

# STARMAKER NEWSLINE

August 2011

## Dates to Remember

- 1 Tuition Due
- 1 Annual Tuition Payments Due
- 19 End-of Summer Picnic at 12pm
- 26 Parent Pledges Due
- 29 Transition Week Begins
- 31 CENTER CLOSED

## Lynn Ennis, Director

Now that we are in the middle of a very hot summer with temperatures often reaching into the 90's and even over 100 on some days, I went looking for summer indoor Montessori activities you can have fun doing with your young children. Children learn by doing and imitating those around them. In turn they become independent, confident and happy members of their families and communities. As children grow, they become more observant and helpful with the activities that parents do every day. These are what Maria Montessori calls Practical Life activities. One important aspect of practical life is food preparation. You can make your kitchen safe and accessible to your child. Have a low drawer for their own utensils that they use, have a special place in the refrigerator for their food and drink that they can serve themselves. Provide a stool for your child so they can help prepare food on the kitchen counter. An apron can also be good to help with the mess! Remember, every time you start an activity in the kitchen teach your child good habits by always washing hands. There are a few benefits of food preparation activity. This activity makes the food more appealing to the child as they have had an important contribution as to how it was made. It might help especially with those children who are picky eaters! It helps develop fine motor skills. Also it teaches the value of food and hygiene that goes along with the preparation. The following are some activities you can do with your child in the kitchen on a hot, summer day:

1. Spreading butter or jelly on a piece of toast. Start this activity by having all the materials such as a small spreader that will make it easier for your child to use. Have a plate for the mess to be contained and a small bowl with a small amount of butter or jelly, so that there won't be too much waste when your child attempts to do it by himself.
2. Making a garden salad.  
This is a great activity since there are a lot of ingredients and you can let your child do as many as he can, depending on his ability. Have a colander in which each vegetable leaf can be washed. If your child is older you can give him a small sharp knife and allow him to cut cucumbers. A hand peeler can also be used by an older child. Place the cucumber on a cutting board while the child peels it. Then let him add ingredients to the salad bowl.
3. Preparing apples. This activity is made child friendly by having them use an apple corer. We often use corers at Starmaker for snack time. Cut the apple crosswise in half. Place the apple flat side down on the cutting board. Let your child push the corer down offering minimal assistance. Using small tongs, your child can place each apple slice in a bowl.
4. Peeling a hard boiled egg. This is a great activity for refining motor skills. Cook the hard boiled egg and cool. When cooled, crack the shells gently and peel a piece or two to start off the process then allow your child a turn. Once the egg is peeled with some of the white gone, cut the egg using an egg slicer. Let your child use tongs to remove the egg pieces from the slicer.
5. Juicing an orange. Cut the orange in half with a sharp knife. Have the juicer ready and a small container for the juice to be placed. Allow your child to squeeze the orange and finish it off. Allow them to pour the juice in a container.

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

\*\* We are closed for Professional Responsibilities on Aug 31<sup>st</sup>, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, and Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>. \*\*

\*\*The school will re-open for the first day of school on September 6<sup>th</sup>. \*\*

## Infant 1- Ms. Karen & Ms. Amanda

The 4th of July parade was a blast! We were happy that some of our parents could join us. Our babies were patriotic in their matching onesies that we made. We have also enjoyed taking walks when the weather isn't too hot and splash day has been a success!

For the month of August, the themes are music appreciation, reptiles and insects, camping, and spirit week. We would like to congratulate Ms. Karen on starting her Montessori Training. She will be using her training to introduce new skills and techniques. Just a few reminders:

- End-Of-The-Summer Picnic will be at noon on August 19<sup>th</sup>
- We will be closed on August 31<sup>st</sup>, September 1<sup>st</sup>, and September 2<sup>nd</sup> for professional responsibilities.
- We will also be closed on September 5<sup>th</sup> for Labor Day.



## Infant 2 – Ms. Jeannette & Ms. Heather

We hope that everyone has had a great summer so far.

July went by too fast. We had fun participating in the 4th of July parade wearing our matching onesies. We have also enjoyed getting wet during our splash days.

The babies have really started to move around. We will continue to work on our large motor skills. We will be learning about music, reptiles and insects, camping and spirit week during the month of August. We will post the events on the door for spirit week so that everyone can remember the theme for each day.

We would like to thank the Renn family for the extra clothes, the Alexander family for the bumbo seat as well as the play mat, and finally the Eberly family for the bumbo seat with the tray and bouncy seat. The babies really have enjoyed using the new items.

