



TODDLER NEWS

November 2022

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Important dates:

November 3rd

Class Photos

November 11th

Veterans Day

School closed

November 12th 10-11:30am

Girl Scout Canned Food Drive

November 14-18th

Scholastic Book Fair

November 18th

Grandparents' Day

Celebration!

November 21-25

No School

Thanks-For-Giving!

November a month where we reflect on all that we are thankful for, we want to thank all of those who have given to the Toddler Communities.

- Thank you Catriona Cavender and Federica Padilla for all you do to support our toddler communities as room parents!
- Thank you to Levi's family and grandparents for hosting our Trunk or Treat Toddler Car!
- Thank you to the Witten family, the McNab family and the Gonzales family for donating fresh flowers for practical life work.
- Thank you to the Martin-Tseng family and the...



Come join us for a special
GRANDPARENTS' DAY CELEBRATION!

Friday, November 18th, 2022

Musical Performances, Scholastic Book Fair, and Classroom Visits

Staggered by age-group to minimize audience group sizes

9:30 am: LOWER AND UPPER ELEMENTARY Perform in the Church

- 9:00 am - Elementary grandparents and families are invited for snacks and coffee before the performance.
- 9:30 am - Performance in the Church
- 9:55 am - After the performance, grandparents are invited to take their grandchildren to the book fair (Parish Hall) and visit the classrooms

11:00 am: TODDLER AND PRIMARY Perform in the Church

- 10:30 am - Toddler and Primary grandparents and families are invited for snacks and coffee before the performance.
- 11:00 am - Performance in the Church
- 11:20 am - After the performance, grandparents are invited to take their grandchildren to the book fair (Parish Hall) and visit the classrooms

Other Important Information:

- Performances will be recorded and shared for family members that cannot make it to the school that day.
- Yes, you may take your child home with you after the celebration!

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Thanks-For-Giving continued from page one....

- Luna family for donating items for the Pepitas community to make applesauce.
- Thank you to the Kardys family and the Martinez family for donating bird seed!
- Thank you to the Busa family for donating a bug viewer for the Acorn Community!
- Thank you to the Cavender family for donating a new shelf for our outdoor space!
- Thank you to the Martinez family for donating 2 new bird feeders!
- Thank you to Alexandra Kardys for sewing new napkins for the Juniper Berry community!
- Thank you to everyone who donated pumpkins!

We are so lucky to have your support! Thank you!

Featured Lesson in the Toddler Community

Pumpkin Washing

Every week in the practical life area of the classroom, your toddler will have the opportunity to engage with a variety of activities to help them learn practical skills and gain independence.

Toddlers love water and pumpkin washing is always a fun practical life activity in October and November.



What do Montessorian's mean by Practical Life Activities?

Practical life activities include any activities we do to care for ourselves or the environment. Children are motivated to participate in practical life activities because they see adults engage in these activities every day.

Why are practical life activities important?

Dr. Montessori believed that practical life activities were the foundation for every other activity and all future learning. Practical life activities help children learn important life skills

while refining their fine motor skills. As children become more independent, we see them become more confident. Practical life activities allow for repetition which draws children into concentration. Dr. Montessori observed that concentration is the point when children are really learning. Current brain research shows that when children engage in activities, they are laying the neurological pathways of the brain and the more that a child repeats an activity, the stronger the neurological connections become.

What does pumpkin washing look like in the classroom?

- The child starts by putting on an apron then the child obtains water from the sink in a small pitcher. At first the child might spill water as they carry the pitcher from the sink to the wash basin, but through practice the child learns to refine their movements.
- The child pours the water from the pitcher into the wash basin. Some children might pour the water so quickly that the water sloshes out of the basin onto the floor. This scenario is actually really helpful to the child's learning and through time they will learn very precisely how to pour so that they do not spill.
- Next, the child will squeeze soap from a small bottle strengthening their hand for later fine motor work such as writing.



- The child will use the scrub brush to clean the pumpkin helping them develop their attention to detail and again strengthen their hand.
- Once the pumpkin is clean, the child places the pumpkin onto a towel to dry the pumpkin.
- To encourage repetition, several pumpkins are available in the environment and children have the freedom to wash as many pumpkins as they would like.



- When the child is finished, they empty the water from the basin into the bucket. Then they carry the bucket to the sink and empty the water into the sink. Wow! Did you know your toddler could do that?
- Finally, the child is encouraged to put everything back so it is ready for the next child.

That is a long sequence of work for a toddler, but they are more capable than most people give them credit for!

Through the simple activity of washing a pumpkin, the child is doing really important work.

Direct aims of pumpkin washing:

- To show the child how to wash something.
- To help the child refine their movements.

Indirect aims of pumpkin washing:

- To aid in the development of independence.
- Concentration and completing a cycle of work.
- To help children integrate their intellect, will and movement.

You can support your child's growth at home by finding ways to include your children in everyday activities of your home such as preparing food, folding laundry, and putting toys away.