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October 2022 Primary Newsletter

EVENTS TO TAKE NOTE OF IN OCTOBER 2022

Monday, October 3rd to 6th: Developmental Assessments

Wednesday, October 5th: Peace lessons start.

Friday, October 7th: Acknowledgement of Gandhi's birthday. No school.

Monday, October 11th: Indigenous Peoples Day.

Friday, October 21st: United Nations Day. **Minimum day.** School ends at 12:00 noon.

Wednesday, October 26th: Parent Information talk – **'Discipline & Practical Life'**.

Monday, October 31st: Halloween celebration.

FREE DEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENTS



Speech screenings:

Nicole Cavalea, MS, CCC/SLP of **Strategies for Success** will be here in the mornings of the week of **October 3rd to**

October 6th to give free speech and language screenings for children in both primary classrooms. The screenings will let you know if your child needs further assessment and/or treatment in the following areas: articulation (sound development); oral motor (muscle strengthening due to low tone, or muscle weakness); working memory; expressive language organization and development; auditory processing; and phonological awareness (early reading skills).

OT/PT screenings:



Development is Child's Play

will also be here in the mornings of the week of **October 3rd to October 6th** to give free Occupational and Physical therapy screenings for children in both primary classrooms.

PEACE LESSONS START



On **Wednesday, October 5th** we will begin our Wednesday morning peace lessons. Every Wednesday, all children will need to be in the classroom in circle by 9:00 am, so please try

to get here on time. If you will be late to school on any Wednesday, please do not come to school until 9:30 am after the peace lesson is over. The classroom staff will be unable to accept late children until the peace lesson has ended.

Our Education for Peace Curriculum is a pragmatic, concrete way to prepare children for peaceful conflict resolution; it helps to create a more nurturing environment with more supportive, interdependent relationships.

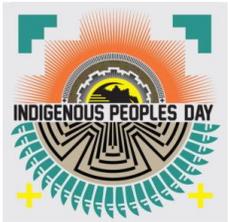
Our full Peace Curriculum, including songs, is available on our web site in the "Parent Corner." You may also purchase a copy of the Peace Curriculum for \$25.

GANDHI'S BIRTHDAY



We will honor Gandhi's birthday on **Friday, October 7th**. There will be no school. Please take the time to discuss the idea of nonviolence, with your family, as a preferable way to resolve differences with people around you.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY



On **Monday, October 10th** we will acknowledge the discovery of North and South America by the European colonists and discuss their impact on the indigenous people who were originally living here.

UNITED NATIONS DAY



Maria Montessori believed it was important for even very young children to become aware that all people have similar needs, but

may satisfy them in different ways, depending on what is available to them within their environment. She believed that imparting this information to children is essential if we are to evolve into a more accepting and peaceful species. For that reason, we include "Peoples of the World" and "Fundamental Needs of People" materials in our classrooms.

We also celebrate United Nations Day. Although all of us now live in the United States of America, and many of our families have done so for generations, all of the people presently living in North America, aside from Native Americans, originally came from a different continent and followed customs from different countries. We will be acknowledging and enjoying the richness of this cultural diversity on United

Nations Day. **Save the date: Friday, October 21st at 10am. Please note that this will also be a minimum day; school will end at 12:00 noon.**

For United Nations Day, the children come to school dressed in the traditional clothing of the country of one of their ancestors. If you are having trouble coming up with a costume, please speak with us. We will help you. All the children need to wear a special costume on United Nations Day. We will be learning songs, greetings, and phrases from each country that is represented.



CREDIT TOWARDS VOLUNTEER TIME

How many minimum days are in October? The answer is found in this newsletter, so please read it thoroughly!

The first two people to send an e-mail to the office – office@oneworldmontessori.org - with the correct answer will win two hours of volunteer time credit for this school year.

PARENT INFORMATION TALK



We will have an in-person Parent Information talk on **Wednesday, 26th October at 4:00pm**. This month's topic will be **'Discipline & Practical Life'**.

If you need childcare during the meeting it is available for a flat rate of \$10. Sign-up sheets will be made available.

