



# HAPPENINGS

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**"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/her learn to take care of his/her 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!"

## Encouraging Independence

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.

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 to work without compulsion; spontaneous and repetition is the key for retaining work.

A dish that Ms. Kimberly makes is Paul Newman's Cranberry, Cherry & Walnut Marmalade. It is great on cheese sandwich, turkey, toast and even great over plain yogurt. Paul Newman was one of the most generous people on the planet and he still gives to charities with his wonderful products.

### Ingredients:

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar, 1 cup water,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup port or other sweet wine,  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. gd. Cinnamon, 1/8 tsp. freshly grated nutmeg,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup dried tart cherries, 1-12 ounce pkg. fresh or frozen cranberries, 2/3 cup chopped walnuts - toasted,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. freshly grated orange zest.

### Method:

1. Combine sugar, water, wine, cinnamon & nutmeg in a medium nonreactive saucepan; bring to a boil. Add cherries & cook for 1 minute. Stir in cranberries; return to a boil. Reduce heat & simmer until about half the cranberries pop, 10 to 12 mins. Remove from the heat.

2. Stir in walnuts & orange zest. Let cool completely. The marmalade will thicken as it cools.

Serve at room temperature or chilled.

Makes 4 cups. Make this ahead a few hrs. to give it time to cool down. "ENJOY" 😊

## Holiday Party Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 A.M.

All the classrooms are practicing Holiday songs that they will be singing for their friends and staff.

The staff will be dressed up and will be enjoying the atmosphere and all the goodies! Parents are welcome to bring in goodies for children/teachers.

## Progress Reports/Conferences

Thank you to all the parents who made it for the fall conferences.

## Classroom Happenings:

**Infants & Toddlers:** Our Infants and Toddlers are building up their vocabulary with the words like sharing, snowman, reindeer, stars, decorations, giving, etc. They will be learning all these holiday related vocabulary and making art and craft projects. We are also encouraging our children to use words like "my work", "my body", "please, walk away", and "gentle touch" to promote self-respect and also respect for others. Our ground rules are "be safe", "be clean", and "be gentle". All this helps them use their words to communicate with their friends and teachers.

## Primary Classroom:

For the month of December, our primary children are learning about the symbol and facts of Christmas trees. They are also learning about the holiday around the world and their significance for the occasion. Pre-Primary II class is learning about Parols. Parols are multicolored lanterns that decorate Philippine homes during the holidays. Most range in size from 3 to 5 feet, & can be lighted by dozens of lights. Parols are often made from layers of stars/snowflakes cuts from colored tissue paper.

Some facts about the Christmas tree:

- Christmas trees take 7-10 years to mature.
- Christmas trees remove dust and pollen from the air.
- In 1856 Franklin Pierce, the 14<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, was the first President to place a Christmas tree in the White House.
- President Coolidge started the National Christmas tree Lighting Ceremony on the White House Lawn in 1923.
- In 2002, 32 percent of Christmas trees displayed in United States were real; 49% were fake!

## Importance of outside play

Outside time is an important time for each child. The child is able to use his/her gross motor skills. Outside light triggers the synthesis of vitamin D. A number of studies have demonstrated that it increases academic learning and productivity. Also, the outside light stimulates the pineal gland, which is part of the brain that regulates our immune system, and makes us feel happier. We provide outdoor activities such as jumping, climbing, sliding, as well as learning to take turns.

## Friendly Reminder

Please remember to send a sweater or jacket with your child each day. It is chilly outside. We don't stay inside due to cold weather! We bundle up and go outside to get some large motor exercise and fresh air. It is extremely helpful if you label every piece of clothing with your child's name, especially the pieces that are removable (i.e. jackets, hats, scarves, etc..). This way, you will not lose expensive items. Make sure your child also has a change of long pants and a shirt in his/her cubby. They can get wet outside.

**Holiday Calendar:** The school will be closed the following days:

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve

Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day

Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> - Early Dismissal @ 4:00 P.M.

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

We would greatly appreciate if you would let us know of your holiday plans and when your child will not be at the school. This allows staff to take time off.

A big thank you to Mr. Spirito (Hannah's Dad) for all the wonderful assortment of bags donated to the school. The children will make all kinds of projects with them.

Wishing you all a wonderful, safe and happy holiday season from all of us here Cypresswood Montessori!!