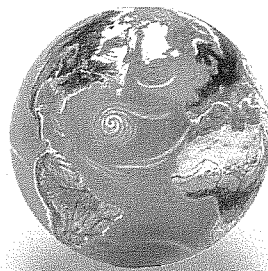


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# Maria Montessori Charter Academy

MMCA PTA Newsletter  
September 2011

## Updates from Mr. B:

Dear MMCA Families,

Welcome to the first *MMCA Newsletter* of the year! We publish a newsletter monthly with updates from each of our classrooms and parent groups to help you stay informed about what's going on at MMCA. With our *Newsletter* this year, we are going to try a primarily electronic distribution. We are going to post the *Newsletter* on our website, and we are going to make the link to the *Newsletter* available in three places:

- A printed copy of the URL to the *Newsletter* included in a half page *Friday Flier*;
- Using our YAHOO! E-blast account to email the direct link to parents; and
- Posting the link on our MMCA Facebook page

In addition, if you do not have computer access, paper copies of the *Newsletter* will be available in the front office.

- Please see, "Updates from Mr. B" continued on Page 2

## Parent Education Night Coming Up!

What is the "snake game"? What is a "skyscraper"? MMCA Parents: In conjunction with the MMCA PTA's first General Membership meeting next Wednesday, our teachers are hosting our annual **Parent Education Night on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.**

We will be presenting sample jobs and activities in language arts and mathematics ranging from preschool – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The night is intended as a fun, interactive informal opportunity for our teachers to share with our parents some of the different materials we use in teaching our kids.

## Upcoming Events:

- 09/21 - Parent Education Night 6-7pm
- 09/21 – General PTA Mtg. 7-8pm
- 10/3-5 Goal Setting Conferences / Minimum Days
- 10/5 – Free Dress Day
- 10/6-7 – NO SCHOOL – Fall Break

## School Communication - MMCAweb

If you want to be up to date with school information please be sure you sign up for our Yahoo "Eblasts" by going to our website [www.mmcharter.org](http://www.mmcharter.org), scrolling to the bottom left and typing in your email address. (If your email address changes be sure to add the new email as well.)



## *Updates from Mr. B (continued from Page 1):*

### **After School Programs update**

Our first after school activity is starting Monday with the “Kids Studio of Fine Art” coming to MMCA for six weeks of art classes after school. Our 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Cross Country has also started practicing and has their first meet next week.

We have set up an “After School Programs” section on our school website where we will be posting all of the information about our various after school programs. The information is posted at this link: <http://mmcharter.org/important-parent-information/>

**WANTED: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Boys’ soccer coach** (paid stipend for Coach). Our next athletic league team will be boys’ soccer, with practices starting mid-October and games beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> and ending before Winter Break. If you have experience coaching soccer and would like more information, please contact Mr. B at [brent@mmcharter.org](mailto:brent@mmcharter.org).

### **What are “Goal setting Conferences”?**

At the beginning of next week, you are going to receive instructions for how to electronically sign up for your child(ren)’s “Goal Setting Conference.” Rather than doing a traditional “parent – teacher conference” at the time report cards come out in mid-November, we prefer to meet with parents much earlier. This enables us to talk about what we’ve seen from an assessment perspective, and to mutually set up with parents appropriate academic, behavioral and social goals for the student that all of us can then help him/her achieve. We use our more traditional spring parent-teacher conference to review where we are with the student in relation to those goals, as well as where the student is “report card” wise at the 2/3 of the year mark. If you have any questions about Goal setting conferences, please refer them to your classroom teachers.

