



Happy New Year!

STARMAKER NEWSLINE

January 2011

Dates to Remember

- 1 Tuition Due
- 2 Morning Classes Only -
Afternoon Daycare Program
- 16 CENTER CLOSED -
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 17 Meeting for Prospective
Elementary Meeting at 12pm
- 24 Meeting for Prospective
Kindergarten Meeting at 12pm

Florence, MBA, President/CEO

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with their families and friends. December is always such a busy month but the festivities make it exciting and rewarding! Our holiday program was the best yet! Thanks to all the parents who attended and contributed to its success. The teachers and children worked very hard to deliver a flawless and enjoyable performance! Kudos to you too!

It never slows down here at Starmaker after the New Year rolls in! Ms. Ashley, our administrative assistant has relinquished her part time position in the office to concentrate on obtaining her bachelor's degree! I want to take this opportunity to thank her profusely for her work in the office and around the school. Ms. Ashley has been a dedicated, organized, hardworking, and intelligent assistant and has helped us tremendously improve our operations. Although she will be gone from her position, she will still be available to work with us as a substitute so we are not saying goodbye! Congratulations Ashley, on obtaining your Associates Degree!!

The opening created by Ms. Ashley has allowed us to evaluate our options with an opportunity to further boost our operations by hiring a full time Assistant Director for the school. It is our hope that this added full time position will provide the much needed help Ms. Lynn needs to ensure much attention is focused on operations as well as educational programming for our infant through preprimary age groups. I welcome Ms. Danesha Eddins to our school and look forward to taking advantage of her past experience as an assistant director and early childhood educator.

We remain excited about the last six months of the school year and look forward to many activities planned for you and your family. Please take a peek at our online calendar to familiarize yourself with upcoming events at

<http://homeworkcenters.com/starmaker/calendar.html>

As the New Year brightens up our lives with a new light of hope, joy, and promise, we hope it brings your heart and home with the best of everything it brings along! May this year be a year in which we savor our experiences, bring joy to others, strengthen our relationships, and be thankful for all we have!

Ms. Florence

IMPORTANT INFO:

** Don't forget to update your contact information with the front office. **

** Please see School Reach information on Page 14. **

** Congratulations to Ms. Allison, Ms. Karen, and Ms. Jeannette for obtaining their Montessori Certification and to Ms. Ashley for obtaining her Associate's Degree. **

Lynn Ennis, Director

Modeling Good Nutrition in the New Year

Happy New Year! We would like to start off 2012 with a bang of good nutrition! If you look at the headlines today you may be overwhelmed by the many articles on the ever growing problem of obesity. It seems as if it's becoming an epidemic in the U.S. Children are constantly being exposed to TV ads for fast foods and sugary snacks. As Montessorians and parents, our purpose is to educate and prepare children for life. As childhood obesity continues to rise we should strive to educate our children at an early age so as to help the spread of this condition.

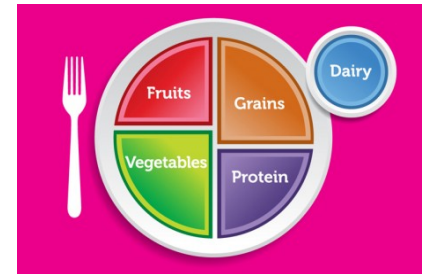
According to Kelly Brownell, director of Yale's Center for Eating and Weight Control, obesity is caused by poor food choices and by overeating (Tuna, 2004). Teaching children about a balanced and nutritious diet is a must for promoting healthy, growing bodies and minds. This is easily accomplished at all stages of development. Children are born with taste preferences toward the sweet and salty. Research claims that a young child needs to be exposed to new foods at least 10 times before they will accept it. Children also prefer foods they are familiar with versus foods they've never tasted. Studies also show that using food as a reward or withholding it as punishment also leads to overeating. The same is true for "forbidding" or denying certain foods. This often results in overindulging in that food when the parent or teacher control is not around.

At home and in the classroom it is important that parents and Montessori teachers are consistent role models. What kind of message does it send to a child if parents eliminate chocolate in their lunches, yet they see their Montessori teacher eating a candy bar for lunch?

Mealtime should be a time to come together, to have polite conversation and to share a meal. Use this time to model the grace and courtesy of sharing a meal together. Use a smaller plate for children to help regulate portion control. If a dessert is offered, it should be one that is nutritious. It shouldn't be used as a reward for "cleaning their plate" or for trying a new food. It should also not be withheld for not eating or for bad behavior.