We plan on hosting monthly Parent Information meetings. These will address various topics and will be announced in the newsletters and via email.

HALLOWEEN



On, **Monday, October 31st** we will celebrate Halloween with special activities in the morning, including arts and crafts and trick-or-treating.

Parent donations: There will be a sign-up sheet by each classroom door for 'trick or treat' donations. **Please drop-off donations by Monday, 24th October.**

Costumes: The children and staff are invited to come to school in costume. Although Halloween can be a lot of fun for children, as they love to dress up and make believe, it can sometimes be frightening for a child to see familiar people dressed so differently. We would like all the children to enjoy this event, so we are including an outline of our celebration and some guidelines we have set up for their costumes.

The children should come to school in costume, but send a change of clothes as we will be changing back into our normal selves after the celebration. Please leave all accessories that go with the costume at home (e.g., handcuffs for policemen).

When choosing a costume with your child, make sure that it is comfortable and allows for freedom of movement. Make sure that it does not limit or obscure their field of vision. We do not allow masks at school, as they often frighten the little ones and obscure vision. Weapons are also not permitted (even though they might seem to go with the costume), and will be taken away.

Costumes that are likely to promote violent or threatening behavior (e.g., ninjas, etc.) are also not permitted. We also would like to avoid costumes of cartoon characters (e.g., Superman, Spiderman, Cinderella, Belle, etc.). We cannot stress this strongly enough! If children come to school dressed in such costumes, we will remove them and give the children some other costume to wear. If you are having trouble coming up

with non-violent costumes, come see us, we'll help!

Be wary of costumes that tie around the neck; they tend to rip very easily, and if the cape gets caught on something, a child can choke.

BIRTHDAYS



Before your child's birthday, please see one of his/her teachers so that you can schedule a day to celebrate at school. The celebrations are at 11:45 am (Mon to Thurs) and 11:15am on Fridays. On this day, please send your child's photos to school – one at birth and one picture for each year of his/her life – for a timeline.

Please **do not** send treats to school on your child's birthday. We will provide something appropriate for the children. Instead, we would greatly appreciate a donation of something for the classroom in your child's honor – a book for the library, or a contribution toward the items on a classroom wish list. Please see your child's teacher for suggestions.

ABSENCES AT SCHOOL



We would like to remind you to call the school if your child will be absent for any reason. If your child is ill, please be sure to let us know the diagnosis (if there is one), as we are required by law to distribute exposure notices for certain communicable illnesses.

NOTE: Your child can return to school with **a negative antigen COVID test result OR a doctor's note.** They need to be fever free (without medication) for 24 hours and all symptoms resolved or improving before returning to school.

SIGNING IN AND OUT AT SCHOOL REMINDER



We are now using our digital **PROCARE** system to sign your children in and out.

Parents can use either the tablet on the classroom cart or the app on their phones.

Every pick-up person listed for your child will be given a unique 4-digit code to use. Please do not share that number.

Reminder – After you have entered your pin and answered the questions, you need to scroll all the way down, to check them in/out properly. Your child is not signed in/out if you do not see the ‘sign in/out successful’ message.

You are also required to do a **manual check in/out** as well. Please initial next to the check mark.

Remember that your child/ren need to be signed in and out every day.

This procedure is **REQUIRED BY LAW** to ensure the security of each child, so please remember to follow through! If a child is not checked in/out properly, we can be fined by Licensing.

Please be on time as both your child and the staff are waiting for you.

Failure to abide by this policy (forgetting to sign in or out properly) will result in a charge of \$5 per child and per occurrence.

SOILED CLOTHING/BEDDING



All children have ONE washable tote bag to bring wet and soiled clothes home. This bag must be washed every time you are taking wet clothes

home and returned to school the next day. If we do not receive it back, you will be charged \$5 for a replacement bag, which will be billed on your next statement.

All children who nap at school have ONE large washable tote bag to carry their bedding home **every Friday**. If your child has an accident during the week and we have to send the bedding home, please make sure to also wash the bag.

