

## FROM MRS. JUDY'S DESK

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year! As we move forward with another school year, we know that for many it is your first experience with Montessori. So what is Montessori? Over the years, and mine have only been a few in the Montessori scheme of things, people have asked me what religion it is or what esteemed educator this program was named after. So with just a little input, let me help to clarify a few things. The program began in 1907 in Rome, Italy and was founded and developed by Dr. Maria Montessori. She was the first female physician in Italy and her personal life reads like a great soap opera. Suffice it to say, many of the observations Dr. Montessori made are only today being proven true with advanced brain scans and technology. What Dr. Montessori learned by observing the child, we can now prove scientifically. Of the multitude of areas in the Montessori classroom, I will focus on one a month, just like I do with my talks to parents, one Saturday morning a month.

One area of the major seven areas in a Montessori classroom is called *Practical Life*. All of the activities connected with looking after yourself and your surroundings, such as getting dressed, preparing food, laying the table, wiping the floor, clearing dishes, doing the dusting, etc., are activities belonging to what Dr. Montessori called 'Practical Life,' and are precisely the tasks that adults like the least. But between the ages of one and four years, children love these jobs and are delighted to be called on to participate in them. There are three areas of family life:

1. **The care of self:** dressing, brushing teeth, cooking, and so on.
2. **Grace, courtesy and concern for others:** moving gracefully, using good manners, offering food, saying "please" and "thank you".
3. **Care of the environment:** dusting, sweeping, washing, gardening.

# HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES Oakridge Montessori

**THANKSGIVING FEAST:** Varies per classroom. Please check with your children's teacher(s) to see how to participate. Also please check the announcement at each sign-in notebook for further information.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT EVENT:** The all school Christmas Concert for ages 18 months through eighth grade will be held at the West Valley Junior High. The start time is 6:00 pm on the dot. Prior to the start we will have an opportunity for photo's with Santa and for bidding on our Silent Auction items. The photo shoot will be \$5 per child with the funds going towards the school playgrounds.

We have a committee to help with organizing the silent auction and the collection of donated items. Now is a good time to ask those businesses which you do business with to donate to our silent auction. We do have the non-profit status as a vehicle for donations, so the business can use their donation as a tax write-off. Please check the email newsletter for contact people who are coordinating the phone calls so we don't inadvertently ask the same businesses over and over. See Charlie, Anne, and Julie. More info in text below.



Children have always shown us their interest in practical life by pretending to cook and clean, taking care of a doll, carrying out adult conversations, etc. But when given the chance, they would much rather be doing the real work of the family and community, instead of pretending.

A child would prefer to remove and dust from a dusty shelf with a real child-sized duster, to help collect the dirty laundry, or to fold it, to take part in preparing real meals, rather than to pretend to do these things with toys. "... but I know happiness does not come with things. It can come from work and pride in what you do"  
-Ghandi

So maybe small child-sized tools of the home are needed for your child. Cut down and sand the handle of a broom or sweeper. Often child-sized items are made of brittle plastic and don't do a very good job. Remember, the tools must really work well-otherwise it is a lesson in frustration and lack of success. Get a small lightweight vacuum which your child can handle. Provide cleaning cloths in attractive colors-maybe even color code for different tasks. When a child's work is seen as important to the family, so is the child. As a child gets older the practical life becomes more advanced and more challenging, but always they must have chores to do-otherwise they cease to have value. If you need ideas, come to the next parent enrichment class!

NEXT PARENT ENRICHMENT CLASS IS SATURDAY, DEC. 4TH AT 9:30AM TO 11:00 AM. THE TOPIC WILL BE :*"THE GIFTS WE GIVE OUR CHILDREN"*.