## **What is “Historical / Cultural Halloween”?**

One of our many traditions at MMCA is doing something a little bit different for Halloween. We do not allow traditional Halloween costumes at school on Halloween. Instead, the students in each of our classrooms do age-appropriate presentations and projects (including costumes) essentially based on an aspect of their grade level’s social studies curriculum. This includes at the:

- Kindergarten: Community helpers (ex., police officers, chefs, dentists, nurses, etc.)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: American icons (ex. Statue of Liberty, Bald Eagle, the flag, etc.)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Inventors / Innovators (example: Thomas Edison, Bill Gates, etc.)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Someone who’s contributed to California history
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Someone connected to U.S. History through the American Revolution
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ancient Civilizations
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Someone from the Medieval – Renaissance period (roughly 500A.D. to 1600A.D.)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: From the American Revolution to the Industrial Revolution

More specific information about your child’s project will be sent home in a few weeks from their teachers. At the school level, I recognize in these difficult financial times that doing a second costume for Halloween may cause a bit of a stress for some of our families, and that is not the intent of the project. These Historical Halloween costumes do not need to be elaborate, and we’re definitely not looking for you to spend a lot of money on them. We are looking for some mutual creativity with your child to allow him/her to get ‘into character’ for their presentation.

To help further ease any possible financial burden, I’d like to start warehousing some costumes in future years here at school to help promote the sharing of costumes & ideas. Thus after this year’s Historical Halloween, if you are interested in donating your child(ren)’s costume to the school for re-use in future years, we’d appreciate it.

# PTA Announcements

**1st General PTA Meeting**  
**September 21st at 7:00 p.m.**  
Everyone is welcome!  
(Immediately after Parent Education Night)

Welcome to a great year at MMCA!  
We have some wonderful goals and events planned for the 2011/12!  
Attend our 1st General Meeting of the year and see how your talents can help our school.

If you are not a PTA member, please join!!!  
Some benefits: Discounts with your PTA membership card, free coffee cup, and most importantly, **be a voice in your school!**

If you have any questions about PTA, please talk with one of our Executive Board Members or check out the PTA binder in the front office for budget, by laws, and goals. You may also visit the new PTA section of MMCA's website that is being updated with all new information for this school year.

Did you know that PTA organizes all of the following events?

**\* Uniform Exchange \* Fall Family Dance \* Breakfast with Santa \* Talent Show \* Art Auction \*  
Many fun fundraisers \* Golf Tournament \* Fun Day – Volunteer Appreciation Day \* plus so  
much more.....**



## Miscellaneous Info

### Independent Study

It is always best for your child to be in class, but if an absence is unavoidable and your student is going to miss three or more days of school, please sign him/her up for independent study. Independent study benefits the school by allowing us to collect ADA money for your student during the absence and your student will benefit by keeping up on their class work. To sign up, you must sign an independent study contract in the office and make arrangements with your child's teacher to collect their work before their absence. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Williams in the office at [dwilliams@mmcharter.org](mailto:dwilliams@mmcharter.org).

### Income Surveys

Your child should have brought home an income survey last week. Please complete the survey and return to the school at your earliest convenience. There are various funding opportunities for our school based on income levels of our families. If you did not receive a survey, please contact Denise Williams at [dwilliams@mmcharter.org](mailto:dwilliams@mmcharter.org) for one.

### Yearbooks on Sale Now!

We are currently taking orders for the 2011-2012 MMCA yearbook. The price is \$18 through October 31<sup>st</sup>. After that, prices go up to \$22. Reserve your copy now!

# MMCA Communication Pathways Policy *(est. 2005)*

## *(school communications policy)*

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### **From Parent:**

1. Individual /classroom issue: discuss with Teacher
2. School-wide issue or unresolved issues with classroom or Teacher: discuss with Principal, may include an additional meeting to include Teacher
3. System issues or issues unresolved after discussing with Teachers and Principal: bring to MMCA School Board by:
  - speaking with any individual MMCA Board member , or
  - emailing any Board member (addresses on website), or
  - written communication with any Board member: use Board mailbox in office.

*Please respect that individual discipline issues and personnel issues/complaints carry privacy concerns. These should be directed in writing to the Board President or the Principal.*

The Board can take action only on those items on the Agenda. Please contact us at least 1 week prior to a meeting if you'd like your issue placed on the Agenda. Any person wanting to attend a Board meeting is welcome, and will be given 5 minutes to speak if desired.

### **To & From Teachers:**

MMCA teachers send home weekly packets including completed schoolwork, notices of upcoming class events, field trips, projects, etc.

The monthly newsletter contains an update from each classroom on the efforts and accomplishments happening there.

