



HAGERSTOWN CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

Education for Life

October 2014

"The environment must be rich in motives which lend interest to activity and invite the child to conduct his own experiences."

~Maria Montessori

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Kailash Reddy donating to Alex's Lemonade stand



Letter from the Director, Heather Tosten

As we move into October and the school year progresses, the staff and I get excited about the introduction of our educational themes and all the special activities that happen throughout the year. I am happy to welcome visitors from Washington County Free Library and Washington County Soil Conservation Department during the month of October. These visitors will be sharing their expertise with the students as part of the curriculum enhancement project that I have been working on. This project will increase the amount of community resources that visit the school and share with our students their special talents and expertise. If you have any community contact that you would like to share with me please let me know.

Vanessa and I would like to thank everyone for their help in making the administrative transition easier for us. We have had a great start to the school year. Our door is always open and we welcome you to stop in to say hi or contact us with any questions you may have. I am looking forward to a great year and getting to know you and your children better.

Happy Fall!

Fundraising

- Yankee Candle sale will begin on October 1, 2014. All forms need to be returned to the office by October 15, 2014. Orders will be delivered by Thanksgiving break. More information will be sent home in your child's book bag. HCS will receive an average of 40% profit from your purchases.
- HCS will now receive a portion of Amazon sales if you go to the Amazon Smile link below

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1869677>

Your fundraising efforts are always appreciated. All fundraising profits support new projects and programs that directly benefit our students and help offset tuition increases.

Community Service Projects

Alex's Lemonade Stand was a tremendous success. We were able to raise over **\$662.21**. We will send your donations to ALSF where they allocate funds for research for childhood cancer treatment and cure of childhood cancer. If you wish to make an additional donation you can do so at:

www.alexslimonade.orgmypage/1120259.

Thank you for your support and generosity!

E-waste represents 2% of America's trash in landfills, but it equals 70% of overall toxic waste. This month, we partner with St. John's Lutheran Church to host an electronics recycling program. **October 6-10** we will collect electronic items such as computers, computer accessories, monitors, printers and televisions. We will provide carts in the lobby for you to transport items from your automobile to the basement via the elevator. There will be a table provided for collection in the basement.



Maggie Mace celebrating her Birthday Walk with Ms. Penny, above.

Ms. Caitlin and friends sharing books, right

A Letter from Ms. Penny in Pre-Primary

September has gone by quickly in the Pre Primary classroom. The children have adjusted well to the classroom routines. The children enjoyed reading books and learning new songs about family, friends, and feelings this month. Their new favorite song is "Buzz, Buzz" by Laurie Berkner.

Some of our favorite activities in the classroom are the farm, the family photo album and learning to iron on our wooden ironing board, which is a life skill that most of us do not use anymore. Over the next several months we will begin to introduce some basic Montessori sensorial materials and practical life activities. Look for more information in future newsletters on the description and order of material introduction.

We have started celebrating birthdays. If your child has a birthday during the summer months, we will assign him or her a "special day" to recognize his or her birthday. You will receive a notice that includes directions and your child's date. Birthday Walks are scheduled as close to the date of a child's birthday as possible but special events on the school calendar may limit our schedule.

Family is invited to the classroom on this day from 9:00 am to 9:45 am. If you have submitted your notarized release paperwork, one adult may stay for the entire 3 hour class to help the child celebrate. Thank you in advance for following the special guidelines for this event.

Throughout the year we explore many different types of art media. Most of the art work will be kept in your child's portfolio in the classroom. Some of the projects will be displayed at the spring art show and the entire portfolio will be sent home at the end of the school year. You are welcome to look through it at anytime.

In October we will be exploring the country of China. Our science topic will be studying water and the water cycle. Our artist will be Van Gogh and music will be nursery rhymes.

The music program will be introduced on Friday, September 19, and will continue every Friday for six weeks. Music will be offered in the spring for the children who attend Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. More information about the Fall Festival parties and parade of Costumes will be coming home in your folders. The dates are Wednesday, October 29 and Friday, October 31.

