

Hello Parents and welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! I'm looking forward to a great year where our class will discuss everything from the lowest part of the ocean to the highest mountains in the world -and lots of things in between.

Just to highlight some things for you that might be a bit different from years past....

1. The calendar you receive from me each month will list two different items per day. Both will be the focus of our line time discussions we partake as a group. One will be central to that month's theme (for instance Ocean Life) and the other will be linked to a particular lesson from the shelf (for instance Pink Tower). These lessons will be geared to a level that all of the children can understand and participate in. All other lessons will be given during class work time and will be specific to your child.
2. This year, Music will be held on Friday morning immediately following morning work time.
3. Birthday walks will be held at 8:30 (immediately following carpool). Please see the attached note about how those work.
4. Parents are always needed to volunteer in our class. The sign-up sheet will be posted outside our door for various duties, so please help out if you can.
5. Our class has a 'wish list' of items that would enhance our studies. Our class generally takes up a donation for these items and I order them in one shipment (to save on costs). I'll be placing this order at the beginning of September so if you would like to contribute, please do! You can make checks payable to me

(Shannon Bennett) or donate cash. We are grateful for any amount to put towards these items. I'll let you know how much money we end up with and exactly what I intend to purchase.

6. Feel free to email me any time! I try my hardest to check my email twice a day (usually at lunch and then after school). My address is MsShannonBennett@gmail.com.

Thank you so much for entrusting your children to me. I know they are your highest treasure and I don't take this responsibility lightly!

Ready for a great year-

Shannon Bennett

Birthday Walk

Birthdays in the Montessori classrooms are a big deal! We celebrate the special day with a birthday walk. The birthday child holds a globe (representing our Earth) and moves around the sun one time for each year of his/her life. As they walk, we discuss the milestones that happened during that year. We light candles and sing 'Happy Birthday' as well.

Children are encouraged to bring in a picture of themselves from each year of their life. You can send this in mounted on poster board, in a time line type fashion or in a small picture album. Parents are also welcome to come in to observe this special walk with our class.

Students are welcome to bring in a small treat to share with their friends this day, but are of course under no obligation to do so. We ask that these treats are as healthy as possible. Some past hits include mini-muffins, dried fruits, or oatmeal cookies. We do not allow cakes or frosted items for our birthday celebrations. Please remember we are a nut free school also.

Just be sure to check in a few days before your child's birthday to set up the appropriate date for his or her walk.

Thanks!