



The Lake Fern Montessorian

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Roxanne's Reflections

News for all LFMA families!

◆ Have you ever asked someone "How was your vacation?" And the reply was "I'm glad to get back to work so I can get some rest." That is how I feel this year. As you will see as you explore our campus there have been many changes and upgrades underway over the summer. We have demolished the old classroom on the south side of the property, and a new classroom is in the process of being installed. We have also added a new storage shed for our large and growing selection of academic materials (and Mr. Jeff is now evicting us from the smaller shed). We have refurbished the floor covering in Mr. Prices room with tile that has fooled many into thinking it is wood! We are using the same tile in the new classroom as well. There is a new projector being installed in Mrs. Prices room as a teaching aid, and we will install a projector in the new classroom as well. These are similar setup to what Mr. Price has had, and the teachers are all looking forward to these new instructional aids. Not to be left out, the preschool classroom will be getting a new computer based sound system. We have struggled with CD's, DVD's and players, cassette tapes and players, and so we are digitizing our music and audio resources and putting them on our server. No more jammed CD players.

Some of you know that in the pre-primary classroom we are now offering the State Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program (more detail in the Pre-Primary Class News section). We made this decision because the State has changed their

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Mrs. Price's Class News

◆ Welcome back to what I hope will be our best year ever! We have an enormous amount of activities planned this year for the students which I am confident will inspire a love of learning. I have high expectations for all of our students and I can't wait to get started!

This year students will have the opportunity to learn a large variety of material from various sources. Subjects will include, but are not limited to the language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the humanities, Spanish, sign language, cooking, art, music, and physical education. We will also begin working with a great new program "Money Instructor" which will give students the opportunity to begin early learning about earning, spending, and saving money. Students will have the opportunity to learn about managing a class store and working with supermarket and restaurant math. Our first field trip of the year is actually designed to look at a variety of businesses including a veterinarian clinic, supermarket, local restaurant, and fire department. More information about this field trip will be coming in the September newsletter, but it will also be available on-line.

Our website, www.lakefermontessori.com is a valuable resource. I will have my class homepage up and running before the beginning of the school year, so that you will be able to access it regularly. Our page will contain information about homework, spelling, vocabulary, field trips, school calendar, etc. Please check the website frequently for this important information.

-Roxanne's Reflections continued-

approach and we are free to use the Montessori methodology in this program now.

So as you can see we have tackled a lot of work over the summer.

We also have two new team members joining our community, one for Mrs. Price and one assisting both Mrs. Manley and Mr. Price. You will be able to meet our new staff members during our new year orientation. Please see the articles in this newsletter from Mrs. Price and Mrs. Manley for an introduction to these new members of the LFMA community.

Speaking of the new year orientation meeting, it will be held on Sunday, August 17th at 2 PM for all classroom levels except VPK. VPK families will meet at 3PM. It is best to have the children stay at home this day if possible so that parents can concentrate on the staff presentations and have plenty of time for questions.

We look forward to our best school year ever, and we are all ready to get started!

We are pleased to once again have the opportunity to offer the Scholastic Book Club program. This is an excellent program because it allows families to purchase quality literature for their children at discounted prices. This program also allows our school to earn bonus points that we exchange for books and other educational materials for our classrooms. Thank you so much to the families who ordered last year, as it allowed us to earn many fun things for our students.

The first Scholastic flyer will be coming out during the first week of September. This is the best opportunity of the year for us to earn extra bonus points. They give us more points during this month than all of the rest of the months combined and with the 4 flyers we currently use, we could earn more than 24,000 points this month. (That's more points than we earned all of last year combined!) Please take a look at our flyers and see if you have any interest. Remember books make great gifts! THANKS!!!

-Mrs. Price's Class News continued-

I'd like to give a brief overview of our schedule for the year. Our Monday through Thursday class will be planned as follows:

8:30-9:00: Gathering (Whole Group)

9:00-12:00: Small group and individualized lessons (Math, reading, writing, etc.)

12:00-1:00: Lunch/ Recess

1:00-1:45: Specials (Performing Arts, Spanish, P.E., Sign Language)

1:45-3:00: Shelf Work/ Individualized instruction

3:00-3:30: Clean up/ closing gathering

3:30: Dismissal

Our Friday schedule is called "Friday fun day" by the students. On this day, we will do crafts, cooking, and science experiments. Students will also be able to "share" during morning gathering and may bring a show and tell item to talk about with the class as long as it relates to the subjects we are learning about in school. Our August and September topics will include the USA, ocean, five senses, community helpers, and disability awareness.

Our open house will be on Sunday, August 17th at 2:00p.m. This will give families an opportunity to visit the classroom and hear about some of the plans we have for our class this year. It will also give you the opportunity to meet with my assistants, Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Jill. Most of you know Ms. Jennifer and the wonderful person that she is. She has been an invaluable resource to me and I don't know what I would do without her. It will be exciting for all of you to welcome my new assistant Mrs. Jill LaCorte. I have known Jill for a few years now and am thrilled that she has agreed to come and work with us. She is such an upbeat and positive person, that I know she will fit in splendidly with our team. We are excited to be adding her to our family.

Courage is doing what you're afraid to do. There can be no courage unless you're scared.