Teachers provide two annual parent-teacher conferences. They are also happy to meet with you at any other mutually convenient time. Contact them by email, by leaving a message on the office phone, or by sending a note with your child.

### **To & From Principal, Board of Directors and PTA:**

A weekly "Friday Flier" is sent home in each child's packet or by email. It contains updates from the Principal and the PTA on general school-wide events and issues.

The Principal is accessible to parents by phone (630-1510), by email ([brent@mmcharter.org](mailto:brent@mmcharter.org)), or by stopping by to make an appointment as needed.

The MMCA Board meets monthly. All are welcome to attend. The minutes of each meeting are placed in an accessible binder in the front office and on the website after they are approved (usually at the following month's meeting).

The PTA meets monthly and invites everyone to attend.

# Purple Room Update

## Upcoming Events:

Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Police Station Field Trip

Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> - Goal Setting Conferences: **Minimum Days**

Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> - Fall Break: No School

Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> - Bishop Pumpkin Patch Field Trip

Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> - Picture Day

Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> - Cultural Day

We hope that you all enjoyed the 3 day weekend. It feels as though everyone is well rested and ready to come back to school. We are looking forward to meeting with you all at our Goal Setting Conferences the first week of October. It will be nice to be able to touch base with you all regarding your child's progress for the year.

We have two field trips coming up. One to the Rocklin Police Station on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, as well as our annual field trip to Bishop's Pumpkin Patch on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. With the train ride, tractor ride, pumpkins and pig races, it surely will be a day to remember.

## Language Arts:

Kindergartners: We are working on recognizing letters and sounds, as well as blending sounds and reading. We are working in our journals daily and practicing writing sentences. We are going to the computer lab weekly and working on letter sounds and reading.

1<sup>st</sup> graders: We are working on reading long vowels. We are working in our journals daily. We are working on writing at least 2 sentences in our journals. We are going to the computer lab and working on learning the home keys.

Math: We are working on learning our numbers and addition, as well as, days of the week, months of the year and how to write the date. We are counting down to the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school through counting by 5's, 10's and skip counting.

Science: We are learning about the sun and will begin to learn about fall.

Cultural: We are learning about community helpers and American Icons.

Cultural Day is on Monday the 31<sup>st</sup>. It is a day of festivities celebrating people and things that impact our world. Each class will be dressing up according to a theme. The Kindergartners will be dressing up as community helpers (Police officers, chefs, dentists, nurses, etc.) and first graders will be American Icons (Statue of Liberty, Bald Eagle, Flag, etc.). Please make sure to send your child to school dressed appropriately. This is not a traditional Halloween celebration, so please do not send your child to school in their typical Halloween costume.

Thank you to all of the parents who have been volunteering in the classroom. Many parents have asked us if we need any donations; apples, tangerines, and walnuts for our practical life shelf are always useful, as well as Clorox wipes. If you have not done so already, please make sure to pay the \$60.00 for our field trips. Please make the check payable to Mrs. Bryant.

Purple Room

Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Bryant

# *Yellow Room Yak*

## **Important Dates:**

- Thursday, September 22, 2011 Field trip to the Rocklin Police Dept.

Drivers needed!

- Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Goal setting conferences
- Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Fall Break- No School
- Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop Pumpkin Patch Field Trip
- Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> Cultural Day

The kindergarten and first grade students of Yellow Room are off to a wonderful start. We have learned the names of all the friends in our class as well as many classroom jobs. Every Monday we have a new Person of the Week. They share special things from home that are then displayed on the Me Museum shelves. All week they lead the calendar jobs, lead the line and bring in a cooking project on Friday. It is exciting to be the Person of the Week!

In science we have begun studying vertebrates and invertebrates. Our cultural lessons have been on oceans, continents, and land and water forms.

You may notice students in Yellow Room wearing their love light pins. They remind us of the light inside that can never go out. Our lights are bright for learning and friendship in the Yellow Room.

On Cultural Day - Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> each class will dress up according to a theme. Kindergarteners will dress as a community helper- police, chefs, dentist, nurse, etc.