As part of the "Cosmic Education", Maria Montessori believed that a healthy mind, body and spirit are essential elements for success on the universal path of progress and development. With these, a human being has a better chance of making a positive contribution to the world than one who does not take care of his physical, mental and emotional development.

Starmaker has already implemented Meatless Mondays into our monthly lunch menus. Watch for many other good nutrition ideas that we will be incorporating throughout the year! We plan to play a key role by helping children discover that good health is a pleasure they can enjoy from childhood into old age.



A New Year, A New Beginning

By: Ashley Sharf
Administrative Assistant

With the start of a new year, we all have new goals and high hopes for a fresh start. Now that I have accomplished my goal of obtaining an associate's degree in business administration, it is time for me to work towards my bachelor's degree. Starting on January 9th, you will see a new face in the office. Ms. Lynn and I will be training Ms. Danesha Eddins to be Starmaker's new Assistant Director.

Ms. Danesha has experience working in the classroom as well as in the office. She has worked in early childhood education for approximately eight years and has experience with children of various ages. Ms. Danesha is currently working towards her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education; however, she also has a variety of childcare training that includes CPR and First Aid certification. In her free time, Ms. Danesha enjoys spending time with her family, reading books with her daughter, going to ZUMBA classes, and going to the movies. She is currently engaged and has a beautiful, nine month old baby named Daria who will be coming to our school as well. For future reference, Ms. Danesha's e-mail address is DEddins@starmakerschool.org and will be effective starting on January 9th.

Although you will not see me at the school everyday, you will still see me around the school every so often substituting in some of the classrooms. I am excited to start this new chapter in my life and hope that you will give Ms. Danesha a warm welcome. Good luck to each of you in 2012.



"Be well, do good work,
and keep in touch."

-Garrison Keillor

Infant 1- Ms. Jeannette & Ms. Keonna

We hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday. We would like to welcome Hannah, Myla and Liam to Infant one. We would also like to say good-bye to Grayden who is moving over to the Infant two with Ms. Brandy and Ms. Ashley.

In December, we had fun making our arts and crafts for the holidays. We are glad that the parents and grandparents were able to come to our holiday program. We hope that you enjoyed it!

In the month of January, we will be learning about winter and Snowmen. We will also be working on our large motor skills. We would like to thank all of the parents who purchased items from our wish tree. We appreciate all that you do for our classroom.

Happy New Year!

Infant 2 – Ms. Ashley & Ms. Brandy

We would like to welcome Grayden from Infant one and say good-bye to Kylie who moved up to Infant three with Ms. Karin and Ms. Kaitlyn. We will miss you.

The infants had lots of fun tracing their feet and hands for our holiday crafts. The infants also liked the sound of the jingle bells as they shook them. We want to thank all of the parents for joining us for our program. The infants enjoyed wearing their Elf hats. We also hope that everyone likes the new foam floor tiles. They provide more cushion for the infants as they start to pull up and walk.

In the month of January, we will be learning about winter and Snowmen. We will use our sense of touch to explore snow. We will also be working on our large motor skills. We would like to wish everyone a happy and safe new year!



Infant 3- Ms. Karin, & Ms. Kaitlyn

In December, we talked about winter and snow. We also had Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa activities. We had lots of messy fun with applesauce dough and finger-paint. The children really enjoyed the daily lessons of motor skills, language, and practical life. Our colors were red, green, yellow, and white. We also got to welcome another new friend, Isabella, to our classroom!!

In January, we will continue our winter theme. We have various projects and activities in the works. Our daily lessons will continue to focus on motor skills, language, practical life, Sign Language, and math. We will also touch on the special events of the month such as New Year's and Martin Luther King Day.

As the weather gets colder, please check your child's cubby for appropriate clothing for the winter season. Please take a few minutes to review the health policy as well. Also, if your child is on medication, please let us know what type of medication and what they are being treated for. This will allow us to watch for any side effects and further symptoms.

If anyone has old hand towels or bath towels they are willing to donate, please let me know. We would like to have more bibs made for the classroom. Happy New Year!



Toddlers- Ms. Karen, & Ms. Amanda

December was an exciting month for the Toddler classroom. We enjoyed our art projects that helped to cover our walls and developed our fine motor skills. Some of the new materials we introduced were cotton balls and fake snow! The children love the one-on-one lessons that allow them to experience things on their own and at their own pace. Our Christmas Program really went well and the children had lots of fun making music with their bells. Thank you to all of the parents who were able to come and enjoy it with us. We would also like to thank the parents for our wish list items as well as the teacher gifts. The children enjoyed being outside in the cooler weather. The gift exchange between the children was so much fun. We hope everyone's Christmas was a safe and happy one.

