



# The Lake Fern Montessorian

Volume 26 Issue 10

October 2007

## Roxanne's Reflections

### *News for all LFMA families!*

◆ October marks the beginning of the holiday season. If you have been out shopping lately you will see many stores are already stocking Christmas items. We are not ready to plunge into that season yet, however on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> we will be having our annual Fall Festival. Each class will have special games, art activities and yummy snacks for the students. We will need parent volunteers as usual so closer to that date watch for a sign up sheet in the foyer.

While I am on the subject of Holidays, you may want to plan ahead. On Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:30 we will have our annual Thanksgiving Feast. Since many parents like to attend this event you may want to arrange for an extended lunch break or take the afternoon off! More details will be posted in the November newsletter, but one thing is constant – we will have Mr. Jeff's famous deep fried turkey!

There has been some confusion regarding tuition rates, multi-child discounts and exactly when tuition is due. As detailed in the registration forms and the parent handbook, Upper Level tuition is \$400.00 per month. Pre-primary tuition is \$385.00 per month. The discount for multiple children is 20%. Extra hours (before and after school care) are \$1.50 per hour. Tuition is due 10 days after invoices are issued. Understanding that we all have to deal with cash flow issues and have

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## Mrs. Price's Class News

◆ It's been a little over a month now and the students are settling in beautifully. Students have been exploring ocean life, weather and America in class and are eager to learn as much as possible about these subject areas. Don't be surprised if your child comes home to give you a "pop quiz" about information learned in class. They get excited when they think they have learned something that their parents may not know. Speaking of which, we have been learning a lot of sign language in class and I have heard tell that many of the students are giving lessons to their parents at home.

This month's homework project is a state project. Each child will choose a state in class to research. They are to work with their parents to research the state and come up with questions (and answers) for our science quiz game show, a game we play in class. More information can be found at our website or on the CD ROM given out at the beginning of the year.

Our field trip this month is to the Orlando Science Center on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. I am excited about this trip because students will

*Words are living things, like cocoa beans packed with life. And like cocoa beans they grow and give life.*

Gabriel Okara (B. 1921)

## Roxanne's Reflections(continued)

occasional unplanned demands on our resources, as noted in the parent handbook we are willing to work with you. If you need a later payment date in the month, you must let us know. If you wish to pay weekly, you must let us know. If the washer dies and has to be replaced causing you to be late, let us know. We strive to be flexible and family friendly, but communication is key. Please see me if I can help in any way.



You cannot miss an LFMA Thanksgiving Feast!

### Pre-Primary Class News

◆ The first 6 weeks of school have been great! The students have made a lot of progress toward normalization. They are learning many new lessons each day. These lessons are the building blocks to other concepts in the future. At the end of this month (October 29<sup>th</sup> – November 2<sup>nd</sup>), we will be conducting conferences. A sign up sheet will be posted in the foyer a week prior. In the meantime, please practice the following skills at home or in the car while driving around town:

Language letter sounds – b, m, t, a (all vowels are short – alligator, ant apple)

## Mrs. Price's Class News(continued)

have the opportunity to explore all of the exhibits, watch an I-Max film about coral reefs, and take part in a hands-on chemistry lab designed just for their grade level. Payment envelopes are going out and a driver sign up list will be in the foyer.

Here is just a reminder about some important dates coming up this month. Individual school pictures will be taken on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Students may where whatever they like for these pictures. On Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our fall festival. The students always have a great time with special games, activities, and goodies, and parents are encouraged to attend. Happy fall!

### Mr. Price's Class News

◆ October is here! Cooler weather (hopefully) and holiday spirit will be upon us. I'm excited about this time of year because we get to do so many neat things. This month we will begin casting and preparation for our Christmas program. My class will conduct a rendition of Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol. There should be plenty of parts big and small for the class. The program will be a joint venture with Mrs. Price's and Mrs. Manley's classes, who will be providing the musical component.

The class has adapted well to the technology upgrade to the classroom. They have already begun to show exponential growth in their understanding and use of computers and research. As with all things new, there is a learning curve. Please encourage your children to practice typing using typing tutor programs or by writing papers. Most importantly, please monitor them to make sure they are using appropriate use of the home keys, even if

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## Pre-Primary Class News (continued)

Math – Counting 1-20 for 2 and 3 years old, 1-50 for 4 and 5 years old. Recognition of numbers 1-10 for 2-4 years old, 10 and up for 4-5 years old.