First graders will dress as American Icons -Statue of Liberty, Bald Eagle, Flag, etc. Traditional Halloween costumes will NOT be permitted.

Our first grade students enjoy sharing computer lab on Wednesday and PE on Thursdays with our friends in the Purple Room. They will be learning yoga every other week in PE.

We are fortunate to have so much support from our families in terms of donations and volunteering. Thank you so much! Our students come prepared every day to learn and enjoy school.

Mrs. Kelley and Mrs. Silberman

# Blue Room Newsletter

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you and your child to Blue Room! We hope you enjoyed your vacation time and are ready for an exciting new school year. Many new skills and concepts will be introduced as the year progresses.

The first week of school went great! We started our new year with team building activities. Along with the team building activities, we have been assessing the students in Reading, Writing, Spelling, and Math. We do these assessments so we can insure that your children are placed in appropriate groups to meet their needs. During the second week of school we introduced the students to their daily work charts.

This month we will create our first class book, which is called the "Cool Shades of Summer". The students made their own fun looking sunglasses and wrote about their summer vacation. Mrs. Schmich also introduced the students to a book called *Amelia's Notebook*. After the book, the students were introduced to their own journals. This is a place for them to write everyday about their thoughts.

Mrs. Harper introduced the children to the expectation of the "Me Museum." Each week a new student is chosen to be this special person. She has also been busy teaching all the students new math and language jobs. The students are enjoying using all the Montessori materials.

Our Room Mom, Mrs. Spangler, is currently working on making a volunteer calendar. We want to thank you for the huge response. She will be contacting you soon on times and days. We understand that things come up, but if cannot make it in on the day you are scheduled, a phone call or email would be greatly appreciated. The Room Mom is also busy planning Cultural Days for October 3-5. If there is a cultural that you are interested in sharing with the students, this is the perfect time. Last year, we had parents share the cultures of Mexico, France, and the Philippines. The students truly enjoyed this experience and left with a lot of knowledge of each culture. We need one culture per day for three days. We will also be doing this during the Spring Conferences. Please contact us if you are interested.

Remember to send in the money for the field trips. We already have deposits that need to be paid. The cost for all the field trips is \$75. Our first field trip is to Apple Hill on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We believe strongly in giving children the opportunity to grow academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. Your children will have many opportunities in class to help them develop in these areas, but we are convinced that children feel more secure and learn more when they sense a positive partnership between the two major areas of their lives-home and school. Please contact us if you have any questions. We also welcome you in the classroom at anytime.

Mrs. Harper [dharper@mmcharter.org](mailto:dharper@mmcharter.org)  
Mrs. Schmich [bschmich@mmcharter.org](mailto:bschmich@mmcharter.org)

When you email us please put a subject. We want to make sure that we are opening legitimate emails and not spam. Thank you for your support.

## Dates to Remember

- ❖ Sept. 23-Field Trip to Apple Hill
- ❖ October 3-5-Goal Setting Conference and Cultural Days
- ❖ October 6-7-Fall Break

# *Red Room Newsletter Notes*

August and September were spent settling into our classroom!! We have had a very productive first month of school. The children are working well in all areas of the classroom. Presentations have begun in Math, Grammar, Spelling, Geometry, Writing, History, Zoology, and Reading. We also have started the afternoon rotation of Dance, Fine Arts, Computers, and P.E. Ask your children about the different activities!! Thank you for attending the Parent Information and Back to School Nights!! Also, thank you to the parents who have been helping in the classroom!!!! We would love to have more parent help. Please call or email us!!!

In geometry, second year students have started activities with the geometry cabinet while third year children will explore the “line.” Grammar will focus on the nouns (2<sup>nd</sup>) and adjectives (3<sup>rd</sup>). With 34 math groups, our children are working on static addition through dynamic multiplication. We have started the Writing Traits program. The children are learning to select a topic and give supporting details. They are learning about the revision process. We are excited to say that are reading groups are up and running. Ask your child about their reading group!!!!

On Friday, September 16th, we are going to Abel’s Acres in Apple Hill. We are leaving right at 8:30!!!! Please remind your child to dress in layers – it can be cold in the mornings and warm in the afternoons. The children will be given a tour of the orchard and go through a hay maze. Goal setting conferences are scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, October 4th, 5th, and 6th. We look forward to meeting with each of you.