## THANK YOU!

**Paul Brandt** for driving the tractor at the hay rides during the Pumpkin Patch and Harvest Carnival.

**Allen Husch** and **Paul Brandt** for closing the pool for the winter.

**Patsy Evans** for mowing the lawns at the preschool and Ranch.

**Tony Harris** for organizing the Golf at Apple Tree for 1st-8th graders.

**Jennifer Balch** & **Tara Gaston** for the cookies at our PTO meeting.

**Dave Weyeneth** for getting our PTO organized and providing snack at our first meeting.

**Adriana Jacir** and **Devang Mehta** for getting our web site up and updated.

**Adriana Jacir** for putting out our newsletter.



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW FAMILIES

### September:

**Toddlers:** Julia Jacir/Liba Mujtaba/Annabelle Gamache/Declan Desson/Sawyer Newman/Hartley Gaston/Mia Staggs

**Preschool:** Braxton Ortiz, Finnagin Desson/Mark Stephens/Wiliam Gamache/Faith Conduff/Celeste Brandon/Jadyn Ramirez/Milia McMurray/Sofia Rodriguez-Chen/Logan Kalaba/Lucas Kalaba/Baile Steiner/Naji Nasir/Mikey

## FUNDRAISING FOR OAKRIDGE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

The children are busy preparing for the Holiday Concert on December 9, 2010 at West Valley Junior High. In conjunction with the concert there will be a silent auction held as a fundraiser for our children's schools. The funds raised will go towards needs at both the ranch and preschool site.

We are hopeful that every family can find something special at the silent auction they can purchase to support their child's school. As the event comes closer we are planning to pass out a preliminary auction item list so you are more aware of what the silent auction has to offer.

There is a small group of parents organizing and coordinating this fundraising event. We are looking for any volunteers willing to help with the auction. If you are interested in helping in any way please contact one of us below.

As in the years past we would like to encourage all families to think of something they may be able to donate to the auction, or if there is an item they may

### AT THE RANCH

Upper Elementary Students are working on truss building activities in Science.

**Aróstegui/Evelyn Jo/Alana Keesling/Preston Cate/William Zambito**

**October:** Jacob Kinniburgh-Manor House/Olivia Long-Miss Lisa's/Bridget Murphy-Manor House/Britten Bunyard-Toddler/Kage Tramell-Manor House/Jonah Travers-Powers-Miss Dora's

**November:** "Belle" Herrud-Miss Lisa's

**Ranch New Families:** Sammy Hudson/Ethan Cate

be able to solicit from a local company/organization. We will be contacting a number of stores, restaurants, business and entertainment/ sporting/ recreation venues to try and obtain gift certificates or items we can auction off. If you have a business that you frequent or have a personal relationship with that you think may be willing to donate please feel free to ask. For businesses, we have a receipt with our tax ID number as the donations are tax deductible. Other popular items for silent auction are themed gift baskets, sporting goods, homemade gifts and holiday desserts.

We would like to collect all donated items by Saturday December 4th so we can organize them for the auction. The exception to this will of course be food items, however please let us know what you will be making or bringing so we can prepare a bid sheet and you can just bring the perishable item to the event fresh.

Happy start to the holiday season!

## PTO MEETINGS

**M**eeting schedule: it is suggested that we meet monthly at the toddler/preschool site for one hour from 5:30 p.m. on a weekday night, and a suggested schedule is:  
Wed. Nov. 10, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.  
Wed. Dec. 8, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.  
Wed. Jan. 5, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.  
Wed. Feb. 2, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.  
Wed. Mar. 2, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.  
Wed. Ap. 13, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.  
Wed. May 11, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.  
Wed. June 8, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

Nominations for officers should be made of people capable and willing to serve. You may nominate yourself or someone else for Pres, VP, Secretary and

## The Silent Auction Committee

**Anne Teerink** (594-0338)  
anneteerink@yvmh.org  
*Organization & preparation of donated items*

Contact if you have items to donate or if you want to help w/ final preparations

**Charlie Brooks** (901-4995) charlie.brooks@nbnproduction.com  
*Business donation solicitation coordinator*

Contact if you can help with soliciting or pick up of donations from businesses

**Julie Deramo** (480-0170) alignbodyworks@gmail.com  
*Main Event day coordinator*  
Contact if you want to help in any other way or w/ planning-helping w/ set up-clean-up of main event.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers may serve in many capacities, including:

- Arts & Crafts
- Computer skills
- Reading: Listen to a child read at least once a week
- Any other skills or materials the parents are interested in sharing with the school

committee positions. We have a currently serving Treasurer: Bill Bosh. There will also be heads for the different committees as they are created.

Snacks will be available at the once-monthly PTO meetings with Jennifer Balch making cookies and Judy providing coffee. A sign-up sheet for other goodies may be available at the sign-in desk one week before the meeting.