**Montessori**

 **Children’s Garden**

 **Newsletter**

 **October 2016**

**Important Dates**

Halloween Parade Monday, October 31

 Monday, Nov. 7 picture day

Wednesday, Nov. 16 parent teacher conferences

No School

**Halloween Parade**

 We will have our annual Halloween parade this year on Monday, October 31 @ 9:45 and we will be back by 10:30. Please have your child come to school in costume with a labeled bag with their school clothes in it. We will swap the costumes and school clothes after the parade.

 We will parade over to the Stonebridge Promenade across Highway 965. There is a walkway under the highway. The local businesses will hand out candy. If the afternoon class would like to participate in the parade, we are asking that you come in the morning for the parade. We will NOT do a separate parade in the afternoon.

 **Poinsettia Sale**

The Montessori Children’s Garden will host their Annual Poinsettia and Wreath Holiday Fundraiser. Each family can sell poinsettias and balsam wreaths to their friends and family. We will be looking for volunteers to help on distribution day. Michelle Beideman(Mia’s mom) is organizing the event. This is the only fundraiser we do in the year so thank you in advance!

**Natural Loose Materials**

 If anyone has an abundance of natural materials, please consider bringing them to school to put in our nature bins on the playground. Examples might be pinecones, buckeyes, acorns, shells, gourds, seed pods, or hay bales. Use your imagination!

 Check out Nature Explore website **natureexplore**.org for pictures of our playground and other Nature Explore playgrounds in the area!

 **Friendly Reminder**

Don’t forget to swap out your child’s extra clothes for weather appropriate clothes.

Please label all outerwear, including hats and mittens. There’s permanent markers in the coatroom for labelling.

The lost and found basket is located right outside of the coatroom in the wicker basket. We periodically take the clothes to Goodwill but we will post a sign when we are getting ready to do that.

Please remember to sign your child out at the end of the day! This is a safety issue and not one that we use for tuition purposes.

**Classroom News**

 Every month I try to present an overview of what is going on each classroom. This doesn’t even begin to tell about the interesting, beautiful lessons that our teachers work so hard to prepare each week. Please take a moment to look around the classes to see your child’s rich environment.

 Mrs. Honey’s and Ms. Cathy’s class is studying about living and non-living things in the science area and the solar system in the geography area. There are lots of Halloween related art and practical life lessons. The children are using different techniques to paint each of the planets.

 Ms. Kelley class is studying about plants, specifically seeds in the science area and the solar system in the geography area. They have a chrysalis in their classroom and they are sprouting some seeds. The children are sewing on burlap and grating soap for bubble making in the practical life area. Lots of Halloween related art and practical life!

 Ms. Emily’s class is studying plants and the solar system. They have been doing some interesting experiments with plants, e.g. seeing how a leaf expels bubbles (oxygen) when submerged in water. In practical life the children are sifting cornmeal and corn, tweezing corn off the cob, and washing a pumpkin.

 Ms. Tina’s class is studying plants and the solar system. Ms. Kat, our master gardener has been presenting some wonderful experiments about plants and seeds. Check out the Cinderella pumpkin that she grew! They’ve been tasting the different parts of plants.

 In Mrs. Jones’ kindergarten enrichment class the children have been practicing with estimation, counting by 2’s, odd/even numbers. The children are also learning to write using the Handwriting without Tears program. In science, the children

have experimented with air and water. We will continue to learn a poem each month and to bake bread daily. We’ve been trying to incorporate community projects. Last month the children made cards for Grandparent’s Day for the folks at Brown Deer Retirement Home. This month the children will make treats for the toddlers from LaMontessori Nurtury for Halloween. We welcome any suggestions for community projects especially with the holidays coming up.

**Meet the Teachers**

We hope you take the time to read through these bios. We are so fortunate and thankful to have such a dedicated, qualified staff.

 Mrs. Honey and Mrs. Jones have been teaching, well, let’s just say a very long time.

 Mrs. Honey has three daughters, one who lives in New York City, one in Nashville, and one here in North Liberty. Mrs. Honey has an education degree from the University of Iowa as well as Montessori certification that she obtained in London.

 Mrs. Jones lives with her husband and two dogs outside of Tipton. She has three grown children and four grandsons. She has two Montessori certifications, for early childhood and early elementary.

 Ms. Kelley lives with her husband in Coralville and has three children. She has a masters degree in social work from the University of UNC in Chapel Hill and Montessori certification.

 Ms. Cathy lives with her daughter Sarah right next door to the school! Cathy has a degree in journalism from Grandview College in Des Moines and has Montessori certification.

 Ms. Tina lives in North Liberty with her husband and two children, Jack, 6, and Owen, 4. Tina has travelled extensively through Camp Adventure and the Peace Corps. Tina has a degree in Health Promotions from the University of Northern Iowa as well as Montessori certification. She is the daughter-in-law of Mrs. Jones.

 Ms. Emily lives here in North Liberty with her husband and two sons, Sam, 6, and Charlie, 1. As the daughter of Mrs. Jones, she has been immersed in Montessori education since she was a toddler. She holds a degree in Early Childhood Education and Montessori certification.

 Ms. Keely lives in Iowa City with her husband, daughter Pearl and a rescue dog. She has a degree in psychology from the University of Iowa and has just obtained her Montessori certification.

 Ms. Liz has two children and lives in Iowa City with her husband. She has been affiliated with Montessori for the past 26 years, working at

the Montessori School in Iowa City and now we are so fortunate to have her calm and loving presence here at the Children’s Garden.

 Ms. Reiko has a bachelors degree in arts/science as well as a masters degree in physical education from the University of South Carolina. She resides in North Liberty with her husband Ken and two children, both of whom attended Montessori.

 Ms. Rochelle lives here in North Liberty with husband, Michael. She helps to greet the families in the early morning. She holds a masters degrees in social work from the University of Missouri and a masters in Disability Rights from the University of Iowa. She currently works for The Crisis Center. She is the daughter of Mrs. Honey and the late Rex Honey.

 Ms. Cheryl lives in Iowa City with her husband. She has two grown children and a degree from the University of Kansas as well as Montessori certification. She worked in medical records at the university for many years but returned to Montessori out of her love for children.

 Ms. Nuran is originally from Turkey and lives in Iowa City with her husband and two children, Nurefshan 6, and Bera, 4. She holds an education degree from Turkey and has had many years of experience before coming to us.

 Ms. Kat has a degree in psychology and chemistry from Cornell College in Mount Vernon as well as Montessori certification. She resides in Anamosa. She is also our very own master gardener and has been a vital partner in our outdoor space.

 Ms. Joan lives in Iowa City with her husband. She has two grown children and helps the children at Garner Elementary before she comes to us for extended day. Joan studied elementary education at Eastern Illinois University and early childhood at Sauk Valley College. We’re happy to welcome such a positive, lovely person to our staff.

 New to our staff is Shuang Wang (Ada) who hails from China where she received a bachelor of arts degree majoring in English. She loves teaching and lives in Iowa City with her husband and daughter, Skyler, who attends Montessori.