We will celebrate Cultural Day on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. The children should dress as Inventors or Innovators. (No Halloween costumes please.) They should know at least three facts about the person they are portraying. The children will share their facts with each other at morning gathering. (Children may want to bring a change of clothes.)

Weekly spelling lists go home on Fridays in your child’s homework folder. Please ask your child to show you the new list. Spelling quizzes will be on Friday mornings. Please be sure your child wears socks to school everyday and has a book at his/her reading level.

We look forward to a great school year.

Warm Regards, Mrs. Bordelon and Mrs. Sherman

# *Aqua Room Update*

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year. We have enjoyed getting to know you and your children. The first few weeks have been busy as we become immersed in the curriculum and daily routine. The children are working well in all areas of the classroom. Presentations have begun in Language, Spelling, Reading, Writing, Math, Geometry, History, and Science. Our elective rotation will begin on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. The electives being offered this rotation include Soccer, Gardening, Brain Games, Spa Day, Mosaics, Basketball, and Kickball. Participation in electives is dependent upon work completion and behavior. If a student does not earn the privilege to attend an elective, they will attend study hall. Be sure to ask your child about their awesome time in the various electives.

On Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be going on our first field trip. We will be going to the Discovery Science Museum and participate in "Digging up the Past" where students will become immersed in a hands-on, interactive archaeological project led by a trained archaeologist. This unique program integrates multidisciplinary skills in a realistic simulation. Students will work in teams to uncover the story of the fictional people who once inhabited a corner of the Museum grounds. Students participate in an outdoor simulated archaeological dig to really understand how archaeologists uncover and decipher clues about the past.

Weekly spelling lists go home on Fridays in your child's Friday folder. These lists are student created and will either be in their own handwriting or typed on the computer during computer lab. Please ask your child to show you the new list, and encourage them to practice at home. Spelling quizzes will be on Thursday afternoons at 12:35. Please be sure your child wears socks to school every day and/or has a pair of indoor shoes in their cubby. Also, please be sure that your child has a book at his/her reading level.

Goal setting conferences are scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to meeting with each of you. We will celebrate Cultural Day on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. The fourth graders will dress up as a historical figure from California. The fifth graders will dress up as a historical figure from United States. More details will be provided in the coming weeks.

Thank you for attending Parent Information Night and Back to School Night. Also, thank you so much to our classroom volunteers. We appreciate the help. If you would like to volunteer, please email us or drop by any time. We have plenty of copying, laminating, etc.

~Ms. Sherman and Ms. Garcia

"Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment." ~Maria Montessori

# Coral Communication

It is hard to believe that we have almost finished our first full month of school. We have finished our assessments and have hit the ground running with lessons, jobs, and work! We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your child these past few weeks.

We have been busy studying and reviewing place value in math. If you are looking for a way to quiz your child, ask them to give you the “standard form” on a piece of paper for the number you verbally say to them. Then ask them to write it in expanded form. For giggles, you can ask your 5<sup>th</sup> grader to write the number out in expanded form with exponents! ☺

In the realm of Language Arts, we have been focusing on nouns. Another great way to torture, we mean “quiz”, your child is to pick out a noun and ask them if it is a person, place, thing or idea. We have begun our ability based reading groups already. Speaking of reading, we expect all students to have a book to read for SSR time (Sustained Silent Reading). They can bring a book from home, but we also go to the library on a weekly basis for those that read fast!

For Science the students have been learning the Scientific Method, magnetism and properties of matter. Did you know that ice can end up being all three properties of matter? Yes, ice can be a solid, liquid and a gas. Quiz your child to see if they can explain that riddle to you!

For History we have been studying the different regions of California for 4<sup>th</sup> grade and the regions on the United States for 5<sup>th</sup>. We will begin to work on our states and capitals at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. By the end of this year, your fifth graders should know all of their states and capitals. Make a set of flashcards for the car or at home to quiz them all year.

