



Chrismont Montessori Academy

FALL NEWS

At last, all things seem to be settling in as the new school year is well underway. We apologize for any lack of communication as we busied ourselves with administrative work ... time just flew by. All is well as we begin the month of November, the month of gratitude and thankfulness. We extend our gratitude to all our families for your support and loyalty to Chrismont. We would like you to visit the school and see the classrooms where your children/grandchildren spend lots of time learning. We invite you to an Open School evening on **Tuesday, November 15**, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

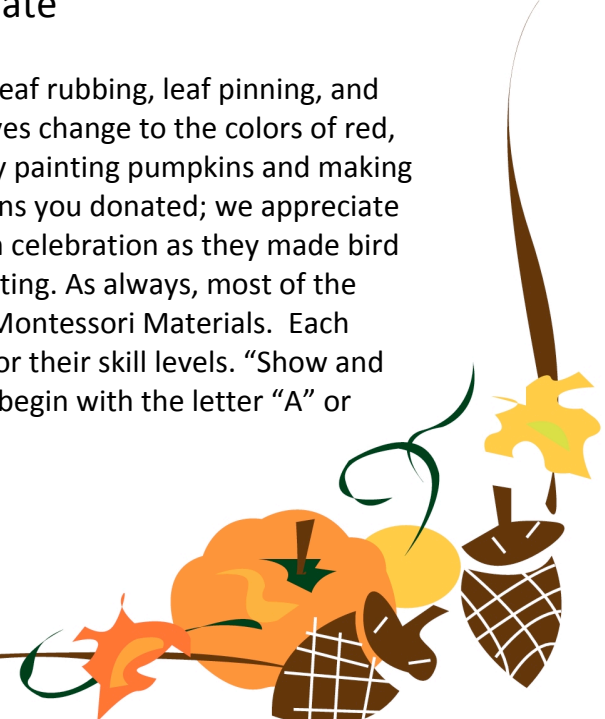
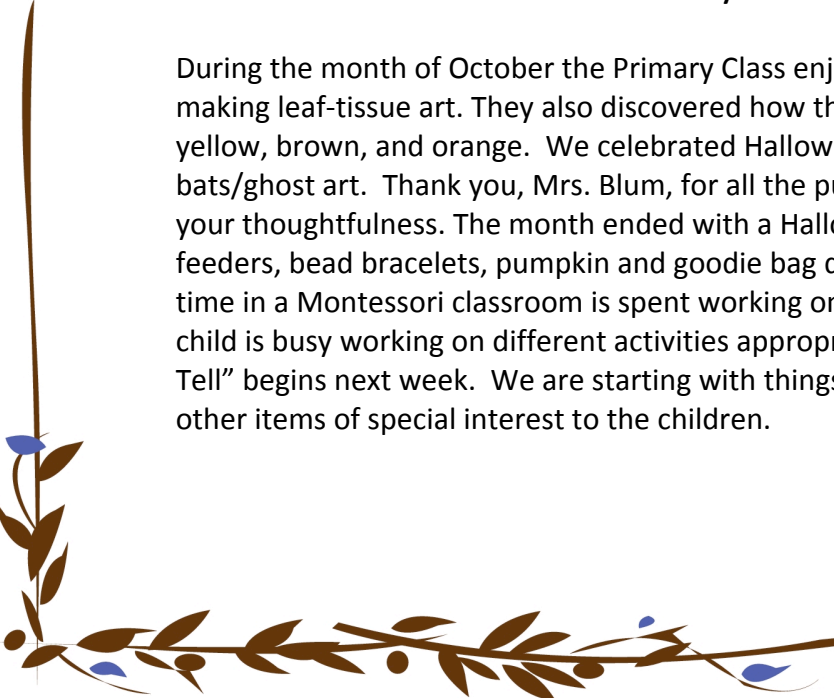
Many thanks to all our teachers for their ideas, activities, and “Trick or Treat” festivities. Everyone enjoyed the parade turnout, as well as, the surprise visit from Miss Alba for a rocking Halloween... to the tune of “La Bamba.”


Toddler Class Update

Miss Megan has at last brought all tears to smiles. The Chrismont Toddler class has offered bright beginnings to all those who entered the room in September and were unsure what school was all about. Miss Megan found some calming techniques, via her artistic talent, to bridge positive feelings from home to school. Basic Montessori materials are slowly being introduced as we continue the transition from Toddler to Primary. Not sure how many times we heard the word “mommy, but it was many!!! Miss Katie has become a specialist in coming up with many phrases to explain “Mommy will be back.”

