

# UE1 Classroom Newsletter

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“Education is the natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment.”

Maria Montessori

## September 2011

*Wow! Have you told your child how awesome they are lately? Because they are! The students are nearing completion of their Block 1 Science and History work. They have truly amazed us, each and everyone, in different ways. They have worked incredibly hard and there's not one in the class whom we are not proud of.*

*If you were unable to attend the Parent Education Meeting, 'Your Child's Montessori Day' or the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington DC meeting, please contact Mrs. Ruto. She will email you the presentations which were used that evening and have a lot of valuable information regarding your child's Upper Elementary experience.*

## Classroom News

### Planners

Each week, on Monday, I talk with each child individually and assist them in filling out their planners for the week. They are responsible for planning out their week, and perhaps a few things into the next week, before they meet with me. I will help them break it down into sizeable increments and make sure all of their curricular areas are included in their planning.

Parents, you are needed as well! Your child needs you to look over their planner during the week and talk to them about their work, be aware of what they are trying to accomplish, assist them at home as needed and help them adjust their assignments as may be needed throughout the week.

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## Singapore Math & Early Pick-up

Thank you SO much for not picking up your children until carpool. Our math classes are going strong and your child is busy, busy learning until 2:45pm.

## Computer Use

Many of you have supplied your child with their own flash drive which they use at school, and which can go to and from school with them. This helps them immensely. If you have not been able to do so, please do. If you can not for any reason, we have one which is for our classroom use. However, they may or may not be able to take it home for project work, but is here for ease of use and for them to save work from the computer.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip Committee

Huge “Shout Out!” to Robyn Bennai and Amy Clark who have organized the first parent meeting which is to take place, Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 12:30pm. If you are a 6<sup>th</sup> grade parent and are not on the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Yahoo group, please contact Lauren Ingall so you may get an invitation to join. If you have not received an invitation to join, it was by mistake.

“The first essential for the child’s development is concentration. The child who concentrates is immensely happy.”

Maria Montessori

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

### History

All students will be introduced to Block 2, South America Part II next week. You will be sent the unit plans and syllabi, just as you were for Block 1. Please print them out to have at home, be aware of your child’s due dates, and talk to your child on a weekly basis (or more) about their

assignments.

## SCIENCE

In two weeks we will be introducing Block 2 of Science. 5<sup>th</sup> Years will be studying Landforms and 6<sup>th</sup> Years will be studying the Lithosphere. You will be sent the unit plans and syllabi, just as you were for Block 1. Please print them out to have at home, be

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aware of your child's due dates, and talk to your child on a weekly basis (or more) about their assignments.

5<sup>th</sup> years will also be working through one chapter a Block in their Competitive Edge Science, EOG preparation books.

## LANGUAGE ARTS

We have been doing weekly journaling with the topic: Autobiography. Your child will take these journal entries and type them out to begin creating their Autobiography. Their Autobiography will go home at the end of the school year. We will continue our study of narrative writing. Much of our writing is correlated directly to Science and History.

Your child will continue with their Book Clubs within the classroom. Ask your child what book they are reading as we are all enjoying some good books!

## MATHEMATICS

Now that our first round of MAP testing has completed, these results will be used to identify potential weaknesses in your child's mathematics. The students will be receiving Montessori math lessons in class from Mrs. Ruto to address these weaknesses.

We begin each morning with a daily word problem. We then discuss and work through it each morning. The students will also be working in the classroom Competitive Edge Mathematics, EOG preparation books.

## CURRENT EVENTS

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| September 5  | School Closed – Labor Day   |
| September 9  | Spring Forest Road Park field trip!                               |
| September 13 | 6:00pm; PFA Event, free dinner and gifts!                         |
| September 15 | 6:00pm; Board Meeting   |
| September 20 | 6-7:00pm; Parent Education Event: Speech and Language Development |

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7-8:00pm; Parent Education Event: Internet Safety

Childcare Provided

September 23      First Day of Autumn

Progress Reports go home

September 26-October 7<sup>th</sup>    FALL INTERCESSION BREAK