



NOVEMBER 2022 PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

EVENTS TO TAKE NOTE OF IN NOVEMBER 2022

Friday, November 4th: Diwali celebration. Indian lunch provided. No pizza that day.

Monday, November 7th: Parent Information talk: ***'Is Montessori Elementary right for my child?'***

Tuesday 8th thru Thursday 10th, November: Parent-teacher conferences for all students. No school.

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

Thursday, November 17th: North America Immersion Day.

Wednesday, November 23rd: Last day before Thanksgiving holiday. Minimum day. School ends at 12:00 noon.

Thursday, November 24th – 25th: Thanksgiving holiday. No school.

DIWALI



We will be celebrating the Indian festival Diwali on **Friday, November 4th**. This is the first of several "Festivals of Light" which we will be acknowledging this year.

Diwali comes from the Sanskrit word Dipawali which translates as "row of lights". Festivities begin with the lighting of lamps on the night of the new moon in the month of Kartika (October-November). The celebration throughout the country continues for at least two or three days. In some areas it may last as many as ten days. It also marks the end of autumn and the beginning of the winter season in India.

The origins of Diwali are obscured in folklore and legend. Some say it

commemorates the return of Rama and his bride, Sita, to his throne at Ayodhya after a fourteen-year exile. Others believe it marks Krishna's destruction of Narakasura, the demon of filth. Still others trace its beginnings to the freeing of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, from prison in the Nether World. In Bengal, some interpret it as a time to honor the goddess Kali.



In any case, every household marks the occasion by illuminating interiors, courtyards, outer walls, roofs, gates and gardens with lights, as if to show the way for any or all of these mythic travelers.

Traditionally, the lights were tiny lamps called dipas. Though many people continue to make dipas, candles and electric lights are also used. Homes are

cleaned from top to bottom and decorated with garlands of brightly colored flowers.

Birds and flower designs called kolams or rangoli are made with colored rice flour on the doorsteps. People dress in their finest clothes, have wonderful feasts and visit friends and relatives.



In the evening, prayers and offerings are given at the family altar and the lamps are lit.

Upon arrival at school, children will be given the opportunity to dress in traditional Indian clothing.

During the celebration, our teachers and parent volunteers, will paint mehndi on the children's hands. Mehndi is the traditional art of painting the hands, feet or body with a paste made from the powdered, dried leaves of the henna plant. Please be sure to let your child's teachers know if you don't want him/her to have his/her hands painted with henna.

The children will enjoy a traditional Indian meal for lunch, so it is not necessary to send a lunch to school on this day. Half day children who wish to eat the Indian meal may stay at school for no additional charge until 12:15 pm so that they may participate.

PARENT INFORMATION TALK

This month's Parent Information topic will be **'Is Montessori Elementary right for my child?'** It will be on **Monday, November 7th at 7pm.** It will be via Zoom and will be recorded. A link will be shared.

Please join us to learn more about the difference between a Montessori versus a traditional elementary education.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES



All parents are required to attend two parent-teacher conferences each year. Conferences will be from **Tuesday**

8th November to Thursday, November 10th.

All parents should note:

There will be no school during conferences on Tuesday 8th, Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th.

Daycare is only for full day students. Full day students are students who attend school from 8am to 5pm.

VETERANS' DAY



The school will be closed on **Friday, November 11th** in observance of Veterans' Day.

NORTH AMERICA STUDIES



During the month of November, we will be working with materials related to the continent of **North America**, which will culminate in our North America Immersion Day on **Thursday, November 17th.** We encourage you to engage your children in conversation, reading, and doing cultural activities related to North America and the countries associated with it. These include Greenland, Canada, United States of America, Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Cuba, Jamaica, Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Puerto Rico.

Looking at maps, eating new foods, listening to music, and discussing the people and their traditions, plants and animals from these countries will create a better understanding of what makes this continent unique.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY



Wednesday, November 23rd will be a minimum day. School ends at 12:00 pm. The children will enjoy 'stone soup' & bread rolls

and pumpkin pie with whipped cream to celebrate the holiday.

The children will make the soup and the pies. Lunch will be served at 11am and pick up is at noon.

School will be closed Thursday and Friday November 24th and 25th. We hope you enjoy this holiday with your family.

ANNUAL DONATIONS



Families are required to donate \$500 per school year. If you would like to claim any portion of your annual donation on your 2022 tax

return, we must receive it before December 16th, 2022. Should you wish to donate in 2023, a minimum of \$250 is due by January 27th, 2023. The remaining amount can be donated any time before the end of May 2023.

We are so grateful for the matching gifts we get from our parents' employers. More and more companies now have outside vendors that process your donations and require you to make your donation to them and then they will send the school your donation along with the matching portion. This process takes time. Now is the time to check with your company and see if they match and what the process is.

Remember that your donation, whether you make it directly to the school or through your company, is due by the end of May to be acknowledged for this school year. Any donations received after that date will be applied to the next school year.

HELP INCREASE ENROLLMENT – WRITE A REVIEW



The majority of our new enrollments come from parent referrals and Internet recommendations/listings, so you play a critical role in increasing our enrollment.

Please take the time to offer one positive review about your experience at One World at one or more of the following websites:

www.greatschools.org

www.yelp.com

www.google.com

Note: If you feel comfortable, please share your review with the office so we can highlight it on our website.

FREE MONTESSORI PARENTING BOOKS

What does the word Diwali mean? 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 a Montessori parenting book.

KARIMU CHARITY UPDATE



Thank you, we did it! In conjunction with our International Day of Peace observance in September, we are delighted to have collected **\$900** for KARIMU, a small nonprofit organization run by volunteers who have been moved by the opportunity to help the poor fulfill its ambition for a better life.

Thank you so much for your contribution towards this effort. We are proud to support organizations that help

impoverished communities so that their children have hope for a better future.

We also feel it is important for our children to have the opportunity to be of service to others less fortunate than themselves.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK



SECOND HARVEST
of SILICON VALLEY

It's November and we will once again participate in a virtual food drive sponsored by the Second Harvest of Silicon Valley Food Bank.

We are committed to helping our community's hungry families during this holiday season and hope you will consider making a donation.

To donate please go to –

<https://impact.shfb.org/fundraiser/4243389>

Thank you for forwarding this information to anyone else who may be interested in participating in our virtual food drive on behalf of Second Harvest.

Let's make a difference in our community!

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION



Congratulations to Stacy Ross and Amy Dolin for winning last month's newsletter giveaway – 2 hours of volunteer time credited to their account. Thanks to all the parents who take the time to read the newsletter and participate in our giveaways!

Thank you to Ashley Walker for the gift of Google minis and Apple Home Pod minis for the classrooms.

Also thank you Ashley for the gift of a tablet for the P4 classroom. Much appreciated!

Thank you to the Cid Revilla family for donating books to the P3 classroom library in celebration of Hugo's 5th birthday

Thank you to the Diehl family for donating money to the P3 classroom in celebration of Ava's 5th birthday.

Thank you to Sera Campbell, Angela To and Tapan Shah for heading up the parent volunteer groups for UN day.

And thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped with setting up and clean up for UN day.

DECEMBER PREVIEW

Friday, December 9th: Primary Holiday show. **Minimum day. School ends at noon.**

Wednesday, December 14th: Hanukkah acknowledged at school

Thursday, December 15th: South America Immersion Day

Friday, December 16th: Christmas acknowledged. Santa visits. **Regular school day.**

December 17th to January 2nd: Winter break. No school. School will resume Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023.