



HIGHLAWN *news*

DECEMBER 2010

EDUCATION FOR LIFE



These students remembered to bring snow gear...how fun! They will get to play outside. Please dress your children appropriately for cold weather!!!

Your child's missing gloves might be in the the lost and found in the main office.

Don't forget, if the Shawnee Mission School District closes for inclement weather so does Highlawn!

DON'T FORGET!!

Friday, December 17

All students are dismissed at 11:45 for winter break.

Mrs. Barackman's class follows regular schedule.

No Explorers!

Classes resume on Monday, January 3, 2011.

The Future of Highlawn

(FOH) ANNUAL FUND

Thank you to all current and former Highlawn families who have already donated to this year's FOH fund. The generosity of your donations speaks volumes about the important role that Highlawn plays in our children's lives.

Our goal for this year's fund is to have 100% participation from the currently enrolled families. At this point, we have had participation from 12% of our families, meaning that we are far short of our goal. If you have not yet made a donation to this year's FOH fund, please consider doing so soon. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and will go a long way toward reaching our 100% participation goal.

If you have misplaced your information flier mailed to you at home you will find a copy on page 4.

Highlawn Enrollment

2011-2012 Enrollment Contracts will be delivered on Monday, January 10th. Contracts and deposits are due by Friday, January 21st. It is vital that you return your contract and deposit or contact the office by the 21st in order to guarantee your child's spot at Highlawn. You will find a copy of the 2011-2012 calendar on page 6.

Open enrollment begins Monday, January 24. We have many applicants for approximately 40 openings. Waiting lists are quickly forming for 2012 and 2013. Please make sure you have completed an application for your younger children and if you have friends who might be interested in our school encourage them to apply now. It's never too early!

Making “Sense” out of Montessori

By Edward Fidellow

Montessori is the only educational system that makes “sense” because it is the only education that starts off where your child starts - in the world of the senses. Our babies are born into a sensory world – they taste, they hear, they feel. They spend the first months of their lives wrapped in these senses. They begin to focus. Their eyes begin to take in their world. Their ears become attuned to your voice. They know what it is to be wet, to be dry, to be held, to be hungry, to be satisfied. Their senses are being refined day by day. Their hands grasp, their mouth tastes. They delight in the world they are discovering. Their minds are absorbing, categorizing, defining. There is a long period of intellectual foundational input before there are any external demonstrations of intellectual development. All the pressure to succeed in the world does not create the foundation. If our children can count to twenty or know their ABC’s before they are three it is a random demonstration of facts. The solid academic foundation is built on the building blocks of the senses.

Twenty five hundred years ago the Greek philosophers observed that, “There is nothing in the mind that is not first in the hand.” The beginning of intellectual development begins with the senses. The senses are alive and operative long before the intellect can explain itself. Dr. Montessori understood the intrinsic value of “sensitive periods” when it is possible to acquire immeasurable gains (literally unconsciously) in language, in orderliness, in understanding because the senses are totally alive and receptive. It is the intellect receiving sense messages rather than intellectual messages that creates this great educational method.

One of the first senses developed is the sense of order. The Montessori environment (where everything has its own special place) creates a sense of internal order, well-being and security in your child. The environment, where things are consistent, orderly, color-coded and logical is perceived by the sensory organs before it is perceived intellectually by the conscious mind. Every sense is addressed in a logical progression by the sensorial materials. As adults we look at it as blocks and colors and strange apparatus that we perceive as “simple and obvious” but to the child every experience is new and exciting and adds to the foundation of their intellectual building blocks. And they come to this through their senses – literally “coming to their senses”.

The long progression through practical life and the sensorial materials is the preparation for the intellectual explosion that occurs in Montessori children. The sensorial education includes the sense of sight in the visual discrimination of dimension. The “famous” Pink Tower (which I swear looks just like building blocks) is the beginning of this intellectual marathon. The red rods, knobless cylinders and all of the other apparatus are tools to enhance this visual discrimination of dimension and space, a skill needed for so many venues in life – like driving. (There’s a scary thought for when your three year old turns sixteen!)

continued on pg. 3

Making “Sense” out of Montessori

continued from pg. 2

The Montessori classroom continues to train and refine the senses in the discrimination of color. The beauty of life and art (and the ability to appreciate, name and produce) starts with a sense of color – all presented in the environment.

The “Stereognostic Sense” (my spell checker won’t even accept this two dollar word – which means, “The perception of the form of an object by means of touch.”) is covered extensively in a Montessori classroom. All of the triangles, rectangles, polygons and geometric shapes give entry for the child to the shapes of the world. He not only sees them, but touches them and internalizes (not just memorizes) their qualities and descriptions. And then we get to the botany cabinet where your child is introduced to the variety of nature’s shapes.

The tactile sense is a refinement of the ability to receive perceptions through touch. The rough and smooth boards, the touch tablets and the fabric box all contribute to the foundational building blocks.

