In Math, we continue our daily practice of rote counting and number recognition. To strengthen our Language, we read books, sing songs, and recite fun finger play poems. Your child's ability to learn and remember is unbelievable! As doctor Maria Montessori discovered, your child at this age has an **absorbent mind** and learns effortlessly. Here, at Lakes Area Montessori, we capitalize on that phenomenon and present as much meaningful information as we can. We are currently learning to name days of the week, months of the year and most importantly, every child knows his/her first and last name (...and all their friends' full names of course).

In our peaceful Montessori classroom children learn by doing. Without skipping a beat, we dove right into the challenges of developing basic Practical Life skills and we have continued to work on them ever since. We all know how to put on our jacket without help, we practice taking off and putting on shoes - a very difficult task when you are only two, and we even help make our own cots in preparation for a nap. All this practice in self- doing is hugely important. Imagine your toddler as a confident preschooler. Picture your child as a composed and productive kindergartner. Envision your toddler being focused and self-motivated when in elementary school. Well, the work towards concentration and independence starts now! Support your toddler when she/he wants to do something herself by NOT intervening. Please see your child as **capable**. "A child that doesn't do - does not know how to do!", said dr. Montessori. Please be patient and let your child succeed on her own. "You got this!" "You can do it!" "You did it!" Encourage and let it happen. We are here to help you raise a confident, well-adjusted, considerate and resilient young person.

As one season ends, another begins. We now look forward to December and its Holidays.

The gift of Love, the gift of Peace and the gift of Happiness - may all of these be yours during this Holiday Season.

See you all at our Winter Concert,
-Ms. Monika and "the Village" (Ms. Emily, Ms. Kiran, Ms. Debbie, Ms. Zina and Ms. Bonita)





Spanish News



Dear Parents,

We are reviewing all the vocabulary with interactive language classes, songs, crafts and games, Spanish is a lot of fun!!!

Please review the following vocabulary with your child:

LA ESCUELA (SCHOOL)

maestra - teacher
mesa - table
silla - chair
colores - colors

libro - book
lapis - pencil
mapa - map
pluma - pen

mochila - backpack
bandera - flag
reloj - clock
papel - paper

LOS NUMEROS (10 - 100)

10 - diez
40 - cuarenta
70 - setenta
100 - cien

20 - veinte
50 - cincuenta
80 - ochenta

30 - treinta
60 - sesenta
90 - noventa

LA TRANSPORTACION (TRANSPORTATION)

carro - car
autobus - bus

barco - boat
avion - airplane

tren - train
bicicleta - bike

We play a lot with the flashcards, bingo, hot potato!! They love it!

Songs: La rana, Chocolate, El pavo, A Donde, Si tu eres feliz and Feliz Navidad

They learned about EL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS (THE DAY OF THE DEAD), a Mexican Holiday on Nov 2. Sugar skulls are popular symbol of these day, decorated with bright colors (using icing, glitter, feathers, etc.).



They will do a craft "DAR GRACIAS" for Thanksgiving.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

Gracias,
Senora Melba





Music News

In music class, we have started to prepare for our holiday concert in December! In accordance with our school's theme this year of *Spreading a Culture of Peace* I have included holiday songs from around our nation and the world!

In the Toddler classroom, we are using jingle bells to introduce instruments and how to properly play them. We will be incorporating them into our songs for the holiday concert.

PreK classrooms are learning songs which include parts in other languages for the holiday concert. We have incorporated Spanish and Zulu (a South African dialect).

The Elementary class is learning a holiday song partially in German! These students have really rose to the occasion and taken on this task beautifully.

All classes have been learning Thanksgiving/Winter themed fun songs using movement, rhythm sticks, beanbags, and scarves. We have almost completed our rhythm lessons and will be moving on to our melody unit where we will incorporate more instruments.

Happy Holidays!

-Ms. Shelbi



Gym News

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone has a great holiday!!

Each class begins with stretching, to help the students become more flexible and to prevent injuries. I always explain why stretching, and exercising are very important to the children.

I am excited to start the New Year with the children continuing our work on the President's Physical Fitness Challenge. This includes sit-ups, push-ups, and the shuttle run (the children enjoy competing against each other in a race) to name a few in my exercise program.

We will review the food pyramid. The children enjoy naming their favorite fruits, and vegetables. The children will learn how proper nutrition helps you stay healthy!

The President's Council on Physical Fitness will help your child acquire skills to increase their endurance, strength, and flexibility, which can stay with them for a lifetime. Every child is encouraged to participate to the BEST of their ability.

I always instill exercising as fun with positive enthusiasm! Looking forward to a fun filled physical fitness education program!



Staying Fit ~ Mr. Roby

Daycare News

Happy Holidays! We are seeing signs that winter is coming as we watch flakes of snow fall. Our fall spiders have been replaced with snowmen and Santa. Hope you have wonderful family times as we end 2022 and begin a new year! We will continue to play outside, if there is not too much snow on the ground. Because snow pants are left in the classrooms, we will not play in the snow during daycare. Many toys are rotated for students to play with indoors. Continue to send snack for your child to eat during our snack time. As we get ready to celebrate the holidays, students will help us decorate a Christmas tree and the daycare room with the Holiday spirit. Pictures will be taken of each child with the tree they help decorate. We will also be doing some holiday crafts as well as listening to some Holiday music. We continue to learn the Chinese song "Walk with me" as well as review some Christmas songs in Chinese that we learned last year. Wishing you Happy Holidays and a Peaceful New Year!