Our last splash day for the summer will be Wednesday, August 17th. Please remember to join us for our End-of-the-Summer Picnic on Friday, August 19th at

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"Tell me and I'll forget. Show me and I may remember. Involve me and I'll understand."

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## Infant 3- Ms. Karin, Ms. Katie, & Ms. Sara



July was hot, hot, hot! We continued our Summer themed activities. During American Spirit week, we used the colors red, white, and blue with various artistic techniques. We also participated in the school parade. We practiced bowling and tossing bean bags during Health and Sports Week. The children were introduced to the numbers one through five as well as a few colors in Spanish. We discussed different animals during Rainforest Exploration Week. We continued to work on motor skills, language, and practical life skills.



In August, we will continue our Summer theme as well as our weekly themes. We will have a variety of art and activities for Music Appreciation, Reptiles and Insects, Camping, and Starmaker Spirit Weeks. We hope to see lots of wacky hair and crazy hats! The children will be introduced to sweeping and encouraged to wash hands on their own. We will have a yummy cooking lesson for camping week. This month, we will match animals, shapes, and ice cream cones. We will wrap up our Summer with the End of Summer picnic. We hope you can join us.



## Toddlers- Ms. Ashley, Ms. Tricia, & Ms. Mary

During the month of July, the children celebrated Independence Day. The children made many red, white, and blue projects. They also participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade! The children enjoyed moving and grooving with the music. During the end of July, the children learned about other countries as well as the rainforest!

We will start August off by making musical instruments and by incorporating more music into our curriculum. We will complete our summer by learning about reptiles, insects, and camping. Spirit week is August 22-August 26. The spirit day themes are as follows:

- Monday**- Pajama day
- Tuesday**- Wacky hair day
- Wednesday**- Backwards day
- Thursday**- Starmaker spirit day
- Friday**- Crazy hat day



## Pre-Primary 1 - Ms. Tuana & Ms. Brandy

In July, we celebrated Independence Day by having a July 4th parade. We also talked about the colors red, white and blue, learned about different countries, played various sports, as well as learned about rainforest animals. Thank you to those who participated in our parade. We would also like to send a special thank you to Mrs. Eberly for teaching and dancing with us. It was lots of fun to have you. We welcomed Kaylee to our class; she is settling in nicely. We worked on sign language, manners ("yes please" and "no thank you") and created art projects that went along with our themes.

In August our summer fun will continue with themed art projects, sign language, name recognition and we will continue with grace and courtesy. PLEASE check the sign up for parent volunteers, located on the classroom door.



## Pre-Primary 2 - Ms. Megan & Ms. Laura

Pre Primary Two explored the U.S., South Africa, India, Greece, France, and Spain in the month of July. We learned about the shape of the countries as well as the colors of their flags. The children learned that there are many people who live in different countries around the world. They really enjoyed learning that a few of our classmates have actually lived in the different countries that we explored.

As we enter into August, we will be finishing up Summer Camp. We will be taking nature walks, camping out, identifying bugs, and showing our school spirit. We want to remind our parents that these events are posted on the calendar in the classroom. If you would like a copy, please ask the teachers. We are so grateful to all of the parents who have volunteered throughout the summer. We also want to remind parents that we will be closed on August 31, September 1 & 2 for professional responsibilities. Please remember to label all of your child's belongings and check cubbies for extra clothes. We hope to see everyone at the end of Summer Picnic on August 19<sup>th</sup> at 12pm. Enjoy the rest of your summer!



## Primary 1- Ms. Angelique & Ms. Jacquelyn

We have really learned and done so many things so far this summer. It's amazing! Students have really been enjoying their workbook time. They are so eager to learn. The children are also doing very well with our summer lessons. Our themes for each week have been very educational as well as so much fun!

We started off the month of July with the Independence Day Parade. We would like to thank Mr. Smitha who joined us in our celebration. His hat looked awesome! The children also had fun making hats, masks, and bracelets for the parade.

For Science Week- We enjoyed nature by going on walks and collecting items that we turned into projects. We learned about the life stages of a frog. They also had bug catchers and found their own items to explore.

For American Spirit Week- We participated in many festive activities and mainly used the colors red, white, and blue in our projects.

For Health & Sports Week- This week was a big hit! The children enjoyed sharing their knowledge about how to prevent germs and how to stay healthy and fit. They also enjoyed Health and Sports themed painting, worksheets, and crafts.

