



The Lake Fern Montessorian

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Roxanne's Reflections

News for all LFMA families!

◆ Welcome back to school! I hope you and your family have had a restful summer. The staff at Lake Fern has had time off to relax and rejuvenate. We are recharged and ready to start another exciting school year.

Speaking of staff, let me give you a brief overview of the teachers that will be working with your children.

In the pre-primary classroom Roxanne Richards is the dual-certified Montessori teacher. Her assistants include Miss Jessica Zeiger who is the newest team member in this class and is CDA certified. Rounding out the pre-primary staff are Miss Deb Bradshaw and Mrs. Sylvia Farmer.

In the K-2nd grade class Mrs Price is the degreed teacher and her assistants include Miss Jennifer Peters who is currently enrolled at BCC working on her AA degree and is additionally working on her Montessori 3-6 years certification. Mrs. Shirley Matthews completes the teaching team.

The 3rd-4th grade class is taught by another new addition to the Lake Fern Team, Mrs. Tavin Manley. Mrs. Manley holds a degree in Elementary Education with endorsements in English Speakers of Other Languages.

The 5th-6th grade class is taught by Mr. Greg Price. Greg holds a Bachelors degree and a Masters degree in counseling. He has significant experience working with children with unique behavioral and learning needs.

We believe we have assembled a fantastic team of educators with solid foundations and unique special skills. This should prove to be a very productive year!

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Mrs. Price's Class News

◆ The school year is finally here and I am ready to get started on a new fantastic journey with my students. My assistants, Mrs. Matthews and Miss Jennifer, and I, have been working diligently over the summer to prepare an exciting curriculum for this year. As usual, our class will be arranged thematically, with class work and special projects revolving around themes. Instruction will be delivered in a multi-sensory and hands-on way, with students being encouraged to choose areas of interest and expand on their knowledge of these areas. The regular use of computers will enhance this learning opportunity.

The themes we will be working on during the beginning of the year are North America and the Earth. During this study we will take an in-depth look at the United States, Canada, and Mexico. We will also focus our earth studies on the ocean, weather, and land and water forms. Students will have the opportunity to learn about each of these things through literature, research, shelf activities, and special projects. Students are encouraged to bring a share item each Friday to show the class, but items must be related to one of our themes.

I am very excited about our new class web page! This will allow our parents and students to access a great deal of information on a continuous basis. The yearly spelling words, homework, field trips, and a wealth of other information will be available at our website www.lakefernmontessori.com. If you do not have access to the internet or would prefer this information on a CD-ROM or printed instead, please let me know as soon as possible. I do not plan to send out spelling words and homework monthly as I usually do, since it will be available on-line and in CD format.

Pre-Primary Class News

◆ The children that attended our summer session have had lots of fun the past few months. They are very ready to get back to working with the materials on the shelves. Believe it or not, children want and need structure and consistency in their lives. The room has been reorganized and the work changed to entice the child. In geography, we will learn facts about the continent Africa. Our studies will include the language spoken, foods eaten and produced, housing and families. Our science unit is plants and insects. The children will have fun doing experiments, planting seeds and learning facts about how plants and insects live and grow. Language and Math will include basic lessons on the work to enable the child to muster skills that are needed to create a solid foundation. Please refer to your circle schedule each week so you will know the letters we are studying. Do not forget that Fridays are share days, That means your child may bring something beginning with the sound of the week. Toys may not be brought in any day except Friday share days.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to stop a teacher at any time, we would love to help.

Scholastic Book Club News

At the beginning of each school year Scholastic Book Club gives triple bonus points for each book purchased. This will only be for September so when you get your order forms remember that you are helping the school in that we can use the bonus points to buy books and book sets for our classrooms.

Many of the Scholastic books are reasonably priced and make excellent incentive, birthday and holiday gifts. Promote reading in your household by allowing your child to have his favorite book on hand to read each month.

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Mrs. Price's Class News (cont.)

This will allow us to be more environmentally friendly, by cutting down on paper usage, and will give parents more immediate access.

Our first field trip of the year will be on September 21st. We will be visiting Fort Christmas and Jungle Adventures. The cost for both programs is \$14 for students and \$18 for adults. This includes hands on programs at both places with food for the animals and a picture of students (and parents) holding an alligator or snake. A sign up sheet will be available in the foyer if you would like to drive. Also, if you will be driving for any fieldtrips this year, we will need a copy of your driver's license and insurance card. A permission form will be in the foyer and needs to be signed for all students to attend the fieldtrips this year. Thanks!

School lunches are available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and will begin on September 5th. There will be no school lunches for the month of August. If you would like for your child to buy school lunches, forms are available in the foyer.

The August homework assignment for our students is to put together some pictures of the students and even their families, and to fill out an information sheet about themselves. I will use this information to make a class "student of the week" bulletin board. The students that have been here during the summer are already excited about this project and I can't wait to see all of them up on the board. September's homework is to make a book. Kindergarteners will be making an alphabet book and first and second graders will be making an ocean book. Please refer to the homework folder on our website for more details.