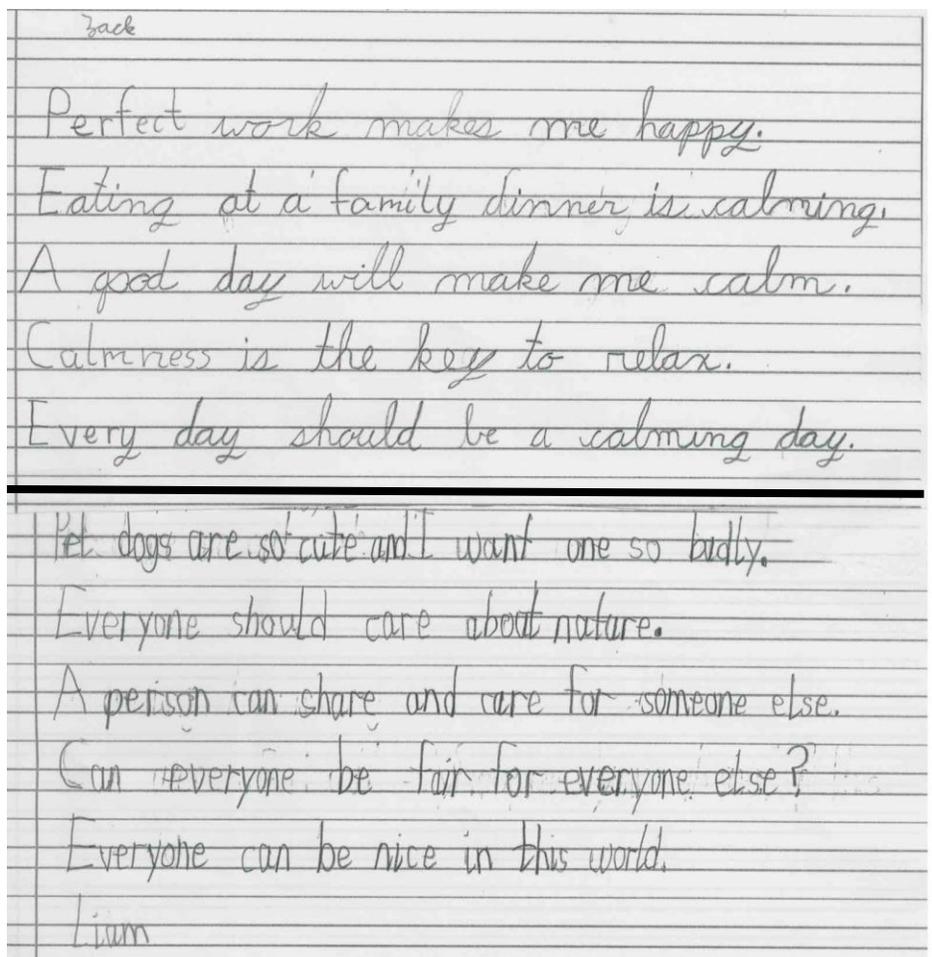
Daycare staff

AM: Ms. Fran and Ms. Debbie

PM: Ms. Ann, Ms. Becky, Ms. Carol, Ms. Kristen, Ms. Archana, Ms. Zina, Ms. Bonita, and Ms. Emily



"What PEACE means to you" poems by our Elementary students, Zachary and Liam.





Parents, Do You Know? Why a Montessori Kindergarten Program

1. **Advanced Academics – (Montessori Reading, Writing, and Math)** The Kindergarten year is the culmination of a tremendous amount of preparatory work that is done by the student in the preschool years. The child's 'sensitivity' to shapes and symbols, which we use in the pre-reading and pre-math areas, now comes to fruition as the child "blends" the letter sounds for reading. From there he/she goes into reading, writing in workbooks and journals, and comprehending story lines. Advanced math and math operations are also mastered with the special Montessori math manipulatives before the child goes to grade 1.
2. **Cultural Areas – (Geography and Science)** These subjects are also developed in great detail in a Kindergarten program culminating with a special 'Science Fair' that the children participate in during the spring. The child is exposed to Geography in much greater depth and detail with maps, timelines, and cultural celebrations than in a traditional Kindergarten class. We are preparing our students for today's international and competitive climate.
3. **Social Development** The child has a chance to be a 'leader' (a senior) who gets the opportunity to mentor, teach, and read to the younger ones, thus building self-esteem, leadership, and a strong academic foundation. In Montessori, we believe that one has not truly learned a concept until you can teach it to someone else.

The mixed ages in a Kindergarten classroom gives ample opportunity to practice all the academic skills and leadership traits thus leading to a deep love of learning and school.

Finally, the developmental levels of children are in three-year spans, (0-3, 3-6, 6-9, and so on) so the benefits of a Montessori program are maximized only when children complete a cycle of intellectual and social development – as in the kindergarten year.

