



# The Lake Fern Montessorian

Volume 28 Issue 3

March 2009

## Roxanne's Reflections

### News for all LFMA families!

◆ If the last two cold months have put you in a state of hibernation, it is time to wake up and get moving again. During the month of March the time changes back to Daylight Saving Time and Spring begins on the 20<sup>th</sup>. To kick off the new season we will plant a garden with the help of Mrs. Dawn Torres. She has volunteered to help get it started and teach us how to maintain it. All levels will be involved in some way. We will plant things that we can eat for snack or use in some way in the classroom.

In February we started fundraising to raise some money for playground equipment. Thanks to all who baked delicious goodies for our bake sale, we raised \$130.00. We will use the money to buy some things such as hula hoops and jump ropes, but also for some materials for items we can make. We are looking for someone who can help by cutting wood for us. The older students in Mr. Price's room will pitch in with the finish work such as sanding, painting and so forth. Please let me know if you can help with the wood on these projects, we would like to get started as soon as possible.

As many of you know, the Stephenson family owns a feed and seed store in Mims. Mrs. Stephenson has invited us to do our next fundraiser on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the store. Each year they have a big sale where 200-250 customers come to stock up on supplies.

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## Mrs. Price's Class News

◆ Finally it is beginning to feel like spring! The children have been so funny noticing all of the beauty involved with the coming of spring. Several of them have stopped what they were doing, in mid thought, and said, "Look! There's a cardinal!" or "Do you see the funny squirrels?" We also went out to play in the field behind our classroom recently and to the amazement and delight of the whole class, it was covered in purple flowers. I reaped the benefits of that one as almost every student preceded to pick flowers and give them to me.

During March, we will begin our unit studies on Africa and mammals and birds. As always, students may bring in items related to these themes for share days on Fridays. The students are really thriving academically and are becoming amazing learners as a whole. Please take time to read and play educational games with your child each week. This enhances what we are doing in class and helps students grow even stronger in their love of learning and thirst for knowledge.

Our field trip this month will be to the Police Hall of Fame. We have never been there on a field trip, so we are excited to be going. Envelopes have already been placed in your folder and the cost for each person is \$4. Please return these to Mrs. Manley as soon as possible.

As a reminder, children should be working on their student's choice project. Even though it

## Roxanne's Reflections

The school will participate by providing donuts and coffee in the morning, hot dogs and drinks for the noon crowd and bags of cookies in the afternoon. We will need help manning our stand from 8 AM to 3 PM that day. Please reserve some time on your calendar for that day to help out for a couple hours. We will post a sign up sheet and more details closer to that date.

The other easy way for you to help is to bring in your Labels for Education (we receive cash directly from this program twice per year) and soup labels (we earn points to trade for materials). We just placed an order with the soup label program for some playground toys. The next item we are saving for is a soccer goal. We have half of the required points. Please ask your neighbors, family and friends to save their labels for us as well. There are many products that are eligible for this program, please let me know if you need a description of them.

**2008-2009 Registration** - Traditionally we open registration for the new school year in mid-March. Registration will be open for existing families exclusively until April 13<sup>th</sup> at which time it will open to the public. New registration forms will be available in the foyer in the next couple of weeks.

**School Picture Schedule** – Group photos will be taken March 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 AM. Teddy Bear individual portraits will be taken March 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7 AM.

**Plan ahead - Spring Break** is April 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>. School will be closed so please make alternate arrangements for your child that week if necessary.

We appreciate all your time, effort and support for LFMA!

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

is not due until April, it is a good idea to stay on top of it, because it is easy to forget and then have to scurry around at the last second to get it finished. Believe me, I know from where I speak. With four children that all had science projects, literature projects, etc. due at the same time, it can be chaotic!

Please be sure to read the information section for all families for updates on upcoming fundraisers, school activities, spring break news, etc. Have a great spring!!!!

## Montessori & VPK Class News

◆ Since March marks the beginning of spring, of course we will discuss the changes that happen at this time of the year. We will finish our unit on insects and animal families. With the help of the Brevard Zoo suitcases, the children have enjoyed the animal units we have studied this year. They have learned lots of information about mammals, reptiles, birds and insects.

In other areas, we will continue to build on skills learned thus far. To enhance reading skills we will participate in the Book-it program. A handout with details has been put in each of our student's family files. On one side there is a calendar to keep track of days when you either listen to your child read or you read to your child. At the end of April you can bring in your completed calendar and trade it in for a pizza certificate! Let us know if you have any questions.

To test your child's observation skills, we are starting "Wacky Wednesdays" this month.

