

THE SPONGE

Issaquah Montessori

November 2009



General News

October has been a busy and fun month at IMS. Early in the month the Toddlers took a field trip to Remlinger Farms to enjoy the wonderful Halloween and harvest decorations and activities. Later in the month, our Primary classes had their field trip to Jubilee farms where they played in a hay maze, rode a hay wagon and picked their own pumpkin right out of the pumpkin patch. A good time was had by all. We owe a big thank you to all the parents who accompanied us, drove and supervised children while at the farms. We could not take these field trips without the parent volunteers.

October also brought with it an abrupt change of weather. Despite the rain, the children have been able to get outside for play time most days. If it is only a light sprinkle, the children still go outside as we believe the fresh air and physical activity is important. Therefore, please make sure your child has appropriate clothing for wet, cold weather and a change of clothes. Rubber boots are an excellent choice. As always, we ask that you label all your child's clothing with their name or initials.

During the weekend of Oct. 16th-18th, our teachers attended conferences either in California or locally. There they attended workshops to deepen their knowledge of Montessori philosophy, best practices and teaching methods and returned to school excited to apply what they had learned.

Dates to Remember

10th - Primary Parent Connection
11th - Veteran's Day. No school. No childcare.
12th - Toddler Parent Connection
16th - 20th - Food Drive for Issaquah Food Bank.
25th - 27th - Thanksgiving Break. No school. No childcare.
30th - Progress Report Preparation. No school. Childcare available.

Annual Food Drive

Every year at this time Issaquah Montessori encourages our families to remember those less fortunate by participating in our food drive. We will be collecting non-perishable, nutritious food items for the Issaquah Food Bank during the week of November 16th. This is a great opportunity to talk to your children about contribution and to help them feel useful by involving them in the process. Explain to them what "non-perishable" means. (For example, if it needs to be kept in the refrigerator, it's perishable.) and what kinds of foods are nutritious. Then have them look through the pantry with you or help you choose items from the grocery store shelves and discuss their choices. When you bring the items to school, have them help you carry them in so that they feel that they are giving as well.

WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL CLOSURES



We are approaching the time of year when we can experience weather conditions that make it unsafe to drive and attend school. Our policy at Issaquah Montessori is to follow the Issaquah School District when determining when to close school or to have a late start. When conditions are questionable, the Issaquah School District Transportation Department sends drivers out in the wee hours of the morning to assess the degree of safety. If there is a change of schedule, they then post it on their website:

www.issaquah.wednet.edu. Please check this website in the morning before coming to school if there is the slightest question regarding road conditions. Even if the roads in your neighborhood are clear, they may be unsafe in other areas of the school district. You can also log on to www.schoolreport.org and sign up to receive email alerts.

The policy at IMS is as follows:

If Issaquah schools are closed, IMS is closed.

If Issaquah schools are 1 hour late, IMS is 1 hour late.

If Issaquah schools are 2 hours late, IMS morning classes are CANCELLED and there is NO Before School Care. Afternoon classes begin at 1:00 pm.

If the weather turns bad during the school day and Issaquah schools close, IMS will also close and make every effort to contact all parents immediately.



Closure days will not be made up.

Infant & Toddler Community: An Adult/Child Workshop Series

Issaquah Montessori introduces a brand new interactive workshop series for parents, grandparents, or consistent caregivers and their children 1-36 months of age. The workshop explores Montessori methods in guiding the child's development in a Montessori environment.

The Infant & Toddler Community program was developed by Miawling Cheng, a Montessori Specialist and a toddler teacher at Arbor Schools. She received her Infant/Toddler certification at Montessori Education Institute of the Pacific Northwest, and an MPH in Maternal and Child Health from Columbia University

The program will highlight themes such as:

- Preparing the Home Environment**
- The Importance of Routines**
- The purpose of Play**
- Preparing Your Child for Separation**
- Positive Discipline**
- Developmentally Appropriate Activities**
- An Introduction to Montessori**

Sessions will range from 9-16 meeting times, 80 minutes each.

For more detailed information about this exciting new program, log on to our website www.issaquahmontessori.com and download the brochure, or email info@issaquahmontessori.com, or call 425-557-7705.

PARENT SURVEY

Now that the year is well under way we'd like to ask you to take a moment and share your opinions. The way to do that is a 10 question survey, with plenty of room for comments.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=jK6f9zow8ktThlOu2a4DYw_3d_3d

We appreciate your participation!

HABLO ESPANOL?

Dear Families,

The children are going to continue learning the colors and counting to 20. During November they are going to be learning about family. I am going to read them stories such as "Los Hermanitos" (The Little Brothers), "Mi Familia" (My Family), and "Los Abuelos" (Grandparents). They'll play with family members on the felt board and interact with each other trying to play the role of one family member.