Science – Explore plants and insects around your home. Share what you find.

Geography – We are currently studying the African continent. African animals, plants, native peoples. Share information found on the internet or from friends or family that have visited the continent.

Humanities – Percussion instruments are used at celebrations in Africa. If your child has a drum or other percussion instrument he would like to share please allow him to do so.

Composers – So far we have listened to Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Mendelssohn. The children love the different sounds, rhythms and instruments heard in these pieces.

Classical music is present in our lives every day. From movies, to TV shows and commercials. Try listening – you will be surprised and may find it addicting!

LFMA property taxes based on the TRIM notice will increase 35% this year. This is due to Florida's property tax relief initiative. Meaning the Legislature and City are relieved that they can increase commercial property taxes with limited voting citizen complaints.

We will be replacing the roof on the main building before the end of the year – as soon as the weather is predictable enough to do so. It is 16 years old and has come to the end of its serviceable life. We will use 2 ply white EPDM (rubber) roofing, a great long term material.

## Mr. Price's Class News (continued)

they feel they don't need to. Developing proper habits this early in the game is critical!

For social studies this month, the class will be doing independent state projects due October 12<sup>TH</sup>. These projects will require them to choose a state and complete structured criteria. Also during this time, the class will be required to memorized and test on states and capitals. Encourage them to practice often. Help them by going over them during cars trips (even to school), meals, before bedtime, etc.

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*We haven't failed. We now know a thousand things that won't work, so we are much closer to finding what will.  
(After a series of experiments that did not yield the solution)*

Thomas Edison (1847-1931)

## Mrs. Manley's Class News

◆ Hi to all of my LFMA family. I can't believe it's already October. First and foremost let me say thank you to all of you who have been keeping my family and I in your thoughts and prayers. Without them, I don't know where exactly we would be. With that being said, I know I have seen a few of you since I have been back and I have some great plans for October. During October we are reading a classic, Charlotte's Web! The children are loving it and they are learning so much with language and reading processes through this great piece of children's literature.

I heard all of our student's had a great time at Fort Christmas and Jungle Adventures. Our next field trip is to the Science Center and I can't wait to be part of the fun and learning that will take place at this facility.

We are beginning our Social Studies this month with geography and land forms throughout the United States. I look forward to taking a deeper look into our country and parts of the country that some of these students have never seen or heard of before and what they give to our overall society.

Thanks again for all of your support through my absence at Lake Fern. Your patience throughout this experience means more to me and my family than anything. I truly am blessed to be part of this school!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- UPPER LEVEL CLASS PICTURES
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup>
- UPPER LEVEL FIELD TRIP – ORLANDO SCIENCE CENTER
- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup>
- LFMA ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL
- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup>
- LFMA THANKSGIVING FEAST!
- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> BEGINNING AT 11:30

## LFMA Facility News

◆ LFMA just had our annual licensing inspection by Brevard County Consumer Health services, who are the licensing agency for our Pre-primary program. We are required to post inspection results for all parents to see, but we wish to provide some additional information. The inspection report noted "No violations noted during time of inspection for DCF". DCF is the State Department of Children and Families for which Brevard County is the inspecting agent. However we must confess there was another violation. We have been caught red-handed cutting bananas for snack. A limited food service permit is required to engage in such activities as cutting bananas and apples in our kitchen. Now we can provide pre-packaged foods for snack and not apply for the license. However we would rather provide bananas, apples and carrots (doesn't Mother Nature package them?) for the children instead of Twinkies. So we will provide to Brevard County a detailed, to scale plan of our expansive kitchen facility for their in-depth review. Said review costs \$35.00 per hour (We expect \$34.50 change). Assuming there are no critical facility shortcomings in our kitchen which make peeling carrots a hazardous process, we can obtain a license for an additional \$85.00 (annual) tax. Or maybe they call it a fee, since they are providing oversight to ensure no sliced apple goes without scrutiny.

This couples nicely with the fact that an FDLE level 1 background check conducted for Brevard County is unacceptable for the State Department of Education, because they require FLDE level 1 background checks. Same process, two times, two fees.

Why do regular people lose their common sense when they start getting paychecks from a Government entity?