

CHILDREN'S HOUSE CHATTER

Wednesday, March 2, 2011.

SPRING BREAK Classes will be out Monday, March 21 – Friday, March 25. We will remain open for **child care only**.

If your child will attend during Spring Break, please put his/her name on the sign-up sheet in the classroom.

SCHOOL PICTURES (group only) will be taken on Wednesday, April 20.

SCHOOL CLOSING We will be **CLOSED** Friday, April 22. There will be no classes and no child care on that day.

OUTSIDE CLASS We would like to thank Julien Mirivel (Hugo's dad) for coming to teach us some basic French. We look forward to our next lesson! Some of our three-year olds are working on pin-punching continent maps. They are proud of their work and are eager to encourage their peers to make maps also. It is rewarding to see the children make such progress. Our new three-year olds are adapting very well to our classroom routine. Some of our second year children have been learning the states, and flags, of the United States.

UPSTAIRS CLASSROOM Several children are doing multiplication with the bead materials, and division with the stamp game. Others continue working on maps, which will be sent home as they are finished. Our younger ones are happily engaged in all areas, and fascinated with what the older children are doing! They particularly enjoy having the older children read out loud to them.

DOWNSTAIRS TODDLERS We are so glad to have everyone back in class, and feeling better. We continue to focus on colors, shapes, numbers and naming objects during group time. In the coming weeks we plan to talk more about geography, starting with land & water, and the continents. We enjoy reading the books that children bring from home to share with the class at group time.
Happy Birthday to Lucas, who has just turned 2 years

old.

DOWNSTAIRS CLASS The children have really enjoyed bringing their books to share at group

time – please continue to send them! The children are also welcome to bring something for show-and-tell – but please do not send toys. Appropriate items would include, but are not limited to, art work, photos, items from nature. This week the children have enjoyed working new lessons, including one in which they use a stethoscope to listen to their heartbeat, or their friends' heartbeats.

Parents, if your child has frequent potty accidents, please check his/her spare clothing daily, to make sure he/she has enough spare clothes. Thank you.

JUNIOR ELEMENTARY CLASS The Juniors made leprechaun and kite art for our hallway. We look forward to a visit on Thursday from geologist Erica Duerr who is with the Arkansas Geological Survey. She will talk to us about rocks, and conduct some experiments with us.

Spelling test and Show & Tell on Friday. Ask your third-year Junior how to square 412. We love to pegboard!

Why do Montessori schools group children together in such large multi-age classes? Contd.

In a mixed-age class, children can always find peers who are working at their current level. Working in one class for two or three years allows students to develop a strong sense of community with their classmates & teachers. The age range also allows the especially gifted child the stimulation of intellectual peers, without requiring that she skip a grade and feel emotionally out of place. To accommodate the needs of individual learners, Montessori classrooms have to include curriculum to cover the entire span of interests and abilities up through the oldest and most accelerated students in the class. This creates a highly enriched learning environment. In multi-level classrooms, younger children are constantly stimulated by the interesting

work in which the older ones are engaged. At the same time, in multi-level classrooms, older students serve as tutors and role models for the younger ones, which help[s] them in their own mastery (we learn things best of all when we teach to someone else) and leaves them beaming with pride.