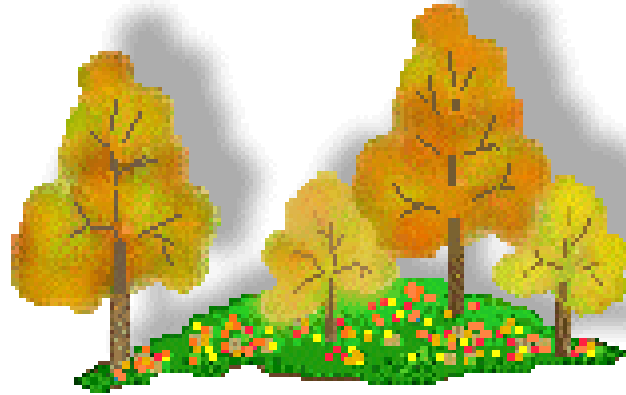


Copper Beech Montessori



Newsletter for September and October 2010

Important Dates

Tuesday, September 7 first day of new school year

Friday, September 24 3 PM closing for staff meeting

Monday, October 11 closed for Columbus Day

Thursday October 21 through Monday October 25 Clarissa and Ann away at Montessori conference

Friday, October 29 Closed for parent/teacher conferences and staff meeting

Willow Birthdays

October 16 Lucie

Arce Birthdays

None

Cypress Birthdays

September 10 Caleb
September 30 Oliver
October 4 Jack
October 22 Julia

Aspen Birthdays

September 19 Phoebe
September 24 Lea
September 26 Kiera
September 29 Aydin
October 7 Emanuel
October 15 Charlie

Message from Ann

Hello again everyone. Last night we had our Orientation meeting and I hope everyone who attended feels settled – or as settled as you can be at the beginning of the school year. All the teachers are energetic about and excited by the new year; we are all looking forward to starting next Tuesday.

On September 11 and 12 Marieta, Jessica, and Amelia will be attending a Montessori Assistant's training in Braintree. In October Clarissa and I will be attending the AMS 2010 Fall Conference in San Diego. Clarissa will be back on Monday October 25 and I will return Wednesday the 27th. I will be taking French classes for 9 Thursday mornings starting September 23 so I will not be in until 10:30 on those days.

Those of you who were here last night got the first glimpse of our new labyrinth in the playground. Erin, Haydee, and I built it out of cob (a mixture of clay, aggregate, water, and straw). We will be teaching the children how to walk through the path to quiet their minds and calm their

bodies. It will need a roof to protect the cob from wearing away and that is our next project. Erin has some great ideas. Here is a website where you can see how cob is made:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmvND5oCV-U&NR=1&feature=fvwp> .

This website has nice music and images of cob structures:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCIdCCyTFaY&feature=related>

About labyrinths: A labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. The Labyrinth represents a journey to our own center and back again out into the world

Labyrinths and mazes have often been confused. When most people hear of a labyrinth they think of a maze. A labyrinth is not a maze. A maze is like a puzzle to be solved. It has twists, turns, and blind alleys. It is a left brain task that requires logical, sequential, analytical activity to find the correct path into the maze and out.

A labyrinth has only one path. It is unicursal. The way in is the way out. There are no blind alleys. The path leads you on a circuitous path to the center and out again. A labyrinth is a right brain task. It involves intuition, creativity, and imagery.

At Copper Beech we had a very pleasant summer; we enjoyed our trip to Lookout Farm, Curious Creatures, Fran Friedman, Cheryl Melody, and Carnival. The children explored the neighborhood, and learned about dinosaurs and the oceans. We were all busy but still relaxed – just the way I like it.

The sun's rays are getting weaker and by the end of September we will no longer be applying sunscreen. For new parents: you apply sunscreen in the morning, leave it at Copper Beech, and we reapply in the afternoon. Label your child's container and find out from the teachers where to put it. Do not leave it in a cubby please; that is an accident waiting to happen. Again, here is the scoop on parking at Copper Beech. The spots in front of the building are for teachers and live parking. If you are planning to leave your car and park all day, first drop off your child and then drive to our lot on Marbury Terrace. Please do not park your car in the front lot all day – we need all those spots for live parking. The spaces along the playground fence and the next row of spaces are ours to use, the last row and those along the Amory Street fence belong to Legal Services. When not enough of our parking spaces are free and someone parks in a Legal Services spot, it sometimes creates bad feelings with them and we try to be very good neighbors.

Will the new families who want monthly receipts please let me know in writing? We are using Smart Tuition this year and I will logon to their website on the 16th of the month and generate receipts. Everyone should have paid by the 15th of the month.

By mid-September I should have the phone directory as up-to-date

as possible and you will all receive a copy. I have emailed to each of you the address, phone number, and email addresses that I have on file. If you did not mail back a correction I assumed the information was correct. If you need a copy of anything do not hesitate to request it by leaving a note on my desk or in the black mailbox outside my office. Just asking me probably will not be sufficient.

I am looking forward to this school year. We have a fantastic group of teachers with abundant experience and varied talents. All of us are enthusiastic about caring for the children, guiding them with love, and preparing them for the larger world community.

MY VISION OF THE FUTURE is no longer of people taking exams and proceeding on that certification from the school to the university, but of individuals passing from one stage of independence to a higher, by means of their own activity, through their own effort of will, which constitutes the inner evolution of the individual.
- Maria Montessori

