

Our Lady's Montessori School

of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity



Dear Families and Friends of Our Lady's Montessori School,

Peace and joy to you!

I hope this newsletter finds you well. We are most grateful to have moved into the new toddler classrooms! Thanks so much to all our many volunteers who contributed time, talent and treasure to renovate these rooms. The teachers and students are doing well in their new environment, which has more space, beautiful new furniture and some new materials as well. We have incorporated more Montessori principles into the

Renovation Complete!!!

new classrooms as well. Great job to the teachers who have been open to learning new techniques and growing in their own work with young children.

I would like to introduce our three new aspirants (with a fourth on the way). They will be serving at the school until the Society of Our Lady's Assembly in July. **Linda Shellenbarger**, from Portland, will be assisting in the kitchen. **Tara Fritz**, a native of Kansas, will be assisting in the classroom. **Kristina Abbott**, from the Cayman Islands, will lead an art class for the preschoolers

as well as assist in special projects. These women are discerning their call and vocation to the religious life, so we ask for your prayers.

We will be continuing our school renovations in the overall strategic plan of having a chapel for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Thank you to **Steve and Sharon Perry**, Board Members, who contributed \$1000 as a lead gift to bring this project to fruition.

Blessings! Sr. Mary Mediatrix of All Grace, SOLT

February, 2009

Volume 2, Issue 4

Upcoming Dates:

Friday, Feb 6
Mass with Fr. Carlos,
SOLT 10:15am

Friday, Feb 13
Valentine Party
3:30pm

Class for Staff and
Parents—March TBA
Conscious Discipline

Spaghetti Dinner
March TBA



Disciples Art Class



Thanks to Nick and Brian for volunteering at the school on their day off!



Kristina and Tara painting

Fundraising



Please note that we collect **Box Tops for Education** and also old **CELL PHONES** for recycling. Thanks for your participation! These items may be placed in boxes located near the front door entryway.

Renovations

The next phase of the strategic plan is to renovate the bathrooms in the main hallway. We have just finished a new floor in the adult bathroom and are demolishing the two children's bathrooms which are no longer in use.

Special thanks to **Gustavo Montes** (a former parent) for volunteering and working with the aspirants on these projects.

Scholastic Book Club

The teachers have organized a **scholastic book club**, whereby families can order books at low prices, and the school receives new books in return. We hope you would like to participate by adding to your home collection of books as well as helping us improve our library by rotating books of various topics.

Little Angels

Everyone seems to be happy and adjusting to the new classrooms. We have been working this month on Valentine's Day activities and snow related art activities such as snow men, snow flakes, etc. We will also be working on opposites, such as in/out, over/under, etc.

Miss Carolyn and Miss Sharron



Birthdays

Victor Gunion, Jondavid Blackwell, Jenah Lockwood, Alexa Villatoro, Joshua Whistler, John Mendy, Angela Gonzalez



Will concentrating on pouring

"Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed."

- Maria Montessori

Disciples

It's a little tough coming back to school after Christmas break, but we introduced several new learning activities that spanned the interest of our children. We emphasized letter recognition, math and science. In science and language arts, they learned about the seasons, crystals, the earth and sun, light and dark. Using games, they learned about different geometric shapes and how to draw them, introducing pre-writing skills.

Telling them they are getting ready for kindergarten is a good incentive for them to practice letters, numbers, writing and drawing. They are gradually becoming more self-directed as they learn about the materials in each learning center.

February brings us to a celebration of life as six children have birthdays this month. A "birthday wheel" helps them to see who has a birthday in a given month. We are working on the letters "e", "v", and "b". Come in and see our volcano!

Blessings! Miss Mary and Miss Delores



Little Saints

Happy New Year! It has started off really great for us. We are in our new classroom and loving it. The children are able to spread out more during work time, which is helping them to focus and concentrate. We have implemented "gathering time". During this time, we read a short Bible story, sing songs and do some simple exercises. We will also use this time to introduce materials. The children are doing a great job sitting around the ellipse for "gathering time".

This month we are just settling into our new environment. We are working on respecting each other's "work" and giving each other space. These seem to be the challenges at hand for this age group. We encourage you to use your child's daily sheet as a conversation piece and talk to him or her about the work he or she did that day.

Thank you for continuing to support us! Sincerely, Miss Tami and Mrs. Laura



Story time with Tara



Modou's Birthday party