

CHILDREN'S HOUSE CHATTER

Thursday, October 21, 2010.

HALLOWE'EN CARNIVAL – Saturday, October 30. 11:00am – 1:00pm. Come and join us for lots of spooky fun & games! We are also asking parents to donate a baked item for the Bake Sale in the Toddler Classroom.

Also, please mark your calendars for our annual **PTO SILENT AUCTION** which will be held on Saturday, November 20. Please check your child's folder for further information.

JUNIOR ELEMENTARY CLASS The Juniors made leaf wreaths and enjoyed another 'leaf walk' this week. As part of our ongoing study of the skeletal system, Dr. Aparna Shukla (Aditi's mom) visited the class and gave a talk.

We thank Jennifer Triplett and Missy Shuffield for taking our Soup Committee shopping yesterday. Sam, Olive, Aditi and Dylan will make lunch today for the Juniors. On Friday, we will see "The Giant & the Beanstalk" at the Arts Center. We thank our driver/chaperones – Erin Hurley, David Dixon, Clare Burks and Michelle McLain.

Parents, please come upstairs and sign up for a time slot to help run our two games at the Hallowe'en Carnival.

Remember – Mexico Family Projects are due on Tuesday, October 26.

DOWNSTAIRS CLASS This week we have worked on some Fall projects, which will be placed in the folders to take home after the Hallowe'en Carnival. We still need parents to help up at the Carnival, so PLEASE talk to Ms. Courtney to set up your time! Thank you.

DOWNSTAIRS TODDLER CLASS This week the children learned how to say "milk" and "food", using sign language. We are really impressed with how quickly the children have learned several signs and they enjoy signing to each other during group time. Please make sure we have a recent photo of your child that we can use at group time. This week we enjoyed coloring pumpkins for Hallowe'en. We will also be finger-painting (with washable paint) Fall pictures, so please send a spare change of clothes in case things get messy!

OUTSIDE CLASS This week we had a 'blind' taste test with slices of pears. The children enjoyed trying to recognize the taste. We continue to work on Grace & Courtesy, both inside the classroom and on the playground. The children are working diligently with familiar lessons and with new lessons, which are introduced on an ongoing basis.

UPSTAIRS CLASS Ms. Nancy is leaving today for a three-day Montessori conference in California. Ms. Brooke will be helping out in our class in the meantime. Please remember to send a recent photograph of your child (which can be kept here at school).

"I did it myself!" Is there anything more rewarding than being able to care for one's own self? Help your child on the path to independence with home activities that support similar self-care "lessons" in the Montessori classroom. The most important (and hardest) part? Allow plenty of time for learning and practice, so your child can master new skills without pressure from the clock – or adults. Dr. Maria Montessori tells us in **The Discovery of the Child**, "If teaching is to be effective with young children, it must assist them to advance on the way to independence . . . We must help them to learn how to walk without assistance, to run, . . . to dress & undress, to wash themselves . . . All this is part of an education for independence."

"Care of Self" activities children can do at home: dressing & undressing; washing hands; cleaning one's shoes; nose blowing; buttoning, snapping, zipping, lacing and buckling. Brushing one's teeth and hair. You can also encourage your child to enter the school building independently – all the children here know how to walk! And even the youngest can carry his/her own lunch box. Allow your child to experience the joy of independence!