



The Lake Fern Montessorian

Volume 30 Issue 10

September 2011

Roxanne's Reflections

News for all LFMA families!

◆ The first few days of the new school year have gone relatively smoothly. Hopefully this is an indication of the rest of the year. Of course we are still giving many lessons on the work, talking about ground rules and getting used to our environment and friends. In the August newsletter I highlighted some pointers for parents that would make the transition back to school more successful. Hopefully you are using those tips at home to prepare your child each day. Remember all past newsletters are posted on our website on the Parenting Center page. Remember if you have any questions or concerns at any time please communicate them with us.

Parking and Driving Speed

Please do not park in front of the main building when dropping off or picking up your child. It impedes the flow of traffic around the loop. Please use a parking space and if they are full, there is plenty of parking on the grass. Also, we encourage everyone to enter and exit our facility via Aguinaldo Ave and Pinedo St. Please do not use the Church parking lot to enter and exit. At all times please pay attention to your vehicle speed. Safety is a priority!



Mrs. Price's Class News

◆ During the month of September our class will be studying landforms, the United States and North America in Geography. Students will have the opportunity to learn about many different aspects of these areas including common plants and animals, foods, musical instruments, and landmarks. Some of them will even be working on identifying state and country flags and learning the capitals of the states and countries.

In Science, we will be focusing on physical and earth science and students will be learning about magnets, simple machines, patterns in nature, and natural disasters to name just a few things. This year I have implemented a check off sheet for shelf work that the students carry on a clipboard daily. There are a number of activities listed from each area of the classroom (math, language arts, science, social studies, and humanities) that students are required to complete over a 4-6 week period. These sheets will go home when completed so you can see what your child is working on. Of course they will also have the opportunity to choose various works in class that will not be required on the work sheets.

During this month, I will be evaluating the Kindergarteners for the mandatory VPK testing that must be completed during the first 30 days of school. My initial evaluations have revealed that they are well prepared, but you can help your child by practicing letter/ sound recognition and by asking your child to guess words that you have verbally sounded out. For example, you say "ch...ip" and your child says "chip." You say "d..o..g" and your child says "dog."

First and second graders will be tested this month to determine their lexile (reading) level. They will read

Pre-Primary Class News Ms. Jessica and Ms. Jennifer

◆ Happy September! Although the month of August was a short one, our class has worked very hard at learning the classroom routine. We have enjoyed meeting our new families and catching up with our returning friends. This month we will continue learning about North America and mammals. We will be introducing the letters B and M. On Fridays we will have share time. If your child would like to bring in something that starts with the letter of the week, continent or science theme, they may do so. We will also be practicing cutting and one step directions.

If you have volunteered your time to help within the classroom, please contact Ms. Jessica or Ms. Jennifer to arrange a date and time.

The week of September 26th – 30th VPK students will be focusing on reading. This will be our Lickity Split week. Please look for more information in your parent files. Also, Flat Stanley will be sent home to begin his journey around the world!



Mrs. Price's Class News (cont.)

passages on the computer and answer multiple choice questions to test comprehension. Students will then read books to earn points on books based on their reading level. I have already started testing students on their current sight word levels and words will be going home for each child if they haven't already.

Please become very familiar with our class page at our website www.lakefernmontessori.com. Spelling and vocabulary words, homework, and sight word lists are available here and will be important to access regularly. Kindergarten students should begin learning the sight words from the Dolch pre-primary and primary word lists as well as the kindergarten phonics words. First and second graders should practice spelling words and the sight word lists through as far as they can go. I will send home lists periodically, so you know which list your child is working through in class.

All students should begin working on the homework calendar for September. Students are required to complete at least 3 activities weekly and September's calendar is due by October 3, 2011. Also, students are encouraged to begin their one hundred book club list (also available on-line). They may read 100 books in order to earn 100 tickets for school store. Parents may read some of the books to your child and have your child read to you. Students that are reading chapter books may count them for more than one book at their parent's discretion. When your child has completed their list, please return it to school and I will give them tickets.

If you cannot access any of the information on our webpage, or if you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. My email address is www.LFMATyka@cfl.rr.com. Thanks!

The marble not yet carved can hold the form of every thought the greatest artist has.

Michelangelo (1475-1564)

Mr. Price's Class News

◆ Welcome back! The beginning of the year is very exciting. I love getting the opportunity to teach new faces and see the growth in my returning students. I would like to offer a few clarifications that may help in understanding the course of the school year. Last year, we had spelling tests and vocabulary tests on Thursdays. This year, there will be no spelling tests. I'm doing this to coincide with norms presented in other middle schools. They simply don't do spelling tests anymore at this grade level and I'm trying to make sure that my grading system will be compatible with other schools as students progress into high school. I have revised vocabulary to be inclusive with other subjects being covered during the week as opposed to a "packet" covering words unrelated to anything presented during that week. For instance, vocabulary might include words from that week's literature, science, and even math. The actual "tested" vocabulary will be included in the test for that particular subject. For example, vocabulary found in literature will be included in the literature test. If particular vocabulary words do not coincide with a test that week (usually math), I will put them in a small supplemental quiz. All tests will be conducted on Fridays.

