

Montessori Monthly Memo

From the Desk of the Director — Lora Hoelting

What's Been Happening...

- **October Craziess:** We are getting close to the end of one of our busiest months. October is always a time when we seem to have lots of things going on. Selling carnival tickets, crazy dress up days, lots and lots of work going on in the classes and adding our accreditation on top of it....we all feel like our heads are spinning! But the end is in sight and we look forward to catching out breath next Wednesday on All Saints Day.
- **Zoology:** The children have been enjoying diving into the different units of Zoology. Last week was mammals, this week has been reptiles, and we still have amphibians, fish, and birds to explore. There are always lots of things to learn and discover in a Montessori classroom.
- **Safe Environment Awareness Month:** During the month of October all Elementary classes in the Diocese of Amarillo teach a lesson about Safe Environment. It is not required at the pre-school level, but we would like to share some information with you about skills that even very young children can use to keep themselves safe from sexual abuse. Please read the attached handout and decide what you feel you can discuss with your child.

What's Happening Now....

- **Early Release Tomorrow:** Due to our accreditation closing session school is released at 2:00 on 10/25. There is NO extended day available. Please make arrangements accordingly.
 - **The Month of the Rosary:** October is the month of the Holy Rosary. This also goes along with our theme for this school year, "Called to Holiness....as we grow in prayer, mercy, and service" and commemorating the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. The Montessori children will join with the rest of the school in praying a rosary this Friday at 8:15 in the church (since our priests are on retreat and unable to conduct mass). The children have also enjoyed seeing our bulletin board of the rosary with all the students and staff represented as the prayer beads.
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- **Cooler Weather:** Fall is finally starting to arrive. Please send your child with a jacket that they are able to get on and off by themselves. It is often still a little chilly when we go to recess around the noon hour. It is very important that you label your child's jacket. They don't always remember which jacket belongs to them. Check out some of the great YouTube videos on teaching your child to put on their own jacket.

What Will be Happening....

- **Day of the Dead:** Next week our classes will be introduced to the beautiful custom of Dia de los Muertos which dates back to Pre-Columbian times. It honors the mysteries of life and death while we celebrate All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.
- **All Saints Day:** Please don't forget that next **Wednesday, November 1st**, is a Holy Day of Obligation for the Catholic Church. Therefore, **we do NOT have school.**
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** If you have older children in the Elementary grades you may have noticed that they will be having parent/teacher conferences next month. At the Montessori level we are not quite ready to have conferences. It takes a longer time to get the children normalized in the classroom and we like to have two rounds of assessments completed before we meet with you to discuss your child's progress. We plan to complete the second set of assessments right after Thanksgiving. So, be looking for our conferences to be scheduled the first part of December.
- **November Means No More Shorts:** Just want to remind you that our dress code policy states that shorts can NOT be worn from November until after spring break. Also, remember that girls can wear plain tights/panty hose that are white, navy or black (no leggings) to keep their legs warm. Thanks for helping adhere to our policy.