I am so eager to be starting on this education adventure with my students this year, and hope you will all enjoy the journey! Bon voyage!

My heart is singing for joy...The light of understanding has shown in my little pupil's mind, and behold, all things are changed.

Anne Sullivan (1866 – 1936)

Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup Labels

At the end of last year we lost the grandmother who was helping us with the Box Tops for Education program as the family moved on to another school. We are looking for a volunteer or two to help us with this program. If you are interested, please let me know. For those of you not familiar with the program, it works like this: We save the labels from certain products you buy at the grocery store and turn them in two times per year. The program provides cash back to the school which we use for "extras" for the classrooms. There are some folders in the foyer that explain the program in more depth if you are interested.

The Campbell Soup Labels program operates in much the same way, however they accept more than just soup labels. The Johnson family is maintaining this program for us again this year. We appreciate all the volunteer hours you put in to help with this program.

There is a poster in the foyer with information on which labels to collect for the Campbell's program. We do not receive cash back on this program, but we get points we can redeem for all kinds of supplies. Recently we were able to get a box of 120 colored pencils and an electric pencil sharpener.

With all the various programs we participate in, it is easy for relatives, friends and neighbors to help LFMA also!



Mrs. Manley's Class News

♦ Welcome to Mrs. Manley's Class! I am so excited to be joining Lake Fern Montessori Academy. We have many fun and exciting activities planned for our students this year. In Language Arts my students will begin by getting an in-depth look into writing and processes. This will be an ongoing concept through the year but we are really going to dive into this at the beginning of the year to get started on the right track.

I am a huge fan of children's literature. I feel that there is no better experience for the children than to read books. As we are enjoying the literature we will also break it down into the concepts and lessons needed to become efficient in comprehension skills. We are beginning this year with the book Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan. It's a great book to begin the year with because it is going to furnish the confidence needed as the year goes on and we choose more difficult literature.

I have a great social studies unit planned for the first semester. My 3rd and 4th graders will be learning about all aspects of Florida history. Science is something I am extremely excited about as well. Mr. Price and I have decided to bring our two classes together for Social Studies. Throughout the year we will be using the Planet Earth and Blue Planet series. On Tuesday's we will be watching a movie and a presentation on the specific topics being studied and then we will be breaking the two classes for differentiated instruction.

Our first field trip is planned for Ft. Christmas and Jungle Adventures on September 21st. I am particularly excited about this field trip because the Social Studies unit will come alive in this experience.

I am looking forward to a wonderful and exciting year with everyone. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Please see the letter in the foyer concerning Mrs. Manley

Live as brave men; and if fortune is adverse, front its blows with brave hearts.

Cicero (106 BC – 46 BC)

Mr. Price's Class News

◆ Welcome back! The 2007-2008 year has begun. I'm very excited about the possibilities that await! This year will offer enhanced technology and the use of multimedia to add excitement and depth to the learning experience. In addition, I look forward to the opportunity to "co-teach" certain subjects with Mrs. Manley. We have devised a system that will provide excellent structure and learning opportunities for all of our students. Though we are separate classes, we hope to work to collaborate and share our areas of expertise.

During the fall and winter terms, our performing arts will focus primarily on preparing for our Christmas play, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. The children will get to "try out" for the roles they wish to have and develop acting skills for the performance. This play was chosen because the students read the story last year and are very familiar with it. They will get the opportunity to work on set development and prop making during art class. The play will coincide with Mrs. Price's performance and will offer a very exciting integration of both upper and lower levels.

Our first literature selection is On My Honor by Marion Dane Bauer. It is a fictional story about a friend's dare and how a boy must come to grips with his own decisions.

In science we will be using the Planet Earth and Blue Planet series to introduce and explore biomes and the diversity of life. This will allow us to explore how weather and elements of nature affect the formation of ecological habitats as well as the speciation of life in each of these unique environments.

In social studies we will begin with units covering exploring Florida and the United States. In the Florida unit, students will learn about Florida history and current events as well as participate in a group project. During the United States unit, each student will chose a state and use a set format to create a project. During this time they will also memorize the states and capitals. Throughout the course of the year, students will have lessons on geography and cultural studies interspersed into their normal study of history.

This year students will be required to do a science fair project. Tentatively the project will be due somewhere around late November or early December. A list of deadlines will be provided within the next month.

This month's field is Jungle Adventures and Fort Christmas on September 21, 2007.

LFMA's Technology Investment

Over the summer, LFMA has made a significant investment in technology to supplement our educational programs. We have installed a Dell server based on Microsoft Small Business Server software which will allow us to better manage and protect the computers our students use. The server provides centralized Internet content filtering and virus protection making Internet use at LFMA safe for our installed base of computers, as well as the student's personal laptops when logged onto our network.

We have also installed a projector in Mr. Price's class which is connected to his computer. This greatly enhances teaching computer concepts, but Mr. Price is also using it for other lessons and playing DVD content through his computer.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- LABOR DAY HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH
- UPPER LEVEL FIELD TRIP – FT. CHRISTMAS/JUNGLE ADVENTURES
- FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST

