

June update and last day activities:

Wednesday, June 13th - 12:00 noon pick-up

We are still going full tilt in class. We have end of the year projects to wrap up, and continuing work to see through. Attendance is important.

However, I do have some special activities planned for the last day. First we will be cleaning up of course, then we'll put together our final May/June Journal. The children will collect all their work that goes home with the report card pack.

Then we will attend this year's Kindergarten music program. Then, it's back to class to count the buttons placed daily in the 2018-2019 jar.

We will end the morning with a favorite story of mine and a Big Dipper ice cream sundae party in the back Kindergarten yard. *I'm just warning you, I allow them to go back for seconds (or thirds) if they want, so lunch is usually forgotten.* The day ends with bubbles and their report cards being given out at noon.

For those children returning in August, all unfinished math process books, and their writing dictionaries, are sent to the 2nd/3rd year room in order to continue the curriculum in their 2nd year classroom. All other work you will find in the report card pack.

*Check your report card envelope to see if there is any **summer homework**. It will be clearly labeled and is **due on the first day of school in August, 2019** - in our new rooms!*

This year has flown by, especially for me. What a great class to end my teaching career. As I look back and see how much was accomplished by this class, I feel that the year was well spent.

Thanks so much for giving us the opportunity to teach your child. Thank you too for all the support you have shown our school. Your support has been a silver lining to a very dark cloud.

I am constantly reminded by all the graduated students who come back to see us every year, that Montessori lives on in all our students. Have a wonderful summer. There are so many new things, and Montessori traditions, to look forward to in August.

This last newsletter is just from me, all my best to all of you,

Jo!

MAY AND JUNE PARENT NEWSLETTER

April Highlights:

As usual, the children were very enthusiastic about all our Earth Week activities, right down to our campus trash hunt. It was heartening to see everyone pile their plates with fresh fruits and veggies during our Earth Buffet, and the children took the subject of endangered species very seriously. Check out your child's choice of endangered animal for that day in their journal. The portrait your child did of that animal is extraordinary. I trust all the globes made it home safely. Globes are a great gift by the way!

We just finished our study of Europe with a pasta and bread day - the main carbohydrate that feeds Europe is wheat. Now it's off to Africa. We have been working on writing a spring poem about the five senses, and using our knowledge about nouns and adjectives - heady stuff! Our memorized poem is almost ready to come home as well.

Special projects aside, I have been writing each child's contract with a special emphasis on completing the curriculum. I'm checking each child's progress daily. Just to let you know, we do not 'wind down' towards the end of school. It's full tilt ahead until the last day.

Upcoming in May:

Not to be a spoiler, but I want you to know that your Mother's Day present is another writing project and it promises to be a keeper.

Our Kindergarten Jog-a-thon, and the Elementary Spell-a-thon are scheduled for **Friday, May 24th**. This year, both these fund raising events are focused on earning money for our move in August. A flyer will be coming your way.

*Our Spell-a-thon is **not** a Spelling Bee - it is on paper, so no one is eliminated, and there is no pressure. Participation is voluntary.* Each grade is given a list of tricky words that they have been learning all year long but still have difficulty remembering, and there is a practice test before the event.

The written test on these words will be on **Friday, May 24** and your child will *earn pledge money for **each** word they spell correctly*. Parents can enlist family members and friends to pledge for their child. All participants receive a certificate and a honey stick. Everybody wins.

A packet will be going out soon, and the pledge money is due on **Monday, June 3**, a week after the Spell-a-thon.

Children are invited to wear red, white and blue on Friday, May 24th, the day before the long weekend. Memorial Day will be observed on **Monday, May 27th**.

Spring Concert!

Our ***dress rehearsal*** will be at 1:00 on **Tuesday, May 28th** - please make sure that your child attends school and is present for the dress rehearsal. We take the chorus photo - with all the props - on that day as well.

This year's **Spring Concert** will be on Friday, **May 31, at 1:00 pm** in the Social Hall. The chorus has been working on the songs all year long (perhaps you have heard some of them) and they are eager to perform. Please do try and come.

We have a piano accompanist, Steve Doherty, who comes every year and makes the chorus sound great. Of course there will be a little party on the patio after the concert.

This year's concert is *Through All Kinds of Weather*. The third year students add a little zing to our program with props and a few surprises. It's fun, and the children love having their parents in the audience. There will be a flyer coming out with more details, and a special invitation from your child.

Upcoming in June:

There will be a final field trip to the Oakland Zoo with Jo, Gloria and Florence in June. This field trip is perfect for the budding zoologists in class who have so enthusiastically learned all sorts of facts about invertebrates and vertebrates this year. We will send out the date and more info soon.

June 13th will be our last day of school. It will be a half day ending at **12:00 noon** for children who are not enrolled in daycare. *I will be sending further info about the last day activities, and I will hand out the final report card on this day.*

Just to let you know, these last days of school are very important. Our classes do not wind down. We go full speed until the last day. There is something happening, or special projects to be completed, almost every day. Illness should be the only excuse for absences.

I cannot believe that this year is almost over - it has just flown by. It has been a *Cadillac* year. What a great little class. They have all grown a lot, and learned so much.

Take time to look at the first and last journals and see how far they have come. And, a big thanks to all you parents who have done so much to support your child and the school curriculum - we notice all the things you do for your child! It has been a real pleasure and privilege teaching your children this year.

*Report cards will handed out on June 13th. **PICK UP TIME ON THAT DAY WILL BE 12:00 for students, and 5:00 for daycare students.***

Happy Mother's Day and Happy Father's Day to all of you out there.

You both do a very important job!

Jo and Gloria