October 3, 2014

Autumn Is Here

The first month of school went by in a snap! October is my favorite month of the year. We have an upcoming month full of festive events that will remind us of why autumn in New England is so special.

Next Wednesday is our Annual Meeting, also known as our Fall Parent Social. This is an opportunity for you all to meet the board of trustees and the staff. The board will talk about their strategic goals and vision for the upcoming year. It is a great time to meet the entire staff and to get to know other families in our community. Please join us for some nice food and drink and learn and learn more about our school and the community here. If you need childcare (spots are limited), please let Cindy know as soon as possible.

On the morning of Thursday, October 23, we will be opening up the classrooms to parents and guardians to come and experience morning meeting and see how your children spend their time in the classroom. Your children will show you around the room, showcase some of their work and projects and maybe even have you join in a lesson!

And October would simply not be October without the Oak Grove Hibernation Festival and Crafts Fair. The entertainment will include Johnnie Walker with his wooden games and his corn grinder, and Riverside Reptiles, featuring Naturalist, Brian Kleinman. Bring your friends and family for a full afternoon of fun. There are craft projects, entertainment, amazing food and so much more! We will be posting signs in the lobby in the next week or so asking for all of our families to help support this event by cooking and baking your favorite dishes. The success of this great tradition so much depends on everyone bringing some food.

Thank you Joe Henry for growing these beautiful pumpkins!

Lobby Artwork Done By:

3-6 Children’s House

Upcoming Dates

- Wed Oct 8 - Annual Meeting 6:30pm
- Mon Oct 13 - Columbus Day No School
- Tues Oct 14 - Teacher Work Day No School
- Wed Oct 15 - All School Morning Meeting
- Thurs Oct 23 - Family Morning 8:30-9:30
- Sun Oct 26 - Hibernation Festival
News from the 6-9 Lower Elementary Classroom

The Lower Elementary classroom is a beautiful hum of very concentrated activity. It always amazes me to see and to feel how comfortable and relaxed, yet focused and productive the classroom is.

In art classes, these students have been exploring the 5 basic elements of shape with color. Below is a group collection of individual pieces put together.
And as I sit at my desk and write this newsletter...

The 9-12 Upper Elementary Class is...

taking full advantage of this beautiful autumn day in their outdoor classroom. They will be studying the Willimantic River on Johnnie Walker’s handmade riverboat, having art classes, science classes, spelling tests, writing lessons and PE class. Not a bad place for all of that!!

News from the Children’s House

Our class is well underway! In the beginning of the year I am fairly selective about which works come out first. I am so happy to say that I have been adding to the material on a regular basis and we are so busy giving all the lessons! The children are practicing working with the pink tower, the brown stair, monomial cube, color boxes, red rods etc. In the practical life area they are also busy spooning, pouring, tweezing, and tonging. The kindergarten children are busy working on their journals, number rolls, and addition packages. Many have begun working with the golden beads, the short bead stair, and the number chains. Maps are getting used and we are all having fun!

We have concluded our study of the continents. Our current topics of study are the parts of the bird and the leaf. You will begin to see a range of that work coming home too.

In such a short time, the children have made new friends, embraced their old ones and we have become a school family. It really represents how a Montessori classroom allows the children to love and to learn at the same time by supporting the whole child!

Miss Robyn, Miss Miranda, and Miss Emily