



# The Lake Fern Montessorian

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## Roxanne's Reflections

### *News for all LFMA families!*

◆ This school year has certainly been a challenge in many ways for me. I have mentioned to many parents that I have little personal experience with our upper level students (Mr. Price's class). I am learning quickly what their needs are and that those needs are not much different than those of the younger children. Yes their bodies are bigger and stronger, but they still need lots of love, encouragement and consistency. Thank goodness for Mr. and Mrs. Price for their continued guidance and suggestions dealing with different situations that have arisen this year. With all that said, many of you have asked about middle school at LFMA. As we discussed in this newsletter last June or July, we have been seriously debating additional expansion. We are intending to build a replacement for the small modular classroom on the south side of the playground, and we will use that building to house additional upper level classes. We have already begun the financing and planning process behind the scenes, and will be submitting documentation to the City very shortly. We are planning on a steel construction building rather than modular construction this time, steel buildings have come a long way in aesthetics and price (see [www.butlermfg.com](http://www.butlermfg.com) and [www.gensteel.com](http://www.gensteel.com)), and they are more readily insurable!. We will demolish the existing small building, unless someone cares to move it off the property, in other words free to anyone interested. If you know someone, send them our way.

*Labor disgraces no man. Unfortunately you occasionally find men who disgrace labor.*

Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885)

## Mrs. Price's Class News

◆ This month will move by quickly, but we still have a lot going on. To begin with, students will continue working on the rainforest and various animal kingdoms in science and Africa, Australia, and South America in social studies. Students are moving quickly through math and literature curriculums and are doing extremely well across the board with the subject material. This month, students will be focusing on graphing in math and extending sentences in their written expression. They will also be working on the editing process a great deal this month and should be making some of their own books to bring home.

Our homework assignment this month went home on January 31<sup>st</sup> and consists of reading a specified number of books and then doing activities with those books. Some of these activities include making a fact book, story puzzle, and a book board game to name a few. Please have students turn in projects in the purple homework folders they were sent home with. Thanks!

There will not be a field trip this month, but envelopes for the March field trip will be going home soon. We are very excited to announce that we will be attending a fantastic show at Arabian Nights on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. The cost of this show for students and adults is only \$16, which is a great deal, since adult tickets are generally almost \$46. The ticket also includes lunch and beverages.

We will be having our valentine party on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. We have 34 students in our class and students may bring in valentines to share if they wish. Please have your child only put their name on the valentines so that passing them out will be quicker. Also, students are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit

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## Pre-Primary Class News

◆ This month we will be celebrating Black History month. We will talk about famous African Americans who have made a difference in our country.

On Friday February 9<sup>th</sup> we will have our Valentines Day party. Your child will need 38 valentine cards signed only on the back, leave the envelopes blank. This way your child can deliver one card to each friend that day. We also will have a special snack. Each child is asked to bring a serving of cleaned fruit to share, such as one apple cut and ready to share. We will provide dip and other treats. If you have any questions, please ask any of the teachers.

Last month we started studying our body. We learned about the organs and 5 senses thus far. This month we will move into the muscles and how to keep them strong and healthy. We will be doing a lot of exercising so make sure your child has the proper fuel each day to keep him or her energized.

In other areas we will continue practicing new concepts and reviewing things we have already covered.

Letters this month: s, l and u.

Math: counting to 50, sequencing and recognition of 1-20 for the children who are ready.

Geography: Asia. Completing paper globes, land and water forms, island, lake, archipelago, systems of lakes and directions, north, south east and west.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY
- FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH
- PRESIDENT'S DAY, SCHOOL CLOSED
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

*It is the responsibility of every adult-especially parents, educators and religious leaders-to make sure that children hear what we have learned from the lessons of life, and to hear over and over that we love them and that they are not alone.*

Marian Wright Edelman (B. 1939)

to share. We will provide a fruit dip to go with it. Also, if students like, they may bring another goodie of their choice.

On a final note, the end of the grading is drawing near. Report cards will be in your folders on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Mr. Price's Class News

◆ February is here and thus we move toward the end of our second grading period. I will be making a push this month to make sure that all tests are made up and that everything runs smoothly as we end this grading period. Report cards should be out on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. During February we will be finishing our current literature book, Island of the Blue Dolphins, and beginning a new one, Number the Stars by Lois Lowry. This month the class will also be finishing expository writing and beginning persuasive writing, which should be very interesting. So be prepared to be wowed by their improved persuasive abilities!

Over this next grading period, I am striving to have a greatly increased emphasis on computer use. As part of the curriculum, I want to teach them basic principles of operating systems, word processing, and information gathering via the internet. I have encouraged the children to try and get a flash drive to store and transfer any information they process on the computers. You can get flash drives at places like Wal-Mart or Staples. They usually run between \$10 and \$20 for a 256 K flash drive, which plenty enough room for anything they want to do short of heavy graphic or sound applications. I will also allow children to bring in their own laptops as long as it is with parent permission and they adhere to the protocols I set in place.

We are not having a field trip in February. Next month we will be going to Arabian Nights on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Please read Mrs. Price's section of the newsletter for further details.

We will be having our valentine party on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Students can bring in fruit of their choice. We will provide various dips to go along with the fruit. Students may also bring in another goody of their choice. Try to bring in enough to share. We have 18 students in our class. Thanks and see you next month!