We have our first round of Friday Electives going on right now. We are quite excited to see the kids comingling with all the upper-grades. We hope your child comes home and shares their experiences with you.

We had our first field trip on Friday September 9<sup>th</sup>. We went to the Discovery Science Museum to become archaeologists and dig up the past. We had to work as a team to uncover the artifacts that were buried at the “site”. Field trips are to be prepaid for the year. If you haven’t paid for your trips yet, please do so ASAP.

Our first monthly at home project is due September 30<sup>th</sup>! The first project is a sandwich book report. The directions went home the first week of school. Most of our book reports are free choice on the genre of the book, but each book needs to be a chapter. We know all kids read a various levels, but you can find chapter book at all various levels.

We look forward to a fabulous year!  
Mrs. Boothby and Mrs. Garber  
[coral@mmcharter.org](mailto:coral@mmcharter.org)

## **Thank you to these parents who have donated something to the classroom:**

The Walsh Family – coffee, grinder & indoor games

The Bayes Family – cleaning supplies & puzzles

The Moeller Family – UNO game

## **Thank you for volunteering in or out of our classroom:**

Zambrana Family      Delong Family

Dixon Family      Garcia Family

Gomez Family      Tatman Family

Bayes Family      Houdesheldt Family

Monroe Family      Finta Family

## **Thank you to the Payan Family for organizing our field trip drivers.**

## **Thank you to the parents that drove on our field trip:**

Isola Family      Andrade Family

Pono Family      Zambrana Family

Culler Family      Allen Family

Caraotta Family      Vaughan Family

# Orange Room Newsletter

## Team-Building Day/Dynamic Earth Presentation :

We had a fun time at the Whitney Ranch Park on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Our students played fun games, got wet at the water park, played on the play structure, and they got to eat their lunch at the picnic tables. Thank you to the parents who helped make this day happen! Our next in-class field trip will be a presentation on the Dynamic Earth, on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Writing Assignment: My Favorite Trip

Students have been reviewing basic sentence structure and "super sentences". Students will be writing about a favorite trip for their first, formal writing piece. Students must include an introductory paragraph, main body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph. Students also have the opportunity to include dialogue and to reflect on personal experiences! This assignment is due October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## History Curriculum:

Students have been learning about the first humans. They did a fun activity in class to demonstrate survival skills and they also did their own caveman drawing on clay. Students will be learning about Mesopotamia, Kush, and Egypt this month. Please be aware that students will be bringing home a materials list for Ancient Egypt day craft activities. Also, we will need volunteers to help on October 31, so let Mrs. Jennings know if you are available that day.

## Science Curriculum:

Students will be learning about Earth's structure and plate tectonics. They have done some fun labs, foldables, and have watched several videos on this subject matter. Students should re-read Chapter 1 to help with their reading comprehension and to prepare them for their assessment.

## Math Curriculum:

Students have been reviewing previous year's math concepts and they have been meeting in their math groups with Mrs. Jennings.

## Literature Groups:

Students have been given a reading book and assignments that correlate with it. The literature groups meet once a week, where we discuss all the different aspects of the book.

The school year is off to a great start and we are enjoying getting to know your child's unique personality! Any questions should be directed to Mrs. Jennings or Mrs. Cohodes  
[ejennings@mmcharter.org](mailto:ejennings@mmcharter.org), [jcohodes@mmcharter.org](mailto:jcohodes@mmcharter.org), [orange@mmcharter.org](mailto:orange@mmcharter.org)

# *Green Room Update*

Welcome Back to School, and if you are new to Green Room, welcome!

We are off to a great start this year! This year, with our expanded class, we have two rooms, Green One and Green Two. All Green Room students work in both classrooms throughout the day. This room switching is a great way to prepare our students for the schedule style they will experience in high school. So far, the transitions between subjects have been smooth. As you have already seen your student's class work and homework, there is much to cover this year. Please check your email for progress reports to ensure your student has the greatest opportunity to be successful.

We will be starting electives this week! On Friday afternoons, those students who have completed their work will have the opportunity to choose an elective. Students have already made their top 3 choices and have been assigned to an elective based on available spaces. They will attend the assigned elective for 3 weeks before choosing new electives. Students who do not complete their work will attend study hall where they will be expected to be quiet and on task.

