

CHILDREN'S HOUSE CHATTER

Wednesday, November 25, 2009.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY The school will be closed tomorrow and Friday, November 26 & 27. There will be no classes and no child care on those two days. We wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

POINSETTIA SALE/FUND RAISER
Please hand in your poinsettia orders no later than Monday, November 30. The plants will be delivered to the school on Thursday, December 3.

OUTSIDE CLASS
The children have enjoyed making a centerpiece to take home for Thanksgiving. Thanks to Suzie Branton, Aidan's mom, for supplying the materials.
The children have been enjoying story time with Mr. Lonnie. We are also enjoying new books we received from the Book Fair thanks to all the parents who participated.

DOWNSTAIRS TODDLER CLASS
About three-fourths of our children have been sick this week. Hopefully everyone will get better over the holidays!

UPSTAIRS CLASS
Ms. Beverly has been on vacation, and we thank Ms. Sarah Linder for taking her place. The children have enjoyed Thanksgiving stories and art projects this week.

JUNIOR ELEMENTARY CLASS
Please remember to sign up for a Parent/Teacher Conference the sign-up sheet is posted on our bulletin board.

Conferences are scheduled for December 1, 2 & 3.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious Buddy Lunch at US Pizza last Friday.

Book orders are due December 1, also December activity money and the donations for St. Bonaventure School & Mission. Thank you!

We thank Jennifer Triplett, Sam's mom, for helping us with our decorations for our Silent Auction Christmas Tree. It's going to be beautiful!

DOWNSTAIRS CLASS
We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and hope all our children will be back in good health next week!

CONTROL OF ERROR contd.
In the didactic materials, the control of error is carefully thought out. This is, by the way, the main reason for many Montessori schools excluding commercially available 'educational' toys, most of which simply do not give meaningful feedback. An electronic voice saying 'well done' or 'uh-oh' is simply not what we are talking about here, as it is a poor mimic of the external feedback given by a teacher, not the type of direct and personally interpreted feedback from a built-in control of error. Just as the Montessori materials follow a path from concrete representation of concepts to abstraction, so, too, does the control of error. The seeds of this are planted in the Sensorial area, where the child's senses are trained, not only to discern small differences, but too pick up incongruities and inconsistencies. By

becoming accustomed to visual harmony, to logical and consistent relationships between things, he is able to discern when a pattern is broken or when something is illogical or counter-intuitive. This is no longer a mechanical control of error, but a control of error which develops within the consciousness of the child. Dr. Montessori describes this in **The Advanced Montessori Method**:

“A control of error of a totally different kind, and of a much higher order, is that offered by the material of the arithmetical frame, in which the control will consist of the comparison of the child’s own work with that of a model, a comparison which denotes a remarkable intelligent effort of will on the part of the child, and places him thenceforth in the true conditions of conscious auto education. But, however slight the control of error may be, and in spite of the fact that this diverges more and more from an external mechanism, to rely upon the internal activities which are gradually developing, it always depends, like all the qualities of the objects, upon the fundamental reaction of the child, who accords it prolonged attention, and repeats the exercises.”