

Copper Beech Montessori



Newsletter for March and April 2010

Important Dates

Wednesday, March 10 thru

Monday, March 14 Ann at conference in Oregon

Wednesday, March 17

Closed for Evacuation Day, faculty meeting, CPR training

Friday, April 2 closed for Good Friday

Monday, April 19 thru

Friday, April 23 closed for Spring Recess

Saturday, May 1 spring clean-up day

Willow Birthdays

March 11 Michael

March 21 Cameron

April 5 Nate

April 14 John

Arce Birthdays

March 7 Owen F

March 11 Owen L

March 28 Adlemy

Cypress Birthdays

April 6 Mary

April 21 Sarah

April 30 Athena

Aspen Birthdays

March 11 Sophia

Message from Ann

It might be a bit optimistic for me to have a flowering daffodil in the header but I think they should be blooming soon. We usually have a lovely spring garden along the edges of the playground, the spring bulbs are plentiful and the forsythia and lilacs impressive. Please note that I am aiming for the first Saturday in May for the spring clean-up.

I am still working on the playground. I have placed a

circle of tree stumps for the children to step on and balance. I have the new sand boxes assembled but I have not yet put them out because of snow. Maybe I will try that this week. They are sand tables and they have covers. I have plans for a tire swing. And I still want to build a cob playhouse. Once again I am stymied by how hard it is to obtain the adequate amounts of clay or sub-soil. But I am determined.

I want to acknowledge again how proud I am that Copper Beech could raise almost \$1000 for the Haitian relief effort. Everyone was more than generous with their time, energy, and money. We sure are a loving community. Thank you.

At the Heads' Retreat in January I learned quite a bit

about my leadership style and where I can be doing things differently. I was encouraged to realize that much of my approach to running this school is supportive and positive. Yeah for me. However, there is always room for improvement and I must work on my most glaring fault – regular teacher reviews. It doesn't sound difficult but I always let something else take precedence.

The conference I will be attending in Portland is "Montessori Internationalism and Peace: Unifying History, Geography, and Nature." It sounds like it would focus on classroom materials but, in fact, it has a much broader scope with a number of keynote addresses from an international cast. I will be attending two specific workshops – one aimed at the primary age (3 to 6) and the other at infant/toddler.

While in Portland I will be spending a couple of days with my daughter who is now living at "The Farm", <http://tryonfarm.org/share>. Larry Page and Sergey Brin (the founders of Google) said that Montessori education allowed them to learn to think for themselves and gave them freedom to pursue their own interests. This is certainly also true of my daughter. She is wholly committed to green, sustainable living and to community building and I think her Montessori upbringing had a lot to do with it. I am grateful and proud. I really do not worry about her any more – I am sure she will be happy and productive and loving.

By the end of March I hope to know which children are staying and which are leaving for the 2010-2011 school year. I will send out an email asking you your plans for your children and I hope everyone will send me a reply.

"Let us unite our efforts to construct an environment that will allow the child and the adolescent to live an independent, individual life in order to fulfill the goal that all of us are pursuing – the development of personality, the formation of a supernatural order, and the creation of a better society."

- Maria Montessori.

"You have very truly remarked that if we are to reach real peace in this world and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with children and if they will grow up in their natural innocence, we won't have the struggle, we won't have to pass fruitless idle resolutions, but we shall go from love to love and peace to peace, until at last all the corners of the world are covered with that peace and love for which, consciously or unconsciously, the whole world is hungering."

- Mahatama Gandhi, addressing Dr. Montessori and her students, London, October 28, 1931

