

Monty's Montessori School

where individuality blossoms



NEWS LETTER

Autumn Term 2006

COMING UP

Open Day

Saturday 18th November 2006

10am – 5pm

Parent/Teacher Supper (Opening Party)

Saturday 18th November 2006

7.30 – 11.00pm

Christmas Show - "Winter Wonder Land"

Thursday 7th December 2006

12pm – 1pm

School Theatre Trip – "Snowflake" at Angel Theatre, Islington

Wednesday 13th December 2006

12pm – 3pm

November is Parents Participation Month

Share your Stories and Skills or simply come in and be a part of our day.

Dear Parents,

Hope you all had an enjoyable half term break.

Monty's first term has had a very strong beginning. Setting up a new Montessori pre-school in an Archway Community Centre is no small feat. We have all worked very hard and it's all starting to take shape. We feel so honoured and proud to be a part of such an incredible experience. Thank you all for your continued support.

There is a lot to share with you this term so we've kept the newsletter light and informative. We hope you enjoy reading about what has been going on and the latest updates on staff, policies, term topics and the Christmas show.

Montessori Work Cycles

The children are all developing well at their own paces. They are now fully acquainted with the Montessori presentations and daily work cycles. They have become confident at choosing their preferred materials, working with them at tables or on floor mats and then tidying away after themselves. Reminders are still given but there is a genuine enthusiasm and pride to do things for themselves. Each of the lead directresses have been working with individual children to develop their skills in the key Montessori areas as well as broadening their scope with new presentations that they may not usually choose themselves.

More shelving has arrived, which means we can now increase our materials. All key Montessori areas are almost fully stocked. The quality, quantity and developmental sequencing in the choice of materials is staggering for this age group. We apologise for the slow progress on the art and nature areas, it is now gathering momentum and should be fully stocked in the next few weeks. A specialised art easel is on its way!

Term Topic

This term's topic is 'All About Me'. The children have enjoyed exploring different aspects of themselves through various mediums. We have spent the first half of this term looking at expressions and body parts. They particularly love making different faces and relating the emotions to them, we also tried to swap them around which produced some fairly amusing results. They have made hand and feet prints and looked at and commented on various external body parts under a magnifying glass. They were

fascinated with the internal body parts and how they were composed. We explored this with the aid of a biology model. The skeleton has also been a very popular study.

For the remainder of the term, we will continue investigating the body with special focus on fluids, senses and shadows. The children will also be making their own family tree.

[HOME- SCHOOL LINK](#): Please bring in a family photograph and sketch out a two or three generation family tree with your child/children.

Photographs: Facial Expressions - “Look! I’ve got so many faces on my face”

Big Thanks

Big thanks to all the children who came in to school during half term for the Daily Mail article about our ‘mini gym’ in the garden.

Big thanks to Nehal’s mum, Namisha for the wonderful home cooked Indian Diwali feast. It was delicious!

Big thanks to Leonardo’s mum, Utta and Miro’s mum Alex for their help in clearing up after Diwali. It was most appreciated and lovely to have you there.

Big thanks to those parents, who contributed £3.00 for the Diwali feast, The money collected has gone in our school Christmas charity box.

Big thanks to Matty’s dad, Peter for his spectacular green fingers and enthusiasm. The garden is growing beautifully.

Big thanks to Nova’s dad, Johan for his endless hours on the computer. The website is nearly finished and it looks elegant and impressive.

Big thanks to Jake’s dad, **NAME?** for volunteering to help out with the digital video graphics for the website. The clapperboard will be in action soon.

Big thanks to Sam’s mum, Victoria who has volunteered to be our chief parent/staff party organiser. A very noble cause and we greatly anticipate the first event.

Big thanks to Ian (Monty’s answer to Elvis) for volunteering to produce the alphabet song cds. This has been a big hit!

Visiting Specialists

Ian – Music Jams in the Garden

Ian has been working on rhythm and tone through freestyle jam sessions in the garden. All the favourite showstoppers are re-arranged in various musical styles from classical, rock and roll to funky blues and gospel. The children love the carefree interactive nature of this session. For the remainder of the term Ian will be teaching some classic sing-alongs for the festive season.

Christina – The Golden Harp on Monday Mornings

The lyrical voice of Christina and her golden harp has created a moving and uplifting beginning to the week. Christina has thoroughly enjoyed her first half term with us and highly commends the quality of concentration and standard of work at our school. Through imaginative games of movement to music and pass the musical instrument she has imparted an appreciation of classical musicality to the children. We all greatly value her work and look forwards to a magical Christmas carol concert at the Christmas show. Song sheets will be sent home soon.

