



# The Lake Fern Montessorian

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## News for all LFMA families!

◆ We are two thirds of the way through the school year. Can you believe it? We are really pleased and impressed with the progress the children have made in all levels.

Spring break is March 26<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>, so please plan ahead. Our staff will have a well deserved mini vacation, and we have a number of projects planned over and above our usual cleaning and introduction of new materials.

For the upper level, our computer systems are getting a tremendous amount of use, and we will be installing a new file server and some new software to make our network easier to administer and safer from the perils of the World Wide Web. We have some new software to install as well to help our students better learn to use the computer as a tool in their future endeavors, and as a learning tool now.

Our playground also needs some enhancements, and we have some plans in place to provide more activities for both the pre-primary and the upper level students.

Registration is now open for existing families. Forms are available in the foyer. We find ourselves in the position where we must increase the tuition slightly for the next school year. First of all, let me tell you that we have surveyed the surrounding private schools of various levels, and even with this increase we are below or are comparable with others. We believe no other school in the area offers the academic opportunities and excellence that LFMA has.

The reasons we must increase to remain financially viable are many that each of us as private citizens have been forced to deal with. First of all, our property insurance costs have increases as much if not more than many of you have experienced. Secondly, our Workers

## Mrs. Price's Class News

◆ March will be a very busy month. To start with we will be attending Arabian Nights with both upper level classes on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. We must check in at 11:00 at the facility in Kissimmee, so it imperative that if you are meeting us there, that you be on time. This should be a great field trip with a fantastic show and lunch.

We will continue to work on the rainforest this month, but will start studying a more in-depth lesson on plants. It is wonderful to let your children experience growing their own garden at home. Even a container garden where they grow some fresh herbs, vegetables, or flowers would make a great learning experience. Now is certainly the time as spring is in the air!

This month's homework project should be a fairly easy one. Students are encouraged to choose something to teach to the class. This project can include teaching a cooking or art project. It may also include doing a science experiment, report, math lesson, etc. The full details went home with your child on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks!

Registration forms for the next school year are now available and registration will remain open for our in-house families until April 2<sup>nd</sup>. After this should there be any availability, registration will open to the public. The upper level will have 3 classes next year, but we are expecting them to fill up quickly. Please turn your registration forms in as soon as possible since we have children on a waiting list and we don't want anyone to lose their spot. Also, there will be a sign up sheet in the foyer for summer sessions. If your child will be here during the summer, please fill out this form as we need to schedule staff during the summer time. Thanks!

Our spring break will be from March 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>. Have a safe and happy vacation!

Compensation insurance cost, as with most businesses, continues to increase.

Additionally, we have been hit with a number of State of Florida mandates that are expensive. Our playgrounds must be Consumer Product Safety Commission compliant. While this looks like a no-brainer on face value, the regulations require a number of changes we have not yet made. I'd like to point out that our student accident insurance policy for 90+ children is 500 dollars a year while our Workers Comp. insurance for 10 employees is over 6 times as much. So the insurance company actuaries have determined it's six times more likely the 10 staff get hurt rather than the 90 kids, but the county says our playground needs several thousand dollars worth of changes.

Here is another. Many of you know we participate in the McKay scholarship program. We have several great kids in the school we are very proud to have been able to help. As a requirement of our pre-primary license with the county, we fingerprint and have level 2 Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) background checks for our entire staff because all have contact with the little guys. We support that. But along comes the Jessica Lunsford Act passed by the legislature, and we have a mandate to have level 2 FDLE background checks for our staff because we participate in the McKay scholarship program. No problem, you would think, we already have that. But no, the bureaucrats have determined these are two different "requirements" and unbelievably are requiring us to fingerprint and background check the entire staff a second time at our expense. And that's not cheap.

LFMA has a long history of providing excellent care and superior educational programs at very competitive rates. We believe that even with the tuition increases for the new school year we continue in that tradition. We trust you will all realize that we remain comparable with other programs in the area and we will continue to strive for educational excellence, but we must have the resources to meet our mandates, provide the necessary materials and retain our top notch staff.

On Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> we will be having **GROUP** pictures taken. Please have your child dressed in a white shirt and dark bottoms. All levels need to be dressed the same. Individual pictures will be taken on March 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 8 AM.

## Mr. Price's Class News

◆ March is here and along with it the springtime. We are also beginning our third and final semester of the year. We are already two-thirds of the way through the year!

In science we are studying aspects of physical science including states of matter, elements, atomic structure, and physical and chemical properties of matter. We also have begun a new literature book, Number the Stars, which is a fictional book based in Denmark during the World War II era. This literature piece depicts the grim life under Nazi occupation and exemplifies bravery in the face of peril.

I am very impressed with the interest level the children have displayed in their desire to incorporate technology into their classroom setting. It is still a work in progress, but I'm excited about the possibilities the future offers.

Please see Mrs. Richards and Mrs. Price's sections for details on registration and our Arabian Nights field trip

Remember, spring break is March 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>. Have fun!

*Every generation has the obligation to free men's minds for a look to new worlds.*

Ellison Onizuka (1946-1986)

## Pre-Primary Class News

◆ Beginning on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> we will begin "Book It Beginners". This program encourages all our young students to read with an adult or if able by himself. We will keep track at school and you at home as to how many books are read during March and April. At the end each child will receive a certificate good for a pan pizza at Pizza Hut. Details are in your family file.

Many of our students have come a long way since the beginning of the school year. We will continue to build on basic skills learned thus far and give new lessons to encourage students to develop new skills.

*We will work to increase the public's sense of duty to our city. In all ways we will leave this city for the next generation - only not less, but greater and more beautiful than it was when it was given to us.*

Athenian Oath (c.450 B.C.)