Foreign Language Week- This week was very interesting as we learned about new languages. We learned the language of the Czech Republic with Mrs. Ferrari, Spanish with Ms. Sarah, French with Ms. Florence, and Italian with Ms. Kimberly. They also had activities and food to share. We thank them all! We are also looking forward to more staff and parent volunteers.

The children have also been enjoying our "Post Office Center". This allows the children to make letters, postcards and use stamps. They then may put letters and postcards in our mailbox to "mail" off. At the end of the day, we check the post office center for mail to distribute to family and friends. So be on the lookout! You may be receiving mail from your child!

The children have also been earning stickers for the sticker chart. The children receive stickers as rewards for helping others, citizenship, caring, etc. Once their chart is full, they receive a prize out of our prize box. All of the children are very excited about this activity.

We would like to give a special thanks to Ms. Conners for all of her help in the classroom. We would also like to thank all of the parents who have helped Primary One with everything from volunteering to donations. We are very happy to have so many great parents.

Now, as we approach August we will be looking forward to many more great events. Please check your child's folder and the Parent Board for our August events. Children will continue to enjoy Splash Day, Music and Jump Bunch. This has been a great summer so far and as you may have noticed, your children have more than enough to do and learn. We have most definitely put the "B" in busy. The children are always excited to see what's coming next.



## Primary 2- Ms. Rachel & Ms. Molly

Primary 2 is happy to welcome August. We are so excited about our last month of summer. You know what they say, "time flies when you're having fun." We are happy to make our last month of summer the best month so far. Primary 2 has been very busy with special guest speakers, field trips, and projects. Even though Primary two has been busy, we have also taken the time to relax.

In our classroom, Ms. Molly has made signs on the shelves to let the children know what area they are playing in (Dramatic play, Block Building, science, math, music, etc). We have been adding more lessons to the classroom each week to go along with the weekly themes. The children don't even know where to start when coming into the classroom but by the end of the day, they somehow have managed to do almost all of the lessons.

We have been doing a lot of reading in Primary Two. We have been getting a least ten to fifteen books per week from the library. We place the books on shelves for the children to see. The children have been looking at the pictures and making up their own stories. One activity that the children really enjoy is reading to each other in circle while pretending to be the teacher.

In August, we will say farewell to summer but say hello to September. Even though we are going to really miss Ms. Molly, we are looking forward to meeting and spending time Ms. Rebecca who will be the substitute for Ms. Erin while she's out. We would like to say good-bye to our friends who are leaving in the fall. We will miss you! We would also like to thank all of the parents who came with us on our field trips during the summer. Three cheers for Primary Two for having such great summer!



## Primary 3- Ms. Emily & Ms. Sarah

Summer Camp has been such an exciting experience for Primary 3 so far. Miss Emily and Miss Sarah have worked to provide a variety of new experiences for the kids that correspond with the themes. We want to remind you that we are still accepting donations for costumes or old adult clothes for our dramatic play area. Thank you to all of the parents who helped out at the Jump Yard field trip. We are looking forward to the rest of our field trips with our last one being to Nicolet Spray Park on August 11<sup>th</sup>. For all field trips please plan ahead for your three year olds who are unable to ride the school bus.

We started July off with American Spirit week. The Friday before the holiday weekend we had our annual parade. Primary 3 made flags and a banner to carry during the festivities. We ended the celebration with Popsicles. We also had fun in the Trike-a-thon the following Friday. We did not have full participation, but all of the kids had fun being outside.

During Health and Sports week we explored new foods and talked about different balls used in sports. We had another Mad Science workshop as well as exploring a plum and making lemonade from scratch. We did not squeeze all of the lemons, but added sugar to lemon rings and mashed them up. This was an experience where all students were given a role between the steps of washing the fruit, mashing the lemons to release the juices, stirring, or measuring water. One of the new exciting lessons that was introduced was foam sports balls that the kids practiced gluing onto paper and arranging in new ways. We also introduced measuring cups and the different types of fractions that are needed to measure ingredients through measuring sand.

Foreign Language week was very exciting as the class met a new speaker everyday. We want to thank Mrs. Ferrari, Ms. Sarah, Ms. Florence, and Mrs. Sharma for presenting to our class and sharing their language and culture with us. It was exciting to see pictures of places that were new to us, and practice using new words. There was also a focus on flag making and flag identification. Each country's flag represents something important to each country. This week was extremely hot so we were unable to do a lot of extra activities outside.