Sally – Creative Dance on Tuesday and Thursday

“Sally, Sally, Sally’s here!” Sally is always warmly greeted as she walks through the door. The children love Sally’s dance classes. They are packed with imagination and wonder, full of trips to foreign shores, outer space and beyond. This term Sally will be doing a dramatic presentation of Santa’s toy workshop with the children for the Christmas show. Then she will be leaving us for a five month sabbatical. Where she will be travelling around the holy and magical land of India. Hopefully she will be bringing many treasures, stories and new dance moves for us all to enjoy. We wish her a safe and fantastic journey. Bon voyage Sally, send us a postcard!

Fiona will be teaching Sally’s classes whilst she is away.

Helene – French on a Thursday

“Bonjour!” and the beginnings of ‘ferre Jacques’ have been heard in conversations around the school. The children are all enjoying their French lessons with Helene. They sit attentively and are captivated by all the different techniques she uses, which range from puppets to simple role-play. She has recently returned from France with some fabulous new teaching tools and has inspired us to set up a French shelf next to the library area. C’est bien n’est pas?

Montessori Directresses

Congratulations to Analy Reed, who is expecting her second child in April 2007. Analy will be teaching until the end of the spring term 2007 after which, she will take a years maternity leave until Summer term 2008. However, she has generously volunteered to

come in and teach for three hours a week from autumn term 2007, so that she maintains contact with the children during her leave.

This term, Carole and Lucy have been teaching fulltime and Analy has been teaching five mornings a week. Our aim is to increase our numbers from the advertising campaign and open day so that we can eventually have a permanent body of three full time Montessori teachers and one part-timer. Once this is in place, Carole will return to her full time management position.

Carole has begun recruiting and interviewing new staff for what we hope will be a positive outcome for January 2007.

Creative Director

Fiona Sapani has been employed as creative director until December 2007. She has been responsible for helping Carole set up the schools administration, website, and time tables, advertising as well as teaching creative art on Fridays. She is doing a great and invaluable job.

The ethos of Maria Montessori's method is that creativity comes from within the child. After serious thought, we have decided to follow this through in our classroom by having free art materials laid out on the shelves, for children to choose at their will. These materials will be changed weekly and will range from, clay to collage, watercolour to etching, printing to dying, charcoal to ink quills and so on. We will aim to tie the materials in with the terms topic and occasionally with the letters and sounds of the week. The art at Monty's will be guided by the Montessori directresses and no longer lead by a creative director. This approach will commence from January 2007,

Even though we will be sad to lose Fiona as one of our permanent staff, she will still be involved in the school as a specialist teacher and consultant. Primarily with the leavers show at the end of the summer term and whenever her specialist skills are required. Her first visiting assignment will be teaching Sally's classes for the next six months.

Christmas Show

This year the Christmas show will be held a week earlier than usual on Thursday 7th December 2006 at 12.30pm. The show is titled 'Winter Wonder Land' and will be made up of little presentations of various creative arts they have been studying.

Fiona will be creating an all white snowy set and single item costumes with the children.

Sally will be giving us a special glimpse of the toys inside Santa's workshop through creative movement and storytelling.

Christine will be accompanying the children on the golden harp in a mini carol concert.

Details of the days' events will be sent home several weeks prior to the show.

School Outing

This term, the school outing will be to the Little Angel theatre, Islington to see a production called 'Snowflake'. This will be in the last week of term on Wednesday 13th December 2007.

Website

Johan King (Nova's Dad) has been employed to help set up the website for our school. It is looking extremely smart and very impressive. We are hoping to complete it within the next week.

The website address is: www.montysmontessori.co.uk

Please have a look and see what you think, we would greatly value your feedback.

Health & Safety

Last month the health and safety inspector visited us and we were merited with an excellent report. His only stipulations were: -

- 1) The radiator covers – currently they have a small window in the safety grills to adjust the taps. These have been covered over as requested.
- 2) The front and garden steps – the garden steps have been painted with a special non-slip paint and the children will continue to be accompanied by a teacher whilst going up and down them.
- 3) The equipment on top of the stage – A shed has been ordered for this equipment to be stored in the garden. Any volunteers for putting the shed up will be most welcome.

As well as the regular hall cleaner who cleans gives the hall a general clean every day. We have employed Janet our new cleaner to ensure that the finer details are seen to. She comes in twice a day on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. She is doing a fantastic job.

Staff Training

In October this term, Carole has attended the first part of a child protection course.

Here are the following courses that our staff will be attending this term: -

November 6th - Lucy will attend a Health and Safety course.

November 13th - Lucy will attend a Child Protection course.

November 27th - Carole will attend part two of her child protection course.

December 11th and 12th - Carole will attend a Health and Safety course.