



“The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind.” ~ Maria Montessori

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| • Parent Night         | • Progress Reports      | • Halloween Costumes |
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### Mark Your Calendars:

- Oct 9:** Columbus Day SCHOOL CLOSED
- Oct 18:** Parent Night - 5:30-6:30. How to Foster Internal Motivation in your Child. Babysitting provided—\$10 per child. Pizza will be available for adults and children.
- Oct 27:** Fall Festival / Pizza Lunch - 10:00-12:30 / Staff Meeting—SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 1:00.
- Nov 6-7:** Parent / Teacher Conferences All Children—SCHOOL CLOSED Babysitting provided for conference time only.
- Nov 16:** Guest Speaker-Montessori Elementary and Beyond. Babysitting provided—\$10 per child. Pizza will be available for adults and children.
- Nov 21:** Thanksgiving Potluck—11:30—12:30 / Staff Meeting SCHOOL CLOSED 1:00
- Nov 22-24:** Thanksgiving Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

### Time to Learn About:

- Science:** Vertebrates vs. invertebrates
- Geography:** Continents, Parts of the Biome
- Art:** Secondary Colors and Johannes Vermeer
- Kindergarten sewing:** Leaf Pin

**Fall Festival:** It's time for one of our favorite fall activities: the Fall Festival! Join us on Friday, October 27 from 10:00 to 12:30 for a morning of crafts and activities followed by a pizza lunch on the playground. We'll enjoy some fun fall crafts, games, and a snack, and then head outside to play. School will close at 1:00pm that day so that the teachers can have a staff meeting.



A sign up sheet will be up in a week or so. Please indicate whether or not you will be able to attend with your child. If you are unable to attend, we will pair your child up with a friend and their parent, so even if you can't be here, please plan to send your child to school so that they don't miss the fun. Younger siblings who are able to participate are also invited to join in the fun.



**Reminder:** School will be closed on Monday, October 9, for Columbus Day Holiday. Have a great 3-day weekend!

**Family Picnic:** Thanks to those of you who came to the picnic at Temporary Road Park. We had a great turnout, and the weather was perfect. It was fun to see the parents getting to know each other and the children running free in the large play space. Thanks for all the yummy food, and to those who brought fun activities like a parachute and bubbles!



**Progress Reports and Conferences:** The first progress report will be sent home on November 1. Be sure to pick your child's report up from the sign-in desk area. Progress reports are a way to gauge your child's development in different social, emotional, and behavioral areas. We hope that they will be helpful and provide a little insight into how your child spends his or her day at school.

On Monday, November 6 and Tuesday, November 7 we will have Parent/Teacher Conferences for the parents of all the children, preschool, pre-kindergarten, and kindergarten. School will be closed for those two days in November to accommodate the many conferences that need to take place. A sign-up sheet will go up in the coming weeks. Please be sure to sign up for a 20 minute time slot to sit and talk with your child's teachers. Child care will be available for conference times only. Siblings are welcome.





**Ways to Volunteer:** The October sign-up sheets are up on the bulletin board with ways you can help out at school. We need volunteers to tidy the library, and listen to children read, and help with gardening. If you're looking for a way to be active in our school community—look no further!



**October Parent Night:** Our second Parent Night of the year will be held on Wednesday, October 18, from 5:30—6:30. There are so many alternatives to “Good job!” Come and join us for a discussion about ways to inspire internal motivation within your child. Step away from the reward charts and back away from the prizes... there is another way!

Babysitting (for the kids!) will be available for \$10 per child. This fee will go directly to the staff who have agreed to spend their time with the children so that parents can feel more comfortable about attending. Children and adults will be offered pizza for dinner and the children will watch a movie while the parents attend the meeting.



**Camping Trip Interest Sign-Up:** We will soon put up a sign-up sheet to gauge how many families are interested in going camping with us in May. Yes, it's early to start thinking about it, but it's never too early to start getting excited for campfires, s'mores, activities, and food! This is just an initial headcount for how many families we can expect to participate; if you're unsure, just mark 'maybe' - there'll be plenty of time to think about it before the registration forms go out in the spring.

We have sent in our application for encampment to Prince William Forest Park. Now we wait to find out if we get the camp we have requested. We usually find out where we have been assigned by late December or early January. Once we know, we will let you know and registration packets will go out in March or April.

There will be lots of opportunities for parents to volunteer and we are once again counting on you all to help us pull this off. There will be LOTS more information to follow and the planning won't start until January, so, until then, put it on your calendar! We're going camping!!!

Friday, May 25 (starting in the afternoon)

Saturday, May 26 (all day fun—food, crafts, activities)

Sunday, May 27 (breakfast, clean-up, and departure)



**Specials Reminder:** The children have started music, Spanish, and nature hikes as our Specials classes this year, beginning on Friday, Sept 29. Snack starts at 8:40, and specials begin promptly at 9:00, so please be here on time. We don't want anyone to miss out on the fun due to late arrivals. We know it can be hard to get going some mornings, but please make every effort to get here by 8:40 on Specials Day so your child can have a snack before we begin..

Karen will again be our awesome music teacher, and Spanish is being taught by Ms. Arlene Vargas once more. We are all looking forward to our nature hikes, weather permitting.



**Ticks on the Playground:** Ticks are a reality when you “live in the woods” as we do here. The best defense against them is diligence in checking your child each night. Deer ticks, which carry Lyme disease, are very tiny, as you can see from the picture. Please be sure to spray your child with insect repellent before coming to school. You may also send in a hat to wear on the playground and on hikes.



**Fall Pictures:** Fall photos will be scheduled in the coming weeks. Photos are not mandatory, but it is a nice way to remember your child at Children's House. We will provide more information when plans are finalized. Stay tuned!



**Playground Necessities:** Cool weather is finally here! Please be sure to pack extra clothes in your child's backpack, appropriate for the weather. Layers work best for these unpredictable weather days, so a sweater or sweatshirt is nice to have on hand. Close-toed shoes are a must for our rough terrain. Please, no crocs or sandals.



**Halloween Costumes:** Our school policy on Halloween costumes is that, although they are fun for trick or treating and neighborhood parades, they do not belong at school. We ask that you please DO NOT send your child to school in his or her costume. Our Fall Festival on Friday, October 27, serves as a substitute to a traditional Halloween party. Thank you for your cooperation.