January brings in a new year and opportunities for introducing many new lessons. We will be reading about the winter season and all that it brings. Snow is something new to our children so we hope to get a chance to play in it. The children will also learn to put on and take off their own coats. This teaches them independence and builds their self-confidence. Nature is something the children really enjoy and we plan on taking many nature walks whenever possible. The colder weather brings on the cold season so we would welcome donations of kleenex and hand sanitizer. Please also remember to dress you children in winter coats, gloves and hats. We wish everyone a Happy New Year and look forward to the year ahead.



Pre-Primary 1 - Ms. Tuana & Ms. Tynisha

We have been busy bees and have worked right through the end of 2011. First, the class would like to wish Abigail well as she has moved to the Primary 2 environment. She will be greatly missed. In December, we took a look at the various holidays that people celebrate: Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas. We worked on tweezing, phonics, created wonderful art and had a great time preparing and performing for the Holiday Program. Our friends took pictures with Santa and wrote him a letter that was "mailed to the North Pole". We would like to thank the Steere family for purchasing a book for the class at the Usborne book fair.

As we look to the New Year, we look forward to more winter weather. The class will learn about various habitats such as igloos, shelters, and homes. We will review our classroom rules, work on zipping, group art activities, talk about new year's resolutions, and introduce new phonics C,G,H,I,R. Our monthly bake-off will resume this month so get those recipes ready. As a reminder, the school will be closed on January 16th for Martin Luther King Jr's birthday. Again, please check your child's cubby for clothing that is appropriate for your child's size and the weather.



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

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone enjoyed their holiday. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and assisted with the Holiday Program. It was great! We were very proud of the Pre-Primary children and their performance. They did such a great job. The children really understood that there are other people in the world that do not celebrate the same way that we do. They enjoyed learning about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you to all our parents for helping with our gift exchange. The children really enjoyed being able to give a gift to their friends. Since we have started to learn about different cultures and their holidays, we are going to continue with the multicultural theme.

In January, we will continue to learn about people around the world. We will introduce the fourth continent and their culture. Please, check your child's daily sheets so that you can follow up with the children at home. It is important to know about different cultures and that it is ok to be different. As we talk about the different continents, we would like for parents to be involved with art, show and tell, stories, and other activities. Please come in and join us. We would also like to remind all of our parents to check their child's cubby for appropriate clothing now that the weather is changing. We also would like to remind parents about labeling all clothing items such as jackets, gloves, and hats. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Ms. Megan at mLawrence@starmakerschool.org or leave her a message in the marble notebook. Let's start our new year on the right path...Here we come 2012!



Primary 1- Ms. Natalya & Ms. Angelique



Thank you very much for being a part of your child's school life. The month of December was very busy and exciting -- full of interesting events. Many of these events never would have happened without your help and participation.

Our little friends worked very hard and achieved great results in all areas. They are very excited to work with the new language lessons. I would like to thank Ms. Jennifer Connors for making the new Initial Sounds lessons. The students spend a lot of time working with them. They love the new pictures found in these lessons. Also, great thanks to Ms. Rebbecca and Ms. Kajal for their help in making the new science lessons.



During the month of December, we began learning about the World's major habitats -- Biomes. We traveled to the coldest parts of our planet and learned about the tundra. Now we know why trees do not grow in the tundra. The trees roots cannot penetrate the frozen ground.

Our little artists loved painting Christmas trees and snowflakes. They went even further. Please look at our windows and you will see winter themes painted on the glass. And of course every one enjoyed the Gingerbread House Day. Our little friends spent a joyful time with Ms. Jennifer, Ms. Megan, Ms. Dana, and Ms. Christina decorating gingerbread houses and a Christmas tree. Everyone loved to wear the reindeer necklaces that Ms. Jennifer helped make.



Our little readers are very thankful to Courtney's, Evan's, Trent's, Reyna's, Tori's and Donald's families for donating the books for our classroom.

The month of December was full of many holidays. We talked about the origins of Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. What a joy it was to listen to Ms. Margaret and Ms. Lolisa sing for our little friends.



The key event was the field trip to the St. Mary's Nursing Center where the Primary One and the Elementary students delivered a great performance. I was wondering what else my little friends encouraged me to do. I started to sing in Hebrew, dance...what is next!? This field trip was special because, as we discussed in the circle time, it was for the elderly and sick people. It was so touching to see the seniors watching our performance, clap, laugh, and ask for more dove ornaments that the students made for them.



