



Mater Amoris Matters

December 2013



Mater Amoris Montessori School
18501 Mink Hollow Road, PO Box 97
Ashton, MD 20861

301-774-7468
matera001@verizon.net
www.materamoris.com



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Weds, Dec 4, 9:30-11 a.m.

Open House for prospective families

Thurs, Dec 5, 5-7 p.m.

Holiday Program rehearsal, Briggs Chaney Middle School

Fri, Dec 6, 7 p.m.

Annual Holiday Program and Bake Sale (starting at 6 p.m.)

Thurs, Dec 19

Holiday break begins

Thurs, Jan 2

Classes resume

Weds, Jan 8

Kennedy Center field trip for Upper & Lower Elementary

Mon, Jan 20

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
NO CLASSES

Weds, Jan 22

Kennedy Center field trip for Upper & Lower Elementary



SECRET SNOWFLAKES

In the holiday spirit of giving, the junior children will have a simple gift exchange in their classrooms on Thursday, December 12th. The value of this small gift should be no more than \$10.00. Details have been sent home with the children.



FROM THE DIRECTRESS

Thank you to all of our families who contributed to the annual Thanksgiving food drive. There was a critical need again this year and many families were able to enjoy a special meal thanks to your very generous donations and spirit of sharing.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Holiday Program and Bake Sale on Friday, December 6th. The children have been working hard in rehearsal and are excited to perform for their families. Many thanks to Carrie Weitzman, Ingrid Kleckner, Jessica Eustace, Ben Gross, Karyl Chong and the many volunteers who are contributing their time and energy toward making this year's bake sale and raffle a great success. Ingrid Kleckner and Jessica Eustace are working with the children to create the classroom holiday crafts which will be auctioned at the bake sale. Thank you to all of the families who are contributing to this event by baking delicious items at home, and purchasing these items at the program!

I hope that all of you will find time to enjoy many happy celebrations with family and friends over our holiday break.



"WHY CHRISTMAS TREES AREN'T PERFECT"

The 5 and 6-year-old primary students and all of the lower and upper elementary students will present the annual Holiday Program on Friday, December 6th, at Briggs Chaney Middle School, 1901 Rainbow Drive, in Silver Spring. The program will be preceded by the Bake Sale beginning at 6:00 p.m., including a raffle for chances to win gift baskets. Drawings will be held immediately following the performance. Special class projects will also be available by silent auction. All Mater Amoris families and friends are invited to join us for this festive holiday tradition.

UPDATE TO THE DIRECTORY

Sung Tae Kim and Christine Lee
Katherine and Elizabeth (Elie)

11748 Pindell Chase Drive
Fulton, MD 20759

SNOW POLICY

Mater Amoris will follow Montgomery County Schools' Snow Policy for school closings. However, **when Montgomery County schools open one or two hours late, Mater Amoris will open at its regular time. When Montgomery County schools close early, Mater Amoris will close early.** You do not need to call the school – just follow the radio announcements.



UPDATES FROM THE CLASSES

From Mrs. Walsh: The Primary class is enjoying the autumn season all around us. Each day there is excitement about color changes and the falling leaves. The afternoon children have fully immersed themselves in the holiday season. They prepared and cooked a full Thanksgiving feast to enjoy together and they are continuing to practice for the annual holiday program. We look forward to seeing you all there!

From Mrs. A-O: Thank you, everyone, for making the book fair such a success. We sold more books this year than last year! We are now back in our room at the main building but miss the excitement of our "little library schoolhouse in the woods". We extend our thanks to Mrs. Tay, our student observer for the last two weeks from the Washington Montessori Institute, for joining our class. The students are excited for the winter holiday program and hope to see everyone there. Have a safe and wonderful holiday!

From Mrs. Poje: Our class has had a busy month! The children have all been writing reports, making timelines, and working on new skills with the math materials. We enjoyed celebrating Halloween, observing the trees losing their leaves, and baking mini apple pies this fall.

From Mrs. Perez: The class is continuing our tradition of exchanging letters with Reso Gamla Skola, a Montessori school in Reso, Sweden. We may also establish a pen pal relationship with the Montessori school in Mexico City where our former classmates, Mauricio and Gabriel Zonenszain, are students. The Upper Elementary is pleased to announce two class projects that will be ongoing throughout the school year. Mrs. Anne Elixhauser (Ben Hayden's mother) has started a weaving project that involves working with wool and learning the skills of carding, using a drop spindle, felting and weaving. Mrs. Kristine Brecht (Trinity and Marissa Kleckner's grandmother) has started a poetry project that is focusing on the works of great poets, reciting chosen poems and creating a personal poetry journal. The class extends a special thank you to Gary Kleckner (Trinity and Marissa's father) and Kate Albus (Luke Yeatman's mother) for helping us create a Mater Amoris gingerbread schoolhouse to submit to the Sandy Spring Museum display that will run from November 30th to December 8th.



WINTER WARMTH

As cold weather approaches, please make sure that your child is dressed warmly for both indoors and outdoors. The children do go out to play and need to come prepared with coats, hats and mittens or gloves. When there is snow, slush, or the ground is mushy, your child should wear boots. Snow pants or extra pants are also a must! Please make sure to label everything your child brings to school. We also suggest layers of clothing for inside the classroom. The school's heat will be kept at an energy-efficient level so long-sleeved shirts and sweaters or fleece tops are suggested.

FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL

Happy Holidays! The Parent Council is extremely excited to announce "Shipwrecks and Treasure" as the theme for the Silent Auction and Spring Fair. The committees have already started preparing for what we hope will be another successful and fun event. We have begun using the funds from last year's event to market the school and grow our enrollment. In November, we hosted the first open house of the school year which was a great success. Your participation in our past auctions has allowed us to update the trails for nature exploration, create and maintain our butterfly garden, and computerize the catalog of our library. Whether it's giving of your time, helping to secure auction items from local businesses, or donating items yourself, we deeply appreciate all of your generosity. Please think about our theme and how you can creatively contribute. If you have questions or want to get involved with the silent auction please contact Lorraine Tegeris at lctegeris@gmail.com or 301-996-5103. If you would like to help with the spring fair please contact Ingrid Kleckner at kleckner5@verizon.net or 301-622-2960. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Holiday Program and Bake Sale. This is a wonderful family event that celebrates our talented children. If you wish to volunteer for this event please contact Carrie Weitzman at carrieweitzman@gmail.com. The Parent Council wishes everyone a peaceful holiday season and a healthy and happy 2014.