We have begun our Teen CERT curriculum and have had a great discussion on disaster preparedness. Green room students now know how to do head-to-toe assessments, how to handle a blocked airway, as well as how to recognize the symptoms of shock. Next up is fire suppression where they will learn to properly use fire extinguishers, triage and first aid. Lots and lots of fun!

We have added some daily music time to morning meeting. We've been singing lots of songs that promote interdependence and some fun folk songs as well. Music is a fantastic way to teach about poetry, patterns, and prose.

We had a great first field trip to the CalEMA Preparedness Fair at the Capitol Grounds on September 7<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate the efforts of all of our parent drivers and chaperones. We would like to give a special thanks to Officer Keller, Chrystian's dad, for speaking with us and allowing us the opportunity to learn more about law enforcement and safety with his K-9 partner, officer/paramedics, and mounted policemen.

Our first all-school assemblies were wonderful! We commemorated Maria Montessori's birthday and we cut the ribbon on our new outdoor classroom, the MMCA garden. A big thanks goes out to the Garden Committee and Ms. Wendt for all their coordination and hard work!

Last, but not least...our wish list is up on our website. Please take a look and see if there is anything you can help with. Our most urgent daily need is dictionaries!!! We could use several more college dictionaries. We get into some pretty complex vocabulary and dictionaries are a must! Thanks in advance for your help with this.

Just so you know, we have an awesome class this year! Even though the students say that some things are more difficult, they also are saying that they like how much they are learning. We are enjoying lesson time too! Please contact us via email anytime you have a question. We are all emailers and check a few times a day.

Make sure to check the Green Room webpage for frequent updates on our classroom.

Mrs. Crouch, Mrs. Watkins, and Ms. Wendt.

# Children's Chatter

September News

"To educate the human potential"

Maria Montessori

We had many parents sign up to help in our classroom. Most volunteer time slots and positions have been filled, but we are still in need of a few more volunteers bi-monthly. Please check out current information on our **class** web page [www.shutterfly](http://www.shutterfly) .

What a wonderful first few weeks we have had. Our first days of school have been record setting with the children arriving with sunny smiles and dry eyes. The healthy snacks and "**No Trash**" lunches are also amazing. The children's days have been filled with learning new routines and activities. Your child has met several new friends with group games which helps foster friendships. We have been singing several friendship songs which include, "Four Hugs A Day" and we have even danced to Latin music with a friendship mixer game. We have also incorporated cooking on Fridays with nutritious recipes. We have taught several new concepts with our daily circle time and large lessons. The teachers have also been busy giving small group lessons, establishing routines while gathering information with math and reading assessments. We have also attended two all school assemblies honoring Maria Montessori and our Garden Dedication ceremony.

We have been busy practicing our Grace and Courtesy lessons which include, shaking hands, introductions, using a quiet voice, polite conversation, snack manners, washing hands and observing others without disturbing their work. Many of our lessons have been acted out by two people in practice scenarios. These Grace and Courtesy lessons show children how to move and interact with others in a community of family environment. These lessons give children the tools they need to feel comfortable and secure. They can interact responsibly and appropriately in the community environment of the classroom and in their everyday life. We have introduced several "Peace" activities to help foster a positive self-esteem with each child receiving a love light pin while singing "This Little Light of Mine".

September is a month filled with several topics which include the study of our world, oceans, land and water, invertebrates and continents in addition to our daily Montessori work time. The program "Music in the Foothills" has arrived and comes into our class bi-monthly to introduce movement and music. The Sacramento Zoo is coming September 27 with an assortment of animals for the children to touch and learn about. We are looking forward to September 28 for our first "Stretch and Grow" class.

## Up Coming School Events:

- Pre-School Goal Setting Conferences: September 26, 27, 28 & 29  
Sign up on line September 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. Instructions coming home with your child.
- Free Dress Day October 5
- Picture Day: October 25 (wear uniforms, please)
- Montessori Parent Education Night: September 21  
6:00-7:00