Please remember to sign your child in and out and check your folder daily for all information from the office or Ms. Penny. As the weather starts to change *please* make sure you label all outer wear including sweaters and sweatshirts.

Upcoming Events

October 1	Normalization Period Ends Volunteers Welcome in the Classroom Yankee Candle Fundraiser Begins
October 6	Soil Conservation with Chris Burch
October 6 - 10	St John's and HCS Electronic Recycling Program
October 10	Business Directory Ads Due
October 13	Board of Directors Meeting 6:30
October 15	Yankee Candle Orders Due
October 17 & 20	HCS CLOSED: Professional Days
October 24 & 28	Show & Tell for Primary Classes
October 29 & 31	Fall Festivals Courtyard Costume Parade: 11:15 am & 3:15 pm
November 5 & 6	Picture Days

A Letter from Ms. Jean

Primary 1

The Primary 1 class has enjoyed the first few weeks of school. We have had fun getting to know each other. We have a fantastic group of children who are highly motivated to learn. Through our Grace and Courtesy lessons, we have established a system to encourage respectful behavior and a positive learning environment. Our first gathering always begins with a greeting, which helps us learn friends' names, the calendar, the weather, and the Pledge of Allegiance. One of the highlights of the daily gathering is the "Universal Plea for Peace" which the children are learning to sign. We have already had several Birthday Walks, which allow us to give each child his or her special day.

This month we will explore China, its cultural traditions and customs. Our science topic is the water cycle, and we will have a special guest to help us learn about the water table and soil conservation. Throughout the year we will learn about multiple facets of art, including a variety of artists, beginning with Vincent Van Gogh. We

will also complete a mini study on Nursery Rhymes. These topics will be incorporated into our daily gatherings and will be reinforced with classroom "works."

Our music program began on September 19, and will continue every Friday through November 7. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday friends will have an opportunity to enjoy the music program in the spring.

Fall celebrations are on Wednesday, October 29 and Friday, October 31. A sign up sheet for requested contributions will be on the bulletin board outside of the classroom.

Kindergarten students have been working independently as we reviewed all of the letter sounds during the month of September. They have begun writing stories, as well as letters asking for items that interest them. We have also been working on numbers 0-20 with an emphasis on building teen numbers.

Show and Tell will also be a part of our monthly program. Please bring *one* educational item to present during gathering. We appreciate your support in preparing your child to demonstrate and present his or her item to the class. This rehearsal will be good practice technique, and will give your child confidence when it is his or her turn to speak to the other students. October Show and Tell dates are Friday, October 24 and Tuesday, October 28.

As the normalization period has ended, we now welcome volunteers in the classroom. The Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet is posted outside of the classroom door. Parents may volunteer after returning their notarized form to the office. Please review the guidelines before you volunteer. We also ask that you only volunteer once per month to allow all parents an opportunity. Your time and assistance are always appreciated.

Primary 1 Teachers: Jean Yurek, Sue Schaeffer, Alieta Dodson, Angela Robinson, and Gina Magee

Things to Remember

- Volunteer registration forms are available in the office
- November Tuition is due on Oct 15
- Extended Care fees are due on November 1
- Return borrowed clothing to the classroom
- Lost & Found items are in the office
- Please label all sweaters and jackets
- Out of respect for St John's and for the safety of your children, playing in the flower beds or along retaining walls is not permitted

October Music Focus: Nursery Rhymes

Featured Artists:

The Laurie Berkner Band: <http://laurieberkner.com/>

Greg & Steve: <http://www.gregandsteve.com/>

Hap Palmer: <http://www.happalmer.com/>

Raffi : <http://www.raffinews.com/>

Disney Music will also be featured

A Letter from Ms. Gina

Primary II

I am so pleased to report that we have had a wonderful first month of school here in the Primary 2 classroom. The first time students have adjusted well to a new environment, and the returning students have been eager to help them. This time has been dedicated to learning classroom routines, and understanding the gracious way to treat other people, as well as the materials in our classroom. The children all seem to be happy and comfortable in our classroom community.

