



# HAPPENINGS



18323 Kuykendahl Rd, Spring TX 77379

Telephone (281) 370-6100

[www.cypresswoodmontessori.com](http://www.cypresswoodmontessori.com)

Volume 4

November 2006

## Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We sincerely appreciate all parents who participated in our **fundraising** this year. Details about the benefits to our school will be posted soon. The teachers will sure appreciate their wish list being granted!

## Encouraging Independence

**"A servant does things for a child, while a parent should be an educator."** Quote from **Maria Montessori** You can continue the Montessori experience for your child at home by helping him learn to take care of his own body, learn the joys of an orderly life, and learn to be a contributor to the family. By doing this, you engender a confident feeling of "I can do it myself!"

To encourage independence, always let your child do things for him/her whenever she shows an interest. If your child wants to help you cook, take the time to show him how to beat eggs, or tear the lettuce. Explain the reason for the process. It is always important when showing a task to explain what the end result, the accomplishment will be. Then enjoy the wonderful experience of working with your child at common task. Of course, letting young children do things for themselves-making their own breakfast, putting their clothes on, brushing their teeth- always takes more time and can be difficult in busy families. The payoff is that they learn self- reliance and self- confidence, just as they do in a Montessori school. Of course you always have to be aware of your child's age, size and stage of development. With this in mind, you can adjust your child's room so they can access things like drawers and hangers without help.

As Summarized by Dr. Maria Montessori's student and colleague: Young children prefer;

Work without compulsion; Spontaneous repetition;

Work rather than play; concentration and self- discipline

Today, Montessori schools prefer to call their teachers *guides*. Montessori *guides* have 4 principal goals:

- To awaken the child's spirit and imagination;
- To encourage the natural desire for independence and high sense of self- esteem;
- To help children develop the kindness, courtesy, and self-discipline that will allow them to become a full member of society; and
- To help children learn how to observe, question, and explore ideas independently.

## Holiday Calendar:

The school will be closed the following days:

Thursday November 24<sup>th</sup> - Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> - the day after

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas day

Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Day

All other days, we are open. Please let us know if your child is NOT attending any days to help us with staffing.

## Pre-Primary:

### Progress Reports for the Pre-Primary II Students

Yes, the Fall Semester is almost over and it is time for conferences and progress reports. All students are doing great with our great low ratio and dedicated teachers.

**Curriculum:** Thanksgiving: Native Americans

The children will learn at their age-appropriate level

Native Americans:

- Different tribes
- Wild foods
- Buffalo
- Different dwellings
- Horses
- American Indian folktale and Mother Nature's gifts

#### The first Harvest Feast of 1621

- Table manners
- Facts about Pilgrim children
- Turkey facts and parts of a turkey - caruncle, snood, wattle etc.
- The Mayflower

We will play some thankful games:

- Circle of praise
- Gratitude grab bag

#### Science

We will make butter from cream. The children will watch a liquid turn into a more solid form and then into butter. They will even get to taste the butter they make! Both classes will be involved in this!

## Toddler's Class

With Thanksgiving this month, students are going to cover the history behind this holiday - the pilgrims and the Indians and the beauty and importance of family get together and feasting on the traditional turkey! They are making an Indian waistband, a pilgrim's hat, a turkey and a little booklet all about the fall! Parents, please treasure these precious pieces of work!

### Identifying Conjunctivitis: Pink Eye

Pink eye is very contagious and can spread thru the school and your home very fast:

- Crusty eyes around the lids- green looking crust
- Glassy eyes or wet looking with excessive discharge

Please visit [www.allaboutvision.com](http://www.allaboutvision.com) or other related websites for more information.

Per school policy, do *not* send your child to school if eyes look infected. Thank you!

### Saying Goodbye to Ms. Sakina

Yes, we held on to her as much as we could but now she is actually leaving us. Sakina has been with us for the last 4 years. Her contributions have been instrumental to the school. She will be surely missed and we wish her all the best in the future.

### Introducing Fun and Fitness Class at School

We have started a fun and fitness class for our Toddlers and Pre-Primary students. This is to take place every Thursday .It is going to be conducted by Enrichment Services, the same services that provide us the Spanish teacher. This will be at no cost to the parents. What fun! We are so excited.

### A Personal note from the Director:

Have a Great Thanksgiving , enjoy your families and watch your diets!! Mrs. Nasser