

SPOKANE FALLS MONTESSORI

Infant ◇ Toddler ◇ Preschool ◇ Kindergarten

Fall 2015

Open House

Our annual Open House will be **Friday, September 25th from 5:30 to 6:00pm.** Parents, children and family members are encouraged to attend the Open House and see their child's classroom, tour other classrooms, ask questions, and meet and mingle with other families. Pizza will be provided. The preschool children will be preparing apple pie and a salad from the preschool garden. **After the Open House, be sure to stick around as the PTO will present information on our upcoming fundraisers!**

NEW Parent Resource Library!

Have you checked out a book from the library yet?! No? *WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR???*

We have also added a list of local area resources for families and children. Don't forget to check that out as well. If you have a resource that you would like to add, please don't hesitate to do so! Some of the resources included in the list are:

Circle of Security <http://circleofsecurity.net/>

Coats 4 Kids www.coats-for-kids.org/

TRUNK OR TREAT!

Friday, October 30th, we will be having a Trunk or Treat Party in our parking lot for SFM families and teachers only. Please come and help your child get candy from the trunks of other families and familiar faces. Decorate your trunk and be prepared for fun. There is a sign up sheet in the preschool if you'd like to participate. More details will follow shortly. For specific questions, please see Ms. Kari in the preschool.

Parent Volunteer Ideas

We are looking for a parent volunteer to set up a Parent Directory. This will be a great way to get your volunteer hours in for the year! Please let me know if you're interested. We also need help getting a donation bin (of sorts) set up. This could be coats for kids, a food bank, toys for tots etc. If you have ideas or ways to help, please let me know ASAP!

Organic Milk

As you all know, we have been asking that families bring organic milk for snack. I have received some feedback on this, both for and against. I would like to hear everyone's opinion on this in order to make a decision that is best for the majority of families that we serve. If you have information, resources or an opinion on the pros and cons of organic milk, please email me!

FACEBOOK

Ask to join the private group, "Spokane Falls Montessori Parents and Teachers" on Facebook. We post news, pictures and resources often!

Upcoming Events/Dates

September 25
Open House 5:30pm
School OPEN

October 30
TRUNK OR TREAT!
6:30-8:00 PM

November 11
Veteran's Day
School OPEN

November 16-20
Parent/Teacher
Conferences
School OPEN

November 26 & 27
Thanksgiving Break
School Closed

December 21-Jan. 2
Winter Break
School Closed

January 18
Martin Luther King Jr.
Day
School Closed

February 15
President's Day
School OPEN



NEWS From the PTO

Welcome & Welcome Back SFM Families!

The 2015-2016 school year is off to a great start! We are excited to see many returning children and we are thrilled to welcome new families to the Montessori. We look forward to another year full of learning and growing together.

Coming soon is our 4th Annual Spokane Falls Montessori PTO Wine Tasting and Auction Fundraiser hosted by Latah Creek Winery. This has been our most successful fundraiser each year and we look forward to another great event this October. We will provide all of the details at the upcoming Open House on September 25th! We will also post information and make announcements on the entry door to the Montessori, so please be on the lookout for those postings.

Thank you for your participation in past fundraiser and SFM events. We're so lucky to have the support of committed parents and teachers. As strong partners we're able to greatly enhance the educational experience for our Spokane Falls Montessori children.

If you have questions or feedback please contact one of the PTO officers listed below.

We would love to hear from you and have the opportunity to connect.

See you soon at the Open House!

Sincerely,

Natalie Barnes | President | natalieconwaybarnes@gmail.com

Kristi Duenes | Vice President | kristikeller@msn.com

Christie Grassmyer | Treasurer | clgrassmyer@gmail.com

Marnie Crawford | Secretary | marnie.crawford92@gmail.com

Infant Classroom

Fall is upon us at last and we have had lots of changes in our room since July.

New children and families have joined our classroom. Ellis and Crosby started in the Infant Room in August. Henry started at the first of September and is in Erika's group. We have two more infants enrolled for the fall and one for January.