New words:

El papá – Dad, **la mamá** – Mom, **la hermana** – sister, **el hermano** – brother, **el bebé** – baby, **el abuelo** – grandfather, **la abuela** – grandmother, **el abuelito** – grandpa, **la abuelita** – grandma, **la familia** – family.

Thank you,
Luz Concha

Put Your Child's Sleep Problems to Rest

At Swedish Hospital's Issaquah Campus a pediatric specialist will give an overview of various common sleep disorders in children, including snoring, sleep apnea, insomnia, poor sleep hygiene, sleep walking and night terrors. Strategies for helping children sleep better and treatments will also be discussed.

Thursday, November 12th, 6-8 p.m.

Registration for all classes is required.
Call 206-386-2502

Halloween Train

Northwest Railway Museum
Snoqualmie, WA
Snoqualmie Depot
38625 SE King Street

Wear your costume on Oct 30th, and 31st and get \$2.00 off the price of your ticket when you ride the Halloween train.

www.trainmuseum.org
425-888-3030



Baby-Sitting!!



The Junior High class in Arbor Schools is offering a babysitting event once a month. There will be 4-5 certified babysitters there with 2 parents. There will be dinner and a movie and many other fun things for your child to do.

Times and dates: October 24th, November 21st, December 12, January 9th, February 6th, March 13th, April 10th, and May 8th from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

We accept any child as long as they are potty trained.

We charge \$25.00 for the first child and \$20.00 for the sibling

Please pay in advance.

Spots fill up.

To sign up please email:

correine@arborschools.com

PARENT EDUCATION

Sensitive Periods For Learning From Birth to Six

Before the age of six, human beings are in a unique period of learning and development. At this time in our lives, certain information is absorbed by our personalities without conscious effort. Young children learn to walk, talk and do hundreds of things without formal instruction or being aware of learning. Dr. Maria Montessori (1870-1952), an Italian physician, described these stages as sensitive periods of development.

Sensitive periods are characterized by five observable behaviors. Children seem to be drawn to certain work and we see 1) a well defined activity with a beginning, middle and end; 2) the activity is irresistible for the child once he or she starts it; 3) the same activity is returned to again and again; 4) a passionate interest develops; 5) a restful and tranquil state comes at the finish of the activity. Once the sensitive period is over, children are not drawn to certain activities as before. Three-year olds love to wash their hands because they are in a sensitive period, whereas ten-year-olds are not.

There are five sensitive periods of development from birth to age six: Language, Order, Refinement of the Senses, Movement and Social Relations. For the next five weeks, I'll be writing about these sensitive periods, starting with social relations.

Between ages 2 1/2 to 4 1/2 children are learning social skills and manners that will be the foundation for their social interactions. Between the ages of 12 to 15, there is another developmental period when young teens are open to developing and polishing social skills. This is one reason that dance lessons and cotillion are offered at this age.

Between ages three to six, children are learning social cues, such as, when to say please and thank you and to whom, how to meet people, shake hands, and on and on. Children are also learning how to care for themselves: dressing, tying shoes, eating, washing, bathing, brushing hair and teeth are among the many self-care skills children are learning at this age. Also children are interested in learning to care for their home and family by making beds, cleaning, sweeping, cooking and gardening. These early practical skills strengthen social skills and relationships throughout our lives.

We can assist our children in acquiring skills by modeling and giving simple instructions. Allowing our children to watch and interact with us as we work, models vital skills. We can also give short "lessons". For social skills, though, the teachable moment is not when we expect a certain behavior, but rather beforehand, with indirect preparation.

Perhaps neighbors are coming over for coffee. What social skills will your child need to be successful in this situation? Some of the social skills you might want to teach are greeting the neighbor, introducing oneself, offering a place to sit, offering food or drink, thanking guests for the visit, and saying goodbye. A short lesson for self-introduction might go like this:

"William, our neighbors are coming for coffee on Saturday. When they get here I'd like for you to introduce yourself. This is how you introduce yourself. Extend your hand and shake hands. Then say, "Hello. My name is William. I'm glad to meet you". Now let's pretend that I am Mr. or Ms. Jones. I'll walk through the door and you can practice greeting me".

Your child can practice with you several times before the visit. When the neighbors arrive, welcome them, and cue your child, by saying, "I'd like you to meet my son."

If William cannot remember what to do, forcing him to perform is not recommended. Just smile and go ahead and introduce him, knowing that some additional preparation is necessary. Remember, the teachable moment is not at the moment we are asking them to perform a new skill. Shyness, embarrassment, tiredness, and hunger can all contribute to an inability to perform a new skill, as we've all experienced.

To develop social skills, analyze what needs to be learned according to the situation and your child's behavior. Model with your own behavior and prepare your child indirectly with short lessons. In this way you can assist your child in acquiring social skills for a lifetime of successful relationships.