



Dear Parents,

12/5/19

Winter greetings from Garden City. We are approaching the last few weeks of school for 2019! All the children are busy these days. They have an understanding of their classrooms and are finding works that interest them. Our newest and youngest students are settling and discovering work they find satisfying. Friendships are forming and communication skills are strengthening as well.

Notes from the Primary

The children are learning that it is their responsibility to find their work and to help solve problems as they arise. In the primary room we are practicing periods of silent work to build the children's ability to discipline their own bodies and focus on the task at hand. They are rising to the challenge and show deep satisfaction when they see themselves as productive agents in their own exploration.

The primary class is digging into study of the planets. We are looking at each planet, trying to imagine what it would be like if we could actually stand on it, and learning how long it would take to get there. We are focusing on music practice and helping each child find their challenging work in our Montessori environment.

Notes from the Elementary

What a pleasure it was to see the entire school join together to share in a delicious Thanksgiving feast! Many of our Elementary students have enjoyed feasts in the past and their experience preparing food was very helpful in our group process! The Elementary have really stepped up as leaders lately, helping with cooking projects, reading books to younger students, assisting the with winter dressing, and acting as role models as we head out to recess!



Gratitude has become a common theme in our classroom. We are reading books, having conversations, and participating in sharing circles all surrounding gratitude. I would encourage these conversations and sharing times to occur at home as well, as we all have so much to be grateful for!

We began an illustration study this week and there is great excitement around it! We are reading and viewing stories from various authors and illustrators and learning how the illustrations in stories can express so much, even when there are not any words! Each students is creating a
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book, either fantasy or reality, and sharing their progress during the sharing circles. Wow, the creativity!!

We are so lucky to have Alicia working with the students in the visual arts on Fridays. She has begun on color mixing and sparking excitement in creating art pieces focusing on color. Soon their art will be on display for all to enjoy!

Children's Thanksgiving Feast Thanks to everyone who gave donations and helped labor for the wonderful children's feast last week! We had more help than ever and it was such a beautiful sight to see the children all seated and enjoying their food together.



Snowflake Wall and Holiday Giving

This is a beautiful season of giving and many Garden City families have inquired about how they can give to others in our school community. We'll be creating a Snowflake Wall again this year and invite you to participate in this simple way to show love and generosity. This year we'll continue to provide extra support for Sadiki and his family, a family seven who are still transitioning into our community. In addition, we want to provide support for Garden City children in need. You'll soon find a display of Snowflakes at the entry table. Each one will be marked with an item that we hope to have donated. Thank you in advance for your support!

WINTER HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

We have a wonderful presentation planned for you on Wednesday December 18th 1:30 p.m. Please invite family and friends for this celebration. If you can help us create holiday projects in the classroom, provide food, or help with set-up or clean up, please see the sign-up sheet on the entry table.



WINTER IS HERE!

We are solidly into the cold weather season so your child needs the following at school each day: slippers, a warm coat, hat, snow pants, mittens, and snow boots. We are super tough Montanans! Unless the weather is severe, we'll be going out, so please be sure your child has all the necessary clothing at school each morning.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR CHILD'S NAME (SO IT IS EASILY READ) ON ALL THEIR CLOTHING ITEMS!

Each morning please HAVE YOUR CHILD make sure their coat and snow pants are on their hook, mittens and hat, and boots are underneath. (NOT TUCKED AWAY IN BACK PACK)

Each day at pickup please HAVE YOUR CHILD make sure that all items are (off the floor) on the bench below their hook. This way we can easily vacuum at night.

Reminder. . . WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK Monday December 23rd - Friday, January 3rd
There is no school during this time. School will resume on Monday January 6th 2020