Students will be taking their reading assessments to ascertain their current Lexile levels. I ask that they use their Lexile level to choose a book from our list (which can be found on our website) and obtain it from the library. Students also have the option to obtain a book on their reading level NOT found on the list and write a thirty question multiple choice quiz in lieu of taking an actual AR test. These questions will be used to make a quiz for that book, and thus, increase our test options. Because we have four semesters, I will require 20 points per semester. Awarded points will be based on length and difficulty of each book read. It is imperative that students complete the required reading because it will count as two test grades toward that grading period. For example, if students earn 20 points, they will receive full credit (100%) for those two test grades. Conversely, if they only earn 10 points, they will receive half credit (50%) for the same two test grades. Please make sure students do their reading because it could be two easy "A" grades or two needless "F" grades.

Mr. Price's Class News (cont.)

During the parent orientation, I passed out several forms, a couple of which require parent signatures. The two that I'd like to get returned and filed are the Media Permission form and the Internet Usage agreement. If you have not completed these forms, just let me know and I can get them to you.

Mrs. Manley's Class News

◆ School is officially in full swing and I am so proud of how wonderful the kids have done during their first week back. My third graders and new students have done so well in transitioning to their new classroom. My returning students jumped right back into their old routine and have made tremendous strides over the summer. I am so thrilled to have my students back in the classroom.

During September, all of the students will begin memorizing their multiplication tables. We will be starting with our two's. The children will need to have the two's multiplication facts from 2x0 through 2x12 memorized by September the 9th. Please be practicing those facts with your children each evening. For a future craft that our students will be doing I am looking for glass jars. Preferably the size of jelly jars. If you have any, please send them into the classroom.

September is full of dates and things to remember, so please don't forget to make note of them on the calendar. Friday, September 2nd, field trip money for Wonderworks is due to Mrs. Manley. Forms and a sign-up sheet are available in the foyer. Monday, September 5th, the school will be closed in observance of Labor Day. Friday, September 16th, grades kindergarten through eighth grade will be on a field trip to Wonderworks in Orlando. Last but not least, money for our Brevard Field trip will be due on Wednesday, September 28th.

I look forward to many more fabulous weeks just like our first has been. Have a super September!

The afternoon of human life must also have a significance of its own and cannot be merely a pitiful appendage to life's morning.

Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961)

Nutrition for Kids – Ideas on how to improve your child’s eating habits

Eating right will help provide the nutrients needed to have energy, build strong bones, and fight diseases, and other conditions. Pay attention to what and how much your kids eat. A change in eating habits may be an early warning signal for other problems.

Snacks—Plan Them, Don’t Ban Them!

Unfortunately nearly one-fourth of kids’ daily energy intake comes from nibbling between meals. Much of this nibbling is on prepackaged snack foods, which are high in calories and low in nutrients. But snacking itself isn’t necessarily bad. Young children actually need snacks. Their stomachs are small, so they often can’t get all the nutrients they need in a day through meals alone.

It’s not always easy to persuade your kids to eat healthy snacks and their snacking habits aren’t going to change overnight, but here are a few snack-time tips:

Offer similar choices. Instead of ice cream or pretzels, offer your child frozen yogurt or soda crackers. Provide variety. Be sure to select snacks from a variety of food groups so your kids won’t be bored with their snack choice. Be creative. Dress up fruits and vegetables—offer celery with peanut butter, or carrots with a low-fat dip.

Food Allergies

According to the Food and Drug Administration, up to 6% of children in the U.S. under age 3 have food allergies. They are less common in adults but, overall, food allergies affect nearly 4 million people. Along with milk, eggs, wheat, soy, and shellfish, peanuts are among the most common foods that cause allergies. For some kids, food allergies can cause only minor discomfort, like a little tingling in the mouth. But for others they can be severe, causing difficulty breathing, for example. Try to work with your child’s school to find ways your child can be supervised to prevent contact with allergenic foods. Find out who would give your child treatment and discuss your child’s allergies with that person, making sure that they have any necessary medications and medical information.

Fruit Juice—Friend or Foe?

Although juice does contain some healthy nutrients, it’s high in calories and it may contribute to weight gain and tooth decay if consumed in excess. Some juice drinks, even those with 100% juice, have more calories than sugary carbonated beverages do. Juice also lacks the healthy fiber that whole fruit has. **Tip:** Try adding water or ice cubes to juice. The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) recommends that children drink no more than two 6-ounce servings of fruit juice a day.



You bet being funny helps accomplish things. I've always maintained that people don't realize how many brain cells it takes to be funny. And politics ought to be fun – after baseball it's our next favorite national pastime.

Ann Richards (B. 1933)