One of the four main building air conditioners has failed, and since they are over 16 years old we will begin to replace them all two at a time. We have located a wholesaler in Tampa that will give us a good deal, but we need to pick them up. Mr. Jeff can put one in his truck but needs to borrow a trailer for the second one. If anyone has a trailer to lend for a couple days, please see Mrs. Richards. The units weigh about 400 pounds each.

## **Mrs. Manley's Class News**

◆ March is here! I had a fantastic February with my classes. Our field trip to the planetarium was so exciting. We learned an extensive amount of information about the sun and our solar system. We were taught how BIG our solar system is and how small we really are. On February 13<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated Valentines Day. I hope all of our parents had the opportunity to read our article in the Florida Today newspaper. It was so enjoyable to hear what my 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade class thought about Valentines Day and what it meant to them. This past week we celebrated Black History Month as I am sure all of you knew. Everyone worked so hard on their projects and papers. The presentations we have gone through so far have been wonderful. Look out for an upcoming article about our "Manley Museum of Black History" in the paper. The kids gave the reporter a mammoth amount of information. After she talked with all of the students, she was amazed on how much of the information they retained. She told them, "I learned some new things as well." That same day we also had one of our parents, Cher Turman, come into the classroom and teach us about good oral hygiene, flossing and brushing properly.

March is going to be just as enjoyable and entertaining. We will have class pictures on Wednesday, March 11. Get those pearly whites ready for those snapshots. This month's fieldtrip is going to be at the Police Hall of Fame and Museum. The cost is \$4.00 per person. Remember to have your money into me by Friday, March 13, 2009. In May we are having our field trip to Epcot. This is our big end of the year field trip. Also, remember for the field trips to the theme parks your child has to be escorted by one guardian. Keep your calendars open, that field trip is going to be Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Have a marvelous March!

## **Montessori & VPK Class News (cont.)**

Your child may wear something wacky such as two different socks or their shirt backwards. His classmates will have to decide what is Wacky! The teachers will change or remove work on shelves to see if our students can decide what is missing or different. It will be lots of fun to see what happens. We will let you know in the next newsletter how it works! Watch the front door notices for more information.

## **Mr. Price's Class News**

◆ March is here and with it the third semester begins. I can't believe it! The year has flown by so fast. I've seen so much growth out of the students.

In science this month, we will finish up our human body studies for the year. The last body system we will study is that of the nervous system.

In history, we will continue, for the third through fifth grade class, our studies of ancient cultures. For the sixth and seventh grade class, we continue to study World War I and the era immediately following.

This month's field trip will be to the Police Hall of Fame. We will go on March 27<sup>TH</sup>. Make sure you sign up, it will be a lot of fun! If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Manley or myself.

Please look over the article for all families. We have a lot of exciting activities coming up including fundraisers. All of my students who attended the Money Club were very excited and had good things to say. Please check it out.

*Authority without wisdom is like a heavy axe without an edge, fitter to bruise than polish.*

Anne Bradstreet 1612-1672)

February 23, 2009

# Montessori Academy students create Valentine's Day mailboxes

BY FLORA REIGADA  
FOR FLORIDA TODAY

TITUSVILLE — Love and fun were in the air during a Valentine's Day party celebrated by Tavin Manley's third- to fifth-grade class at Lake Fern Montessori Academy in Titusville, with an emphasis on reading adding to the festivities.

"We are celebrating love for other people, as well as Love of Reading Day," Manley said.

The party began with a craft and each student decorating a mailbox with sparkles and stickers. As the children worked, several shared their thoughts about Valentine's Day or a favorite book.

Conner Torres, 8, spoke of both. "Valentine's Day is great. It's when we love people and give cards," he said, casting his vote for "Sweet Dream Pie" as his favorite book.

"Love is what Valentine's Day means to me," said Mark Arden, 9.

Gabriel Meyer, 9, cited his favorite book as "The Teacher From the Black Lagoon." For Kayleigh Meusel, 11, it was "Valentine's Day from the Black Lagoon."

"I like the book, 'Froggie's Valentine,'" said Azariah Carmicheal, 9.

Savannah Haydt, 11, said she enjoyed the book "The Kissing Hand" by Audrey Penn, which also happened to be the book Manley later read aloud to the class.

The story concerns Chester, a little raccoon nervous about his first day of school. His mother placed a kiss on his hand to remind him of her love and warm thoughts, even when she could not be there.

In addition to the comforting message, Manley pointed out a moral to the story. "Sometimes we have to do things that we don't want to do," she said.

There was also a lesson about nature.

"Why does Chester go to school at night?" Manley asked her students.

Several replied in unison. "Because he was nocturnal."

After the students finished their craft and cleared their desks, candies and cookies decorated for Valentine's Day capped off the celebration.

