

Veterans Day



November 10, 2011



Our mission is to educate the whole child; thus we endeavor to nurture every heart and challenge every mind through the experience of meaningful inquiry.

Thank You

CDSA Community!

First, a beautiful sunny day provided the perfect setting for our recent Fall Festival. Old and new friends alike enjoyed an afternoon of games, pony rides, food and fun. We had an amazing turnout and it only affirmed what we already know: this is a special place for children.



Our thanks to everyone who donated drinks, pumpkins, apples and baked goods for our Bake Sale—we appreciate your generosity. A complete list of sponsors and donors is included in this issue of NTU. **MC Tim Hammond** did an outstanding job with public announcements and his music provided a perfect soundtrack to the day. With everyone's support, we were able to raise \$1,500.

The school would also like to thank the members of the committee who planned and organized the event: **Michele Blubaugh, Joyce Hunt-French, Don and Sarita Louys, Julie Malone and Kathryn McNorton.**



Second, we are *almost* there...only a few of you still have outstanding forms to turn in. You know who you are :) thanks to the rest of you for turning your forms in.

Lastly, thank you to **Michele Blubaugh** for her donation to our APPLE gift program which goes directly to our teachers. We appreciate her generosity as well as that of **Chris and Tiffany Aller** who will be providing lunch for our staff this Friday, November 11th.

Did You Know?



- ⇒ There is a link on our website called "Teacher's Wish List". The link will take you to a complete list of the favorite things and wish lists of CDSA teachers and staff members.
- ⇒ All forms are posted on our website. From lunch menus to Extended Day enrollment forms, they're all available for download from our site.

CALENDAR

Mon., 11/14	ED enrollment forms for Thanksgiving holiday due
Tues., 11/15	Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A 5:00-9:00 pm
Fri., 11/18	Donations benefiting Mission Arlington due
Tues., 11/22	December lunch menus due
Wed., 11/23	Thanksgiving holiday No school ~ Extended Day available
November 24 & 25	Thanksgiving holiday No school <i>or</i> extended care
Nov. 29-Dec. 1	Parent/Teacher Conference Days for Toddler & Transitional students
<i>Looking ahead...</i>	
Dec. 4	Winter Dance Recital to be held at The Dance Company, 4:00 pm
Dec. 5	Mr. Bob from the Arlington Public Library visits
Dec. 6	Hearing & Vision Screening (students who are 4 yrs. old and up)
Dec. 20	Class parties & Early Dismissal at 11:30 am —Extended Day available
Dec. 21-Jan. 3:	Winter Break Extended Day available (if enrollment allows) Dec. 21-23, 27-30 & Jan. 3
School resumes for students Wednesday, January 4, 2012	

A Note from the Director: Protecting the Work Cycle

One of the key components of an authentic Montessori classroom is each child's personal work cycle time.

A work cycle consists of choosing an activity, doing it, achieving some internal satisfaction, returning the activity to its original order, followed by the selection of the next activity.

Montessorians call this rhythm of activity a "work cycle". Stephen Covey, in *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, refers to the habit of a work cycle as creating an upward spiral of growth and change. Covey describes a dynamic process of "learn-commit-do" that empowers us to move toward continuous improvement, both as children and as adults.

Montessori saw the work cycle as a critical vehicle for aiding normal development in the human being, a process Montessori called *normalization*.

As student transition into the primary level, the "work cycle" is extended and is a "protected" work time. We modify our schedules to ensure the student classroom work cycle time is protected. We believe, children as well as adults, develop concentration in two basic ways 1) doing a series of short activities for longer periods of time; or 2) doing one activity for successively longer durations.



Three key Components of an Authentic Montessori Classroom

1. Well trained teachers
2. Specially prepared environments for each three year stage of development
3. Children's free choice of activity within a protected work period.

Often students do not get the "concentrated work cycle time" because of being tardy or absent. We sincerely appreciate your efforts to ensure your children are at school on time!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

We value and appreciate your support in attending the parent teacher conferences that provide the opportunity for you to meet face to face with your child's teacher (s) sharing their cognitive and developmental experiences here at school.