The auditory sense with the sound boxes and the bells and other musical apparatus tunes and refines the ear - an important sense skill for listening and for learning other languages.

The thermic sense (dealing with heat) is addressed by the thermic bottles and thermic tablets. The olfactory sense (sense of smell) and taste and the baric sense (dealing with weight) is addressed and enhanced.

Just like walking and feeling your way through a dark room, your child literally senses her way through the educational world until the lights get turned on and the conscious intellect begins to build the structure of her mind and thoughts. “There is nothing in the mind that is not first in the hands.” The senses are the building block of all future academic achievement

HIGHLAWN SPRING FLING!



HIGHLAWN families, **SAVE THE DATE**, our 2011 *Spring Fling* Auction is Saturday, **March 26th, 6:30 – 11:30 PM** at the Boulevard Brewing Company. We need you to attend this fun event and help raise money for our fantastic school. We also need your help soliciting items and services to be auctioned. This is a school wide effort!

Please keep copies of the attached Auction Letter and Auction Donation Form with you, and ask for donations at the places you frequent. Copies are attached on page 7 and 8. Popular items needed are: airline miles, trip or time share opportunities, unique home items, sports tickets, etc... think outside the box!

If you have any questions please contact Tracy Powell @ 913-317-8777, or Paige Beck @ 913-499-7756. We thank you for your support!

*"Education should no longer be mostly imparting of knowledge, but must take a new path, seeking the release of human potentialities."
-Maria Montessori (1870-1952)*

THE FUTURE OF HIGHLAWN (FOH)



First lesson on a brand new dressing frame.

Highlawn is a healthy community for our families and children. Part of what creates that environment is making sure the school can make the improvements above and beyond normal operating expenses. The generosity of donors represents future programs, improved facilities, and equipment purchases that are not possible without your support.

WHY DOES HIGHLAWN HAVE AN ANNUAL FUND DRIVE?

Highlawn is again launching its annual fund drive, The Future of Highlawn. Tuition alone does not cover all school expenses. In fact, it is set low to keep the school affordable to the community it serves. The FOH fund provides an avenue for parents, staff, alumni, and the community to connect with and support Highlawn Montessori School.



Kindergartners working on Highlawn's new classroom deck.



Over 25 generous community volunteers helped landscape our new playground.

HOW WILL THE CHILDREN BENEFIT FROM MY GIFT?

Your gift will help us to complete a number of projects. In 2009-2010 gifts helped us build a new playground and classroom garden and pave the school's driveway. This year, gifts will help the school purchase a new telephone system. Funds will also be earmarked for rubber safety mulch for our play areas.

Yes, I want to embrace the Future of Highlawn!

I have enclosed a \$_____ gift.

Signature: _____

Highlawn's children, their parents, and the board of Directors thank you for remembering us this year.

Please detach this section and send it to:

Highlawn Montessori School
3531 Somerset Drive
Prairie Village, Kansas 66208

Claridge Court invites Highlawn Families

to
Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, December 18
9:30 - 11 a.m.

8101 Mission Road
Prairie Village, KS 66208



**Bring your own camera and capture your child's
Christmas moments with Santa!**

**Parking limited...
drivers might need to park at Highlawn, the bank across the street,
or Corinth Square and walk!**



The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. During the week of December 10-17 there will be collection bins at both of Highlawn's drop-off locations. During this time please consider bringing a new, unwrapped toy and help make a less fortunate child in Kansas City experience the joy of Christmas.