The little tour to the tree farm was very nice and educational. We learned about the different kinds of Christmas trees.

The Starmaker holiday program proved that our little actors and actresses have a lot of theatrical skills and love to entertain and challenge the parents. It was nice to see the happy faces of the children when they opened their gifts handmade by their friends during gift exchange.

Have a happy and safe new year!

Primary 1 Pictures Continued...



Primary 2- Ms. Erin & Ms. Rachel

Happy January! We hope that you and your families had a wonderful, safe holiday together filled with traditions and perhaps some wine for La Befana! Thank you for coming to our holiday program and showing your support. We were so happy to see you in the audience. The children did a great job and had a fun time storytelling!

The month of December flew by faster than Santa's sleigh! We almost accomplished all of the special lessons that we planned so we will start our new year by carrying over some of the lessons that were unattended to in January. And, of course, adding a few more things! This month we will welcome in the New Year together, hang our homemade stockings up for La Befana's visit on January 6th, and celebrate the winter season beginning! The Montessori room thrives on celebrating diversity and cultural customs around the world, as well as understanding our own country's history and culture. We will learn about Martin Luther King Jr. Day by learning a few Peace songs, making peace bracelets, and learning about the man, Martin Luther King Jr. (his life and lessons). The children really love these lessons and stories about how we can express our differences through peace and love instead of hurtful words and actions. "At the center of non-violence stands the principle of love." We focus on diversity and unity.

The children are working well with their language, math, sensorial, and science lessons! They work hard on their individual math and sound/reading lessons each day and the Kindergarteners are doing a lot of extra math and language work in the afternoon! Their writing skills are really coming along and they are becoming masters of many sight words! We will carry over our Evergreen tree unit from December and explore different types of trees and the parts of a tree. We also plan to continue our measuring lessons and how to use a ruler, as we measure and record different things in our room and in our lessons. The Kindergarteners will also paint with ice cubes and so a few experiments to learn how water can go from a solid to a liquid to a gas.

Please remember to label all mittens and hats and remind your children to keep their toasty items in their green bag in the hallway (not their coat sleeves). Thank you!

Many, many special thanks to the Primary II Santas who brought our classroom new lessons! Thank you to the Wilt family for the Art Museum matching cards for our Art and Culture lessons! Thank you Leishear family for all of the markers for our writing skills! Thank you to the Goul family for all of the needed packing tape for our shelves and nametags! Thank you to the Alexander family for the stapler and dry erase board cleaner! Thank you to the Elliot family for the Food Slicing lesson for practical life! And thank you to The Sharma family, the Smith family, and the Leishear family for our new and awesome Usborne books!



Primary 3- Ms. Allison & Ms. Sarah

We have had a wonderful time this December preparing for the holidays. The children enjoyed many art projects such as decorating gingerbread men, weaving together individual stockings, and painting Christmas trees individually and as a class. One of their favorite projects was decorating a snowflake. We had a long talk about the world around us and what other people have or may not have at this time of year. On the back of their snowflakes we helped them to write one thing they wished for the world to have this holiday season. Some of our friends wished for peace, love, and warm beds for everyone. Others wished for everyone to have a mommy, a puppy, and even an elephant!

It was very exciting to have Wyatt's mom, grandma, and little brother come join our class in making holiday crafts and gingerbread men. We really appreciated all of the time they took to prepare a wonderful morning for our class. The children loved decorating their foam gingerbread and snowflake ornaments just as much as the cookie gingerbread men!

As we prepared for the holiday program we studied about holiday traditions in South America. The children were particularly excited about the Brazilian tradition where children place their shoes by the window on Christmas Eve for Papai Noel to fill with presents. We want to give a special thank you to Ms. Natalya Alonso for coming in and sharing her personal experiences from Brazil with us. She taught us all about all the different Holidays that are celebrated in Brazil.

Thank you to everyone who could join us for the program. The children worked extremely hard on their performance, and were delighted to share with all of you. Thank you to the Stack Family for donating the small table to help accommodate our growing classroom! We would like to extend an extremely gracious thank you to the Wible Family for all their contributions to our classroom. We are so thankful to have some new lessons as well as the perfect sound bags Mrs. Wible made and the letter boxes Mr. Wible made.

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and look forward to jumping into the New Year!