Toddler and Transitional parent conferences will take place Nov. 29-Dec. 1. To schedule a conference, please email julie.malone@cgsa.org or give us a call at 817-275-0851.

Conference day(s) for our **Primary/ K- 1 students were last week**. If you were unable to schedule a time that worked for you, we encourage you to contact your child's teacher directly for another time. For those that were able to conference, we hope you found this time meaningful and informative and gained some additional insight into how your child is adapting so far this year .

Hearing & Vision Screenings

Information will go home soon regarding hearing and vision screenings available on **Tuesday, December 6th (for students 4 years old and older)**. State requirements state: "a) The Special Senses and Communication Disorders Act, Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 36, requires a screening or a professional examination for possible vision and hearing problems for children of certain ages and grades. Remember that if your pediatrician performs these screenings for your child, it is not necessary to have the screening done here. It is important to make sure we have a record of your child's hearing and vision screening results in our files as well as **updated immunization records**."



Year At A Glance: December

TODDLER & TRANSITIONAL STUDENTS:

GEOGRAPHY: ANTARCTICA, FLAGS OF THE COUNTRIES

HISTORY: WINTER HOLIDAYS OF DIFFERENT CULTURES

SCIENCE: SOLIDS, LIQUIDS, GASES; HEALTHY FOOD; SENSES: HEARING & SMELLING

ART: CRAFTS RELATED TO HOLIDAYS AROUND

THE WORLD

MUSIC: SONGS OF THE SEASON

KINDNESS: FRIENDSHIP

PRIMARY-1ST GRADE STUDENTS:

◆ ANTARCTICA (GEOGRAPHY, BIOMES, ANIMALS, PEOPLE)

◆ CELEBRATIONS





CDSA Community Service Project:



We continue our partnership with **Mission Arlington** this year in offering the opportunity for our students and families to help provide items for Thanksgiving food baskets for the less fortunate.

Along with News to Use, paper grocery sacks (provided by Kroger & Tom Thumb stores) are being sent home with your child. Attached to the sack is a list of the items that would be a part of these Thanksgiving baskets. This is a wonderful way for your child to get involved by helping to make selections from the list as you do your grocery shopping for this community service project.

The food drive runs through Friday, November 18th. Mission Arlington volunteers help provide Thanksgiving baskets and food to over 17,000 people in need. We are thankful for this opportunity to partner with them in serving our community.



Suggested donation items include:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Stuffing mix | Pumpkin |
| Pie filling | Green beans |
| Cranberry sauce | Drink mix |
| Chicken broth | Instant potatoes |
| Yams | Macaroni & Cheese |
| Mixed canned vegetables | Boxed pie crust |
| Canned fruit | |

Welkom ~ Welcome ~ Piacere

Our garden has grown...please join us in welcoming two new students to CDSA:

1. **Jeffrey O.** joined Ms. Dunbar's class; his grandparents are **Michael and Debbie.**
2. **Olivia L.** joined the Toddler class; her parents are **Aureyelle and Deprimethon.**



From the Faculty and Staff of
CDSA,
Have a wonderful
Thanksgiving Holiday!

News to Use is a monthly publication printed and produced by Joyce Hunt and Julie Malone . Any submissions, corrections or clarifications should be emailed to joyce.hunt@cdsa.org or julie.malone@cdsa.org .

This publication will be sent via student backpacks and email and is also available through the school's website: www.cdsa.org.

(817) 275-0851

Keyboard Discoveries

This semester, 9 students participated in Keyboard Discoveries with Ms. Angela Favazza. It was a wonderful learning experience for them as they covered fundamental music notation and learned to play introductory selections on the piano that were showcased in a mini-recital last month! This was an excellent opportunity for all of the students that participated. Several students are now taking private lessons with Ms. Angela and we look forward to some of them "show casing" at this year's Gala in March! Pictured below is Keyboard student Samantha Vuong.

We will offer Keyboard Discoveries again next semester!



Fall Festival Fun!



**Thank You!
It was an
awesome
day!**



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, DONORS & VENDORS !!

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