Primary Class Update

During the month of October the Primary Class enjoyed leaf rubbing, leaf pinning, and making leaf-tissue art. They also discovered how the leaves change to the colors of red, yellow, brown, and orange. We celebrated Halloween by painting pumpkins and making bats/ghost art. Thank you, Mrs. Blum, for all the pumpkins you donated; we appreciate your thoughtfulness. The month ended with a Halloween celebration as they made bird feeders, bead bracelets, pumpkin and goodie bag decorating. As always, most of the time in a Montessori classroom is spent working on the Montessori Materials. Each child is busy working on different activities appropriate for their skill levels. “Show and Tell” begins next week. We are starting with things that begin with the letter “A” or other items of special interest to the children.





Many Thanksgiving projects are in store for the coming weeks. A Thanksgiving Feast will be the highlight of the month. Making butter, applesauce, stuffing and all the other trimmings will be the food preparation for the Montessori Pilgrims and Native Americans at Chrismont.

Special thanks to Miss Lisa for helping to make the transition from last year to this year.


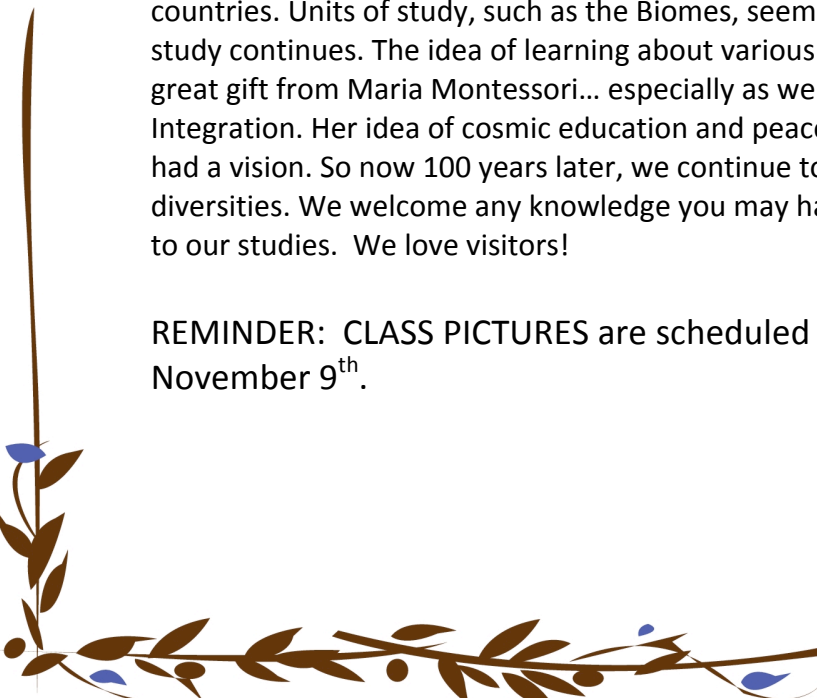
Kindergarten/First Grade Update

I am not sure if there is enough room to write all that goes on in Kindergarten as Miss Rebecca covers lots of ground with her 5 eager to learn and enthusiastic students. Reading, writing, and math take center stage every day as they begin related activities. Incorporating the more advanced Montessori Math Materials looks quite impressive to those of us who are just looking in the classroom. Miss Cecilia joins us for Music, Miss Megan shares her art expertise, Senora Alba joins us for Spanish and Zumba (the highlight of Spanish) ...and new to come this week is a touch screen computer for Rosetta Stone. We can't wait to get it up and running. The software is not just over the counter, but a more sophisticated version for schools. More information will follow concerning its operation.

During the month of October the Kindergarten and First grades began land formation studies that included a number of art activities. Parts of a plant and plant care, the study of New Jersey and the USA, time and money were integrated into their Montessori Curriculum. In this very small class, Miss Rebecca has so much opportunity to integrate reading and math in all subject areas.

Going forward for November: You will hear the word "Biomes" mentioned by your children. A study of Biomes will begin with the wetlands and North American countries. Units of study, such as the Biomes, seem to evolve to greater levels as the study continues. The idea of learning about various other cultures and their habitats is a great gift from Maria Montessori... especially as we enter into a new era of Global Integration. Her idea of cosmic education and peace were way before her time, but she had a vision. So now 100 years later, we continue to study all the continents and their diversities. We welcome any knowledge you may have to share with our class pertaining to our studies. We love visitors!

REMINDER: CLASS PICTURES are scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday, November 9th.





Our Special Classes

Miss Cecilia is our music teacher who resides locally. She is employed by the Monmouth Conservatory of Music in Princeton.

Miss Megan is our Toddler and Art teacher. She resides locally and was previously employed by St. Catherine's School.

Senora Alba is our Spanish teacher who resides in Colts Neck now, but was born in Columbia. She has two "Montessori Kids" at Marlboro Montessori and has spent time studying basic Montessori at the Princeton Montessori Center.

A very special thank you to Miss Katie for wearing so many hats at Chrismont. She wins the award for most flexible. We also thank her for her Yoga classes that the children really enjoy.

Our best to all our families and friends for a wonderful month full of gratitude and thankfulness.

Our Sincerest Regards,
Jean and Michael