Highlawn Montessori 2011-2012 School Calendar

New Elementary Parent Orientation	Thurs., Aug. 11 ~ 7:00 p.m.	Teacher Fall Work Day Early Dismissal	Fri., Nov. 11 ~ Dismissal at 11:45 a.m. No Explorer's Club
Elementary School New Student Orientation	Mon., Aug. 15 ~ 8:15-11:45 a.m. Tues., Aug. 16 ~ 8:15-11:45 a.m. Wed., Aug. 17 ~ 8:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Children's House Fall Conferences	Mon., Nov. 21 & Tues., Nov. 22 No School for Children's House Students No Explorer's Club
New Children's House Parent Orientation	Tues., Aug. 17 ~ 7:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 23-25 ~ No School Classes resume Mon., Nov. 28
Elementary School Returning Student Orientation	Thurs., Aug. 18 ~ 8:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Evening in the Elementary	Wed., Nov. 30 ~ 6:30 p.m.
Regular Elementary Schedule Begins	Fri., Aug. 19 ~ 8:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Early Dismissal	Mon., Dec. 19 ~ Dismissal at 11:45 a.m. No Explorer's Club
Children's House New Student Orientation	Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Aug. 22-25 ~ 8:45-10:45 a.m.	Winter Break	Tues., Dec. 20 - Mon., Jan. 2
Children's House Returning Students Only	Fri., Aug. 26 ~ 8:45-11:45 a.m.	Classes Resume	Tues., Jan. 3, 2012
Before School Care Begins	Mon., Aug. 29 ~ 7:30-8:45 a.m.	AMI Consultation	TBA ~ Jan. or Feb. No School
After School Program Begins	Mon., Aug. 29 ~ 11:45-5:45 p.m.	Staff Development Day	Mon., Jan. 16 ~ No School
Explorer's Club Begins	Mon., Aug. 29 ~ 2:30-5:00 p.m.	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Fri., Feb. 10 ~ 6:00-7:30 p.m. No Explorer's Club
Regular Children's House Schedule Begins	Mon., Aug. 29, Half Day 8:45-11:45 a.m. Extended Day 8:45-2:30 p.m.	Father's Night	Mon., Feb. 20 ~ No School
Labor Day	Mon., Sept. 5 ~ No School	President's Day	Fri., Mar. 2 ~ 6:00-7:30 p.m. No Explorer's Club
Ground's Clean-Up Day	Sat., Sept. 10 ~ 9:00-12:00 p.m.	Mother's Night	Mon., Mar. 5 ~ 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Individual School Pictures	Tues., Sept. 13 (Belz, Doolittle & Wright) Wed., Sept. 14 (Connell, McEachen & Smith)	Elementary Open House	Thurs. Mar. 8 - Fri., Mar. 9 ~ No School
Class Group Picture Day	Thurs., Sept. 15	Spring Conferences	Mar. 12-16 ~ No School Classes resume Mon., Mar. 19
Highlawn Open House	Fri., Sept. 16 ~ 6:00-7:30 p.m. No Explorer's Club	Spring Break	Fri., Apr. 6 ~ No School
Parent Education Night	Tues., Oct. 4 ~ 7:00 p.m. (Belz & Wright) Wed., Oct. 5 ~ 7:00 p.m. (Connell & Smith) Thurs., Oct. 6 ~ 7:00 p.m. (McEachen & Doolittle)	Staff Development Day	Wed., Apr. 25 - Fri., Apr. 27
Elementary Fall Conferences	Thurs. Oct. 20 & Fri., Oct. 21 No School for Elementary Students	Earth Week Activities	Fri., Apr. 27 ~ Dismissal at 11:45 a.m. No Explorer's Club
Halloween Parade/Parties	Mon., Oct. 31 ~ Dismissal at 11:45 a.m. No Explorer's Club	Teacher Spring Work Day Early Dismissal	Sat., May 5 ~ 9:00-12:00 p.m.
Early Dismissal		Grounds Clean-Up Day	Fri., May 18 ~ Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.
Staff Development Day	Tues., Nov. 1 ~ No School	Last Day of School	Fri., May 18 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
		All School Picnic	



Dear Community Friend,

Over 45 years ago, Highlawn Montessori School was founded by a handful of dedicated individuals who agreed to donate \$8,000 and an old farmhouse on a high lawn overlooking Mission Road – and the school was quickly lauded as an environment where young children could thrive. Since that time, Highlawn has become one of the most highly regarded schools in the region thanks to the dedicated work of our staff, teachers, parents and the gracious support of the community.

Highlawn is hosting their bi-annual fund raising auction on Saturday, March 26, 2011. I am writing to request a donation from your business to be included in our auction. With your help, Highlawn will be able to replace worn furniture and equipment and upgrade our aging/inadequate phone system. Your contribution is 100% tax deductible. Our non-profit tax ID number is 48-068-6224. Recognition of your generous contribution will be included in a list of auction donors in the on-line event program and on the recognition screen during the event attended by over 200 guests.

Your support for children in our community will be mutually returned by parents and teachers who are patrons at your business.

If you are able to contribute, please use the attached donation form and submit to:

Highlawn Montessori School
Attn: Auction Committee
3531 Somerset Drive
Prairie Village, KS 66208

I thank you for your consideration and support. The children thank you, too!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Morrison".

Kathy Morrison
Highlawn Montessori School
School Director
kathy@highlawn.org



HIGHLAWN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

March 26, 2011- Auction date Auction Donation Form

Item/Service Donation Description:						
Donor's Name: <i>as it will appear in program</i>						
Contact Name:				Phone:		
Email:						
Address:						
City/State:				Zip:		
Item Value:	\$	Minimum Bid?	\$	Gift Certificate:	Yes or No	
Anonymous Donation?	Yes or No		Expiration?			
Highlawn Volunteer:				Phone:		
Pick Up / Delivery Notes:						
Additional Comments:						
ADDITIONAL DONOR RECOGNITION OPTIONS						
Web Address: To be listed on our internet auction site.				Logo: you may email a pdf or jpg to tracyleepowell@sbcglobal.net for more prominent recognition of your business.		

Thank you for your generous contribution to Highlawn Montessori School.
Your donation is 100% tax deductible.
You will receive an authorized tax deduction statement for your records
For more information, please call (913) 649-6160 or visit www.highlawn.org