We will also provide each napping child with a washable, waterproof pad to use during nap time. If your child has an accident during his/her nap, we will send it home for you to wash. The nap pad needs to be returned to school the following day. If you do not return your child’s waterproof pad, you will be charged \$13 for a replacement.

NO CHARACTERS REMINDER



We would like to remind you about our “no characters” policy, as stated in the Primary handbook (page 10, section 27):

Clothing with violent motifs of any kind as well as cartoon characters (e.g. Marvel super heroes, Disney, Thomas the Train, Pokémon, Sesame Street characters, etc.) are also not allowed. Shoes with lights are a distraction and are not permitted. Children will be given other clothing to wear if they come dressed inappropriately.

Please note that this policy includes anything brought to school, including shoes, socks, underwear, lunch boxes, blankets for napping, etc.

DONATION OF IPADS & TABLETS



The teachers are beginning to transition to digital note taking in the classroom, using an app called **Transparent Classroom**, designed by and for

Montessori teachers. We are requesting donations of iPads or tablets for each classroom for easy access.

LUNCH REMINDER



If your child stays for lunch, s/he should bring a lunch in a labeled lunch box or bag.

Siblings should not share a lunchbox or any containers.

Starting in October we will be offering to heat up lunches again. Please make sure the heat up is in its own container and not in a 'fixed' part of a bento box style container where staff need to transfer the food to another container in order to heat up.

We do not allow cartoon characters or action figures on the lunchbox. Plain boxes or those with generic pictures are acceptable. When using a container, make sure that you label both the container AND the lid.

We do not allow junk food or sweet drinks (e.g., soda, juice, chocolate milk, cookies, candy, etc.), as well as products containing any tree nut or peanut or sesame seeds.

As part of One World's commitment to sustainability and waste reduction, we encourage parents to pack lunches that are as close to waste-free as possible. Here are some suggestions for reducing the amount of waste in students' lunches:

Pack lunches in a reusable lunch box or bag rather than a paper or plastic bag. Plastic or glass food containers cut down on the need for disposable plastic bags, which are difficult to recycle and therefore wind up in our landfills. Another alternative to Ziploc bags for smaller items are reusable fabric sandwich and snack bags, which can be purchased or even made if you're handy with a sewing machine.

NO NUTS OR SESAME SEEDS POLICY



This is a reminder that we **cannot** have PEANUTS, TREENUTS and SESAME SEEDS at our school. We have children in each classroom with severe

allergies that require epi-pens and possibly a call to 911.

Here is a list of some of the most common allergens–

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Peanuts | Sesame seeds |
| Walnuts | Cashews |
| Almonds | Pecans |
| Pistachios | Hazelnuts |
| Brazil nuts | Macadamia nuts |

NOTE – Some products share facilities that produce nut products. Check carefully!

When in doubt don't pack it or email the office to double check.

PEANUT BUTTER ALTERNATIVES

As our classrooms are sesame, peanut and tree nut-free environments this year, here are some alternative spreads to peanut butter.



Sun butter and 'WOW!' Soy nut butter both can be found at your local markets.

We thank you for not sending sesame seeds, peanuts and tree nuts in your child's lunch.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION



Thank you to Apollo and his mom, Angela, for bringing mooncakes and panda cookies for the teachers.

Also thank you to Lora and her mom, Lacey for making mooncakes to share with the teachers.

Thank you to Ashely Walker and her aunt Sheri for doing a presentation on Rosh Hashanah for the children.

NOVEMBER PREVIEW



IMPORTANT: Please note a date change in the week of Parent/Teacher conferences in November. **Monday, November 7th will be a school day.**

Tuesday 8th, Wednesday 9th and Thursday, 10th November: Parent-Teacher conferences for **all** students. No school. Daycare for full day students only.

Friday, November 11th: Veterans' Day. No school. School is closed.

Monday, November 21st: Parent Information ZOOM meeting: **'Introduction to Elementary'**.

Wednesday, November 23rd: Minimum day. School ends at 12:00 pm.

Thursday and Friday, November 24th and 25th: Thanksgiving break. No school.