Our regular program of classroom topics will begin in October, featuring China as the first country to vicariously visit. This beautiful and vast country is the home of so many inventions, ancient treasures, and lovely art, that I'm sure it will be difficult to cover as much as we would like! The children always want to know more. We will learn about the Earth's water cycle in the science area and during gatherings, and our fine arts and literature program will feature the paintings of impressionist Vincent Van Gogh, and nursery rhymes, a perennial favorite.

October is also the month for our Fall Harvest Celebrations. Parties will be held on Wednesday October 29th, and Friday, October 31. Children are encouraged to come dressed in costume, and sign-up

sheets for party goods will be by our door for all who wish to contribute.

Show and Tell dates for October are Friday, October 24th and Tuesday, October 28th. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to gain confidence speaking in front of a group. Great items to send are photos of places the child has visited, favorite books, or items from nature you have found.

Our ever popular music program has returned. Miss Keri will be back for more musical fun on Fridays, and again in the spring for three day students.

We will begin welcoming volunteers into the classroom on October 1st. Please see Vanessa or Heather in the office to learn more about requirements to spend time in the classroom. We are always happy to have an extra set of hands. Our parent association is an invaluable source of knowledge and resources; if you have a special talent, travel experience, or information about one of our topics, we would love to have you share with the school.

Primary 2 Teachers: Gina Magee and Kaelin Popp

Lunch Bunch

We are pleased to offer Drop In Lunch Bunch to our families for \$10. Lunch bunch begins at 11:30 and ends at 12:30 pm and is available to our morning and afternoon Friends. Please Contact Heather or Vanessa for availability.

There are currently no spaces available for Drop In Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday for the month of October after 12:30 pm. We do have Drop-In care available on Thursday and Friday afternoon and mornings all week for \$10 an hour. Please notify Heather or Vanessa as early as possible to reserve your space.

Letter from the President of the Board

Dear Parents,

Fall is such an exciting time of the year for children! There are so many changes happening in the world around us. Whether it's the beautiful colors in the changing leaves or the shortening of the days, their little minds are soaking in every detail.

Thank you to the parents who came out for the Parents' Association meeting in September. It was wonderful to see parents of returning students and meet the parents of new students too. Heather presented information on volunteering in the classrooms. Information is available in the office for those who missed the meeting. The staff also presented on the Peace Rose and the Universal Plea for Peace, which are two methods in which the gentle philosophies of Montessori are incorporated into the classrooms. Additionally, I would like to thank the staff for providing hands-on demonstrations of some of the materials used in the classroom. Our next Parents' Association meeting will be in the spring, combined with our annual fundraiser and Spring Art Show.

We are also still accepting volunteers to serve on the fundraising committee. Stop by the office if you are interested in either opportunity.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to encourage all parents to be active in the Hagerstown Children's School community. Whether it's through volunteering in the classroom, sharing a special skill or interest with the children, or attending a board meeting, there are many opportunities to become involved with the school. We look forward to a great year!

~Cherie Marks

A Letter from Ms. Sam

Extended Care

What a great start to the new school year! Miss Kaelin and I have enjoyed getting to know our new friends. As always we loved seeing those returning faces and sharing all the stories of what everyone did over the summer.

The children had fun finding their Extended Care Bear and showing it some love by putting a heart of their choice on it. On their first day of school we asked what color they liked best, then we traced their hand on that color. After cutting them out we planted them in our growing hands bowl. Keep an eye out for how we grow this year!

The first two weeks of school we spent learning about our classroom areas and rules. Ask your child: How do you know where to put away a work? How do you walk in a line? How do you get snack? What is a work rug? I know you will get many good answers.

In September we will continue to learn about our classroom, manners, feelings, and our environment. We will be learning about China, the water cycle, Van Gogh, and nursery rhymes in October.

Miss Kaelin and I look forward to a great fun-filled year!

We Still have openings in our Primary Program. Please let your friends and other community members know that there is still an opportunity to enroll.

Monthly Tuition Fees for Primary Classrooms

Kindergarten \$669.00

5 Days \$368

3 Days \$236

2 Days \$169

Contact Us

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