Rain forest week transformed our classroom into a new environment with a big tree. The kids discovered a lot about animal including new ones, where they are from, practice in labeling their names, and all the while adding animals to our tree. There is a lot to learn about new environments like this one and the kids love to explore so we had fun looking for new things in the rainforest.

In August we are looking for volunteers! If there are any exciting trips that your families have gone on and want to share about these new places with the class, please come on in. If you are an avid camper and would feel comfortable showing some of the camping equipment with the class, we would be very excited. If any one would like to dress up during Spirit week and come talk about your job or show us some exciting pictures, we want to share this new information and create new learning experiences for the kids. Thank you for any help that you can provide. Finally, we always want you to feel free to talk with us anytime about any concerns you may have about your child. We like to keep open lines of communication. Thank you and have a great month of August!

## Summer Camp- Ms. Lolisa, Ms. LaTherese, Ms. Danielle, Ms. Allison, & Ms. Brittany

The Elementary children and staff are gearing up for yet another month of summer camp fun! August is the last month of the summer but the best month. These last five weeks are packed with great themes, activities, and lessons.

The week of August 1<sup>st</sup> starts us off with the Music Appreciation theme. Music Appreciation Week will allow the children to recognize the music of the world around them. The children will also learn how beats and rhythms are put together to make a beautiful piece of composed music. During this week, the children are asked to bring in their favorite music from home. In addition to our music fun, the children will also go bowling on August 1<sup>st</sup> and have splash day on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

The second week in August brings us Reptile and Discovery Week. Insects aren't Ms. Lolisa's favorite topic so it will be a week full of new adventures for her and the children. We will start off by discussing the different types of insects and reptiles as well as their life cycles. We will go over details like the texture of reptile skin, what reptiles and insects eat, as well as discuss where each of these creatures live. We will get to see and touch real reptiles when Echoes of Nature visits on August 10<sup>th</sup>. It is sure to be a day of great discovery! We would like to remind you that our Splash Day this week will take place at Nicolet Park on Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. The bus will depart Starmaker between 9:15-9:30 so make sure you arrive by 9:00am. The children will need to bring water shoes, towels, bathing suits, and a change of clothes. It would also be greatly appreciated if you could put sunscreen on your child before bringing them in.

Camping Week will be pretty laid back. In addition to Jump Bunch, Music, and Splash day, we will discuss important camping and fire safety rules, make fake fire, have movie day on August 17<sup>th</sup>, make s'mores, and have the End-of-Summer picnic on August 19<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see all of you at the picnic!

The week of August 22<sup>nd</sup> is Starmaker Spirit Week. Each day we will have a different theme. On Monday, we will have a Pajama Party! Each child can wear their favorite pajamas and slippers to school. Tuesday is Wacky Hair Day! This day gives the children a chance to be creative with their look. On Wednesday, we will be wearing our clothes backwards in honor of Backwards Day! Show your school spirit on Thursday by wearing stars and Starmaker colors (blue and white)! Then, finally, Friday is Crazy Hat Day! The children can wear the craziest hats that they can find. We will also do an art project that allows each child to decorate their own hat.

Last but certainly not least, we will have transition week starting August 29<sup>th</sup>. Monday will be beach bum day and Tuesday will be farewell to summer day. We will be taking it easy, sipping on some juice, and splashing around in the sprinklers. We want to be nice and refreshed before school starts again. As a reminder, the school will be closed from August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup> and will re-open for the first day of the new school year on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

To those children who are not returning for the 2011-2012 School Year, we are glad that you spent the summer with us and hope that you have a great new school year. You all will truly be missed.

## Student Birthdays

Cadence Obedoza	Aug 7
Josephine Lynch	Aug 9
Maksim Kosogorin	Aug 16
Collin Smay	Aug 20
Heidi Herbert	Aug 22
Haley Murphy	Aug 24
Aarav Sharma	Aug 25
Sabino Stack	Aug 25

AUGUST 2011						
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SEPTEMBER 2011						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

## Teacher Birthdays

Lynn Ennis	Aug 1
Laura McKay	Aug 13

## Upcoming Events

Tuition due	Sept 1
Center Closed – Professional Responsibilities	Sept 1
Center Closed – Professional Responsibilities	Sept 2
Center Closed – Labor Day	Sept 5
Grandparent’s Luncheon at 10:30am	Sept 12
Back to School Night – Elementary & P2 Only	Sept 13
Back to School Night – P1 & P3 Only	Sept 14
Morning Classes Only – Daycare Program All Day	Sept 23
Picture Day 7:30am-11:00am	Sept 28