We also said good bye to our aid Tawnie. She has a really difficult semester of graduate school this fall and needs to focus on it. She hopes to come back to substitute and maybe to work in the spring/summer if her schedule allows it. To replace her, we hired a new aid named Joy. She and her husband just moved to our area and she is fitting right into our classroom. The children enjoy her a lot already.

Please join us for our open house on Friday September 25th, 2015. This is the best time for you to visit all of the classrooms and meet all of the teachers in each room. While you can always ask for a tour of a classroom, the open house is the only time for you meet all of the teachers and visit with them when they are not working with children. I especially recommend it to parents with infants who will soon be transitioning into the Toddler Room. It is also a good time to bring any relatives that might want to see your child's school. Come see us, meet other parents, and look at all of the classrooms.

Thank you for sharing your children with us. We appreciate that great gift.

Have a wonderful autumn,

The Infant Room Teachers

Toddler Classroom

This is our first newsletter of the 2015-2016 School year. I would like to take this time to talk about our Montessori Environment. ☺

As children enter the toddler room they are entering what Maria Montessori called the Prepared Environment. Montessori's idea of the prepared environment was that everything the child comes into contact with will facilitate and maximize independent learning and exploration.

Freedom- Montessori believed that each child must be free to explore and follow their own natural impulses, thus developing their potential and the world around them. The child now has the freedom to move, explore and interact socially with others.

Structure and Order- The Montessori classroom reflects the sense of structure and order in the universe. The child begins to internalize the order surrounding them, thus making sense of the world which they live in. Montessori stated that there is a sensitive period for order which occurs between the ages of one and three years of age. At this age, they begin to draw conclusions of the world around them. If there is not order to their environment, the child's sense of reason may be off since he will not be able to validate their findings.

Beauty- Montessori environments should be beautiful. The environment should have harmony, be uncluttered and inviting, and fit the attitudes of the children and adults in the classroom.

Nature and Reality- Maria Montessori had a deep respect and reverence for nature. She believes that we should use nature to inspire children. She continually suggested that Montessori take children out into nature, rather than keeping them confined in the classroom. This is why natural materials are preferred in the prepared environment. All of our furniture is child-size so the child is not dependent on the adult for his movement.

Social Environment- Where there is freedom to interact, children learn to encourage and develop a sense of compassion and empathy for others. As children develop, they become more socially aware, preparing to work and play in groups.

Intellectual Environment- If the above aspects are not recognized, the intellectual environment will not reach its purpose. The purpose of the Montessori environment is to develop the whole personality of the child, not only their intellect.

We love our school, classroom, and Montessori families! We appreciate every one of you and can't wait to see what the coming year has in store for us!

Lastly, we will be looking for a third primary care teacher so, be prepared to see some new faces in the classroom as we go through the hiring process. We will introduce you formally when someone is hired.

Sincerely,
Chrissi, Purzia, Kyrstin and Brandi ☺

Preschool Classroom

A new school year is upon us again! We had a hot, fun summer!

Our curriculum theme for September is apples! Please encourage your child to bring books or other items from home related to apples or Fall to share at gathering. We will be taking our annual field trip to Walter's Fruit Ranch at the end of the month. More details and a chaperone sign-up will be posted on or near the sign-in sheet soon.

As the weather begins to turn colder, please remember to dress your child in layers. It can be chilly in the morning but warm by the time we go outside in the afternoon. Also, please remember that we are required by licensing to apply sunscreen through October regardless of whether or not the sun is shining. Please continue to apply sunscreen to your child in the morning and we will re-apply in the afternoon.

We hope to see all of you at our Open House on Friday, September 25th at 5:30 PM. You will get a chance to get to know your child's teachers more, as well as ask questions about the classroom and Montessori. Your child will also have a lesson ready to give you! The children love this part!

Lastly, as you may have noticed, Ms. Kari is back with us! She was planning on doing her student teaching this fall but was unable to do so. She will most likely be doing it in the spring.

Thank you once again for letting us be a part of your children's lives!

Miss Sundi, Miss Sarah, Miss Kari, Miss Katie and Miss Gabby

