

Dear Parents,

September 28, 2018

In the past couple of weeks the children have been settling in and finding the flow of their daily work. They are more productive, self disciplined, and are able to focus for longer periods of time. The returning students, especially those in Elementary, have been such a positive influence in this process. We have already seen so much growth since the start of the year!

It is very important that your child arrives on time for school, and enters the class quickly and quietly. They will gain so much from this, and lose momentum in their learning if they consistently arrive late. Please keep your feedback coming and continue to let us know of any questions you may have.

NOTES FROM THE PRIMARY



In the Primary classroom each child is gradually discovering where to find the work that challenges and interests them most. This process of learning to work independently takes time and is essential for all the progress that will follow. We are patient and observant of each child's explorations during this formative period. Some children are focused on hand washing and practical life, others are drawn to the rhyming and beginning sound works, others are loving counting, addition, and multiplication!

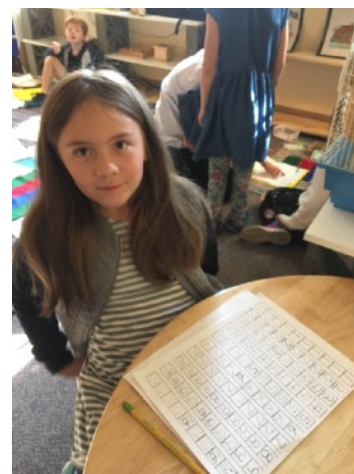
We are studying the Hubble Telescope and learning about comets, stars, and galaxies. We are learning about gravity and orbits as well. From here we will study our favorite star, the sun, then explore the planets of our own solar system.

Reina has been teaching the children to listen and understand their fellows through works she created on our peace shelf. Many beautiful moments and meaningful conversations have come forth through her work. It is having a real impact on the caring environment of our classroom.

NOTES FROM THE ELEMENTARY

What lies within this immense universe of ours? Are celestial objects still being discovered? What do they look like?

These are some of the questions we hear students asking these days. Space is our theme, and we have been learning about meteors and comets, space shuttles and probes, the eight planets in our solar system, and many of the awesome objects that reside in space. We recently discussed Juno's extended mission to Jupiter and observed beautiful pictures taken there. The students have teamed up and chosen a space object to research, and they are currently gathering facts and information for their posters. Once completed, these projects will be displayed for all to learn from and enjoy. Exploring constellations, black holes, and the phases of the moon will further our study in the coming weeks.



It takes time to settle into the routines of the Elementary classroom, especially for newer students still learning where to locate particular works and how to feel confident independently selecting them. Remembering to get their works checked and learning how to wisely manage their time to accomplish the week's requirements can also pose challenges. However, just the other day as I was helping a student learn about synonyms, I looked up to see the

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classroom settled: everyone was engaged in a work. The atmosphere was calm and quiet, and the focus was strong. It was lovely! The newer students are really settling in, and the older students are providing great support. This year we have many strong, enthusiastic readers, and we want this energy to spread throughout the classroom. There will be an emphasis this year on reading; encouraging and supporting your children at home will be a huge help. If your child is in the early reader stage, please take some time to practice reading and reviewing sight words. Repetition and consistency are so important. For children who are more advanced readers, please make sure they read for at least 15-20 minutes per evening. For some students that is nothing, and it's exciting to try to keep up with them!



SWIMMING LESSONS START NEXT TUESDAY.

Please remember to send your child with a towel, swimsuit (*do not have them wear their swimsuit to school as the lessons are in the afternoon*), and goggles (optional), and a small backpack they can carry with them to the Y. *Please label their goggles if they bring them.* Please sign up to volunteer if you are able. If your child does not attend on swim days, please bring them and volunteer to help. A sign-up list is in the foyer.

PICTURE DAY - Tuesday 10/9

Individual and class pictures will be taken in the morning this day. You'll find information on how to order pictures in your parent boxes next week. If your child does not usually attend on Tuesdays we encourage you to bring them in for photos.

PIR DAYS - Professional Development Days are scheduled for **October 18th & 19th** School is not in session.



ORIGINAL WORKS

Packets will be distributed for this excellent fundraiser next week. Inside you will find an art work, created by your child, which you can reproduce onto t-shirts, mugs, magnets, etc. All proceeds we raise will go directly teacher professional development! Our hope is that you can purchase items for your home, gifts for others, and help our training effort at the same time. If your child has another art work at home which you would like to use, please ask for additional order forms.

Please have all packets returned by this Monday, October 15th. Additional product and program information may be found at www.originalworks.com. Thank you for your orders and support!

MONTESSORI MATH NIGHT - October 20th

Our focus for this event will be the Montessori approach to math instruction. We'll review the sequence of core math materials used from preschool through the Elementary grades. Don't miss this fabulous opportunity to see the scope of Montessori materials and how beautifully they flow together!

SCRIPS

Please remember to say "Garden City Montessori" when you shop at Fresh Market and the Good Food Store. It is so easy and so helpful for the school! Thank you!!!

Follow us on Facebook. There are some treasures posted there recently. Share with friends!



DATES COMING UP:

Staff PIR Days

Halloween Celebration

— 10/18 + 19

— 10/31, 2-3 p.m.

— No School

— Families invited