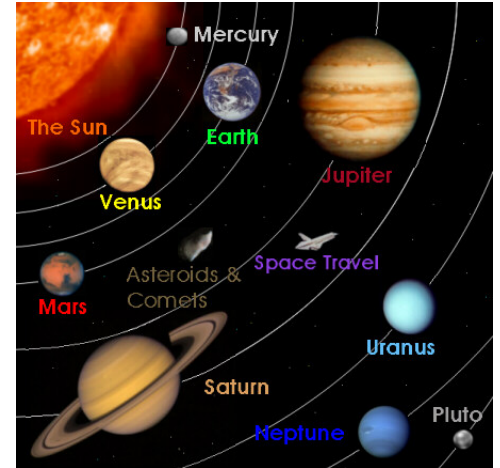


Elementary- Ms. Stephanie

We finished December by focusing a lot on spelling, grammar, punctuation, and vowel sounds. We worked through numerous spelling lists. Some students worked on their long vowel spelling lists for words such as "rake." Other students studied vowel and consonant blends for challenging words such as "autumn." The students have really enjoyed practicing their lists using the movable alphabet or making flashcards to work together on pre-tests. They also did really well with classifying the words on their lists. From identifying repetitive sound patterns to organizing words by their part of speech, these students are up for a challenge!

January offers a fresh start for learning a new assortment of curriculum objectives. As we return from our Holiday Break we will take what we've been working so hard on, and aim even higher! Every student in the classroom has been working towards completing their spelling box chart, as well as their reading and spelling mastery chart. These have been a wonderful incentive, as they are able to track their own progress.

Our science experiments in December really boosted enthusiasm and opened the floor for a lot of scientific thought. Next, we will change our science focus to astronomy. We will focus on the basics: planets, stars, galaxies, satellites, and shuttle missions. Then we will also dive into some challenging questions: How far is a light year? Did life ever exist on Mars?



Planet Green Recycling Program

Remember to keep your eye out for the Planet Green Recycling box! We will be participating in this program year round. Participating in this program helps both the environment and the school.

Please remember that in addition to recycling ink cartridges and cell phones, the Planet Green Program also allows you to purchase ink cartridges from their website! When you purchase ink cartridges from Planet Green, Starmaker will receive a portion of the proceeds. If you would like to support us by purchasing your ink cartridges from Planet Green, please visit:

www.planetgreenrecycle.com/starmakerschool.



Box Tops for Education

We participate in the Box Tops for Education Program every year. This year, we have been doing exceptionally well! We have raised a total of \$157. Let's strive to exceed that goal. We would like to thank all of those who have and continue to bring in box tops.

If you haven't participated in this program before, it is so easy to do! All you have to do is bring in the box tops from participating products. The collection basket can be found on the bookshelf located in the multi-purpose room. Additional information about this program can be found at www.boxtops4education.com.





School Reach

Now that the chilly winter months have started, it is important to keep a few things in mind. Children will only be allowed to go outside if the weather is thirty-two degrees or warmer. The Parent Board in the lobby will be updated every week with the weather forecast. When it snows, the teachers may opt to take the children out to play in the snow once or twice. This is only allowed when the teacher sends home a letter in advance notifying parents and guardians that they will need to bring in the appropriate snow gear. If you do not wish to have your child out playing in the snow, please write a letter to the office.

The school's director, Ms. Lynn Ennis, will determine if the school needs to close or delay opening due to inclement weather. In the event that the school needs to close or delay opening, guardians and employees will be notified through Channel 4 and School Reach. It is important that all guardians and employees keep their contact information up to date.

To be sure everyone is receiving the school reach messages...

-When answering the call, only say "hello" once; otherwise this will delay the message.

-If the message still does not play, cover the mouthpiece of the phone to cutout all background noise. The message should play shortly after.

- Make sure your answering machine or voicemail picks up after four rings. The system will not leave a message if it rings more than four times.

Student Birthdays

David Roche Jr.	Jan 1
Evan Cain	Jan 1
Zachary Alexander	Jan 3
Grace Cosgrove	Jan 5
Reyna Anderson	Jan 8
Kayleigh Helm	Jan 8
Ian Gabriel Eraso	Jan 8
Luke Orgel	Jan 15
Hunter Evans	Jan 18
Joseph Guldi	Jan 20
August Shoger	Jan 20
Madison Urich	Jan 21
Nathaniel Wilt	Jan 23
Abigail Eberly	Jan 28

JANUARY 2011

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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FEBRUARY 2011

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Teacher Birthdays

Angelique Kelly	Jan 17
Lauren Russell	Jan 23
Karen Hudgins	Jan 28

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

** If you would like a year statement for 2010, please notify the front office or e-mail Ms. Lynn at Lennis@starmakerschool.org. **