



Moultrie Montessori Newsletter *December 2016 & January 2017*

“The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled.”
– Plutarch

<u>Dates to Remember</u>	
Thursday, December 1, 2016	Monthly Tuition Due
Wednesday, December 14, 2016, 5:30	Family Holiday Sing-a-Long
Friday, December 16, 2016, 12:00	Early Release
Wednesday-Monday Dec. 21, 2016-Jan. 3, 2017	Winter Break
Sunday, January 1, 2017	Monthly Tuition Due
Tuesday January 4, 2017	Teacher Planning Day-Student Holiday
Wednesday January 5, 2017	Classes Resume
Friday January 13, 2017, 12:00	Early Release
Monday January 16, 2017	Martin Luther King Holiday

Family Holiday Sing-a-Long

We are having fun planning and practicing for our Family Holiday Sing-a -Long, to be held at 5:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, December 14th**. Please bring a holiday goodie to share, finger food only, and be ready to join in singing along after the children's performance.

Aftercare ends at 5:00 p.m. on December 14th. **We request that children be picked up by 5:00 p.m. and return at 5:30 p.m.** This allows time for teachers to prepare for the event and children time to clean up and relax with parents.

*Happy
Holidays*

Director's Note from Miss Jeannie

It's the most exciting time of the year for children, and for parents, too, as we hustle and bustle to get ready for the holidays. Children in the primary class are learning about the significance and traditions of Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. We are enjoying songs, stories, and holiday crafts. If you would enjoy sharing a holiday tradition of yours, please let me know.

Sometimes the excitement and pressures of anticipating and trying to prepare for the perfect holiday can become overwhelming. Regular routines, regular bedtimes, and some quiet down time each day can be very helpful. One scheduled activity each day makes the holiday fun, without being exhausting.

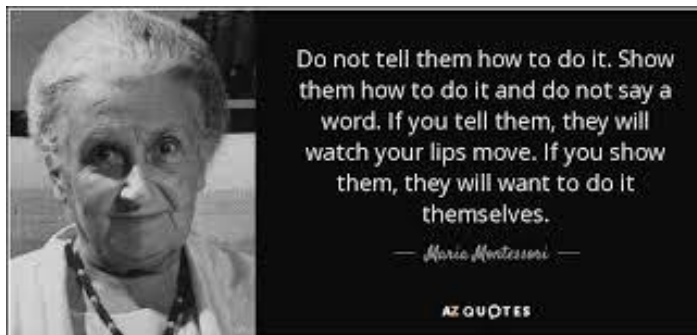
It is also important to stay focused on the meaning of the holidays and to help children understand the reasons for special traditions.

Maria Montessori believed that it was important to include children in the preparations as well as in significant rituals. Children long to contribute as well as participate.

My mother wanted to ensure that my sisters and I experienced the joy of giving from our hearts. During the month of December, we were to be the "Secret Pal" of the family member whose name we had drawn. This entailed secretly doing something every day to make the other's life more wonderful. A lot of thinking about the other person and how to do something without being discovered was required. Our minds, energy, and time were busy with giving, and we were excited about the secrecy of it all.

Happy, happy holidays!

Moultrie Montessori



RALLY FOR RUGS

DEADLINE EXTENSION OF DECEMBER 20TH

Thank you to those that have donated.

Our school needs a new area rug. As a school family, we can rally together to raise the \$500 needed for the rug. If each family donates \$5 or \$10 to the cost of the rug, that donation will be generously matched by the Weber/McGarrigle Family, up to \$250. Your donation to this expense will have a significant impact every day as our children learn and play at school. **Our goal is to have the funds raised by December 20th.** Please consider joining Weber/McGarrigle family to make this purchase a reality by giving your donation to Miss Jeannie. Thank you!

Holiday Gift Shopping?

Consider purchasing items from websites with Montessori Resources.

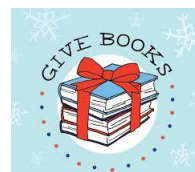
<http://www.forsmallhands.com/>

- If you purchase from here a percentage and/or credit is shared with our school. Enter school code 220 220 when checking out.

<http://www.michaelolaf.com/>

- The catalog has beautiful written text about child development, Montessori philosophy, and Montessori at home.

The Elementary Children will be collecting new books and toys for the children at the Betty Griffin House, during our Holiday Sing-along, on 12/14. Please help us with our community service project!



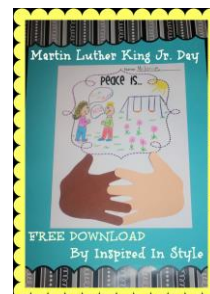
Winter Break Activities



<http://countingcoconuts.blogspot.com/search/label/Playdough> includes homemade playdough recipe and notes



<http://happyhooligans.ca/icicle-ornaments/#>
Icicle Ornaments with Beads and Pipe cleaners



<http://inspiredinstyle.com/2013/01/martin-luther-king-jr-day-activity/>