Eddie Rickenbacker (1890-1973)

Mrs. Manley's Class News

◆ Welcome Back! We are ready for another super fantastic year at Lake Fern and I am thrilled to be your child's teacher. We have a few exciting announcements for our classroom. Due to the increase in children at our school and more specifically in our classroom we realized the need for a teacher assistant. I am proud to announce that Tammy Boggess is our new assistant. She is the mother of Jonah and myself and is extremely qualified for the job. Mrs. Boggess has been submerged into the education world for the past 3 years through home school. She was a member of the North Brevard Home School network and has been teaching Jonah since the 1st grade. After experiencing Lake Fern last year she decided that it would be a great opportunity for Jonah, Ellie (her youngest daughter), and herself to continue Jonah's education here and begin Ellie's in the preschool program. We are very excited to be working as a team along with Mr. Price. Along those same lines, Mr. Price and I have some very exciting news. We have decided to unite forces and begin team teaching this year. My class will be occupying the new building and Mr. Price will be located in the main facility. Mr. Price will be teaching Math, Science and Social Studies. I will be teaching Language Arts, Literature, Written Expression, and our Vocabulary and Spelling lessons. We are sure that this will not only benefit the children but we will also have the opportunity to focus on the subjects we will be teaching in order to provide the best learning experience for your child. With that said, I have some great things planned for this year for my 3rd-7th grade classes. We will be reading fantastic literature, learning to write unbelievable papers, and focusing on perfecting our grammar through our language arts curriculum. It is important to note that all 3rd-7th students and parents read both Mr. Price's and my newsletter columns to stay well informed with the upcoming months. My 3rd-5th grade class will be my "homeroom", so as far as classroom activities you will want to refer to my column in our monthly newsletter. My last little tid-bit of

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Mr. Price's Class News

◆ And so a new year begins. A fresh start and new opportunities. I, personally, am very excited about this year. We have new programs and new teaching approaches that we think will set us apart from everyone else!

First off, Mrs. Manley and I will be approaching subject material for both intermediate and upper level classes from a team teaching standpoint. This approach will be extremely beneficial for a couple of reasons. It allows us to focus greater amounts of energy on specific subject areas rather than the entire curriculum. Secondly, it allows us to develop greater consistency between the two intermediate and upper levels. We know exactly where each student is at any given time in any grade level. In addition, this team teaching strategy will help the children get used to transitioning from one class to another, which is the structure they will encounter in high school. Mrs. Manley will be teaching the writing and language aspects, while I will be teaching science, social studies, and math. We are excited about this approach and feel this will enhance our learning environment.

We are proud to offer a new subject area this year. We will be presenting material that covers the understanding of finances and money. This curriculum ranges from basic skills such as simple budgeting to more advanced applications such as interest, investments, and understanding credit cards. The purpose of this class will be to provide a foundation of financial understanding, setting them up for responsible money management and the possibility of running their own businesses someday. Our curriculum is derived from www.MoneyInstructor.com.

I look forward to meeting with each of you during our parent orientation on August 17th and answering any questions you might have.

In all ways and at all times people have a need for sharing life with others and the search for community.

Virginia Hamilton (B. 1936)

-Mrs. Manley's Class News continued-

information is one that I am so excited about. Mr. and Mrs. Richards have subscribed our school to a fantastic online website called Money Instructor. I know that each one of the teachers are planning to present it in different ways. I am going to utilize it in my class through shelf work and specials. We will be learning how to manage our money through real life examples and through different scenarios. Portions of this curriculum have children doing things like opening up a business. It is a great way to gain life skills through make believe, fun play, and research on a child's level. The other fabulous part of this curriculum is that it grows with the child as understanding becomes more and more tangible. That's what makes it possible to be used throughout the entire spectrum of ages at our school. Just a reminder, our back to school meeting will be held on August 17, 2008 at 2:00pm. I look forward to seeing you then and on our first day of school, August 25!



Our new storage building moves into place

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **BACK TO SCHOOL ORIENTATION MEETING**
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 17TH AT 2 PM, 3 PM FOR VPK FAMILIES
- **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**
- MONDAY, AUGUST 25TH

Pre-Primary Class News

◆ New to LFMA for the 2008/2009 school year is the State of Florida Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program. If you are not familiar with this State funded program, it is a program intended to ensure school readiness for children entering Kindergarten, and was approved by Florida voters several years ago. In its early days of implementation, specific curriculum was mandated by the Department of Education regulations implementing the program. All of these were counter to the Montessori philosophy and therefore LFMA chose not to participate. More recently, DOE regulations have been revised to allow "providers" greater latitude in choosing curriculum, with a measurement of the child's readiness being the goal, rather than mandating the process.

Accordingly, we have chosen to try out this program, have applied and been approved as a "provider".

The program provides 3 hours of instruction (free to parents) for students who are 4 years old by September 1st of each year. We will use the Montessori methodology and materials in this program. We will divide the pre-primary classroom into two sections, one section for VPK morning and afternoon sessions, and the other section for our regular program.

Anyone needing more information or a VPK application may go to the Early Learning Coalition website at www.elcbrevard.org or call 321-637-1800. Those enrolling in the VPK program must have both the LFMA registration and the VPK voucher completed in time for the beginning of the school year on 25 August.

More details will be available at the orientation meeting at 3 PM.

For those pre-primary students not eligible for the VPK program, we will continue our Montessori program as in the past. Our standards and commitment to excellence remains unchanged.

There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America.

William Clinton (B. 1946)