



Spring is officially here and it's wonderful to see families staying after school and enjoying the playground once again! Our garden ground will soon be prepared and that will be another available area for eager hands. So kick a soccer ball, pull a few weeds and engage in good conversation under the sun...

Montessori Quote: "...One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child."
-Maria Montessori

April Events

Date	Event	Details
Fri., April 1st	Teacher Work Day	Childcare available by reservation 8:00-3:00
Tues., April 5th	PA Meeting	8:45-9:45 in the lunch room
Wed., April 6th	Fire Drill Primary Workshop	"Story Telling With Primary Children" 3:15-4:00 pm
Fri., April 8th	Garage, Baked Goods and Handi-craft Sale !	3:00-4:30 pm;
Fri., April 8 th	Moms' Night Out 7 pm	Restaurant, Ema Destinova; email Lisa Miller thefourmillers@gmail.com
Sat., April 9th	Dads' Night Out	6 pm; contact Martin Jaros at IMSP2011@GMAIL.COM
Wed., April 13th	Science Fair	Lower/Upper Elementary 2-3:15 pm
Fri., April 15th	Montessori Madness Group Meeting	Czech/English discussion group meets 8:45-10:00 am in lunchroom
Mon. April 18 th -22nd	Spring Break	No school; no childcare
Sun., April 24th	Easter	
Mon., April 25th	Czech Holiday Velikonocni pondeli	No school; no childcare
Wed., April 27th	Toddler Workshop	3:15-4:00 pm in toddler classroom Topic-"Human Tendencies"
Wed., April 27th	Upper Elementary Visits Chodov Seniors' Home	1:00-2:45 pm; songs, baked goods will be presented to seniors
Fri., April 29th	Sonnie McFarland visits for Earth Day!	A FAMILY EVENT-12:30-3:00 pm Sonnie's group event; plus 6 activity stations
May 4 th	Sonnie McFarland Lecture	Sonnie gives a city wide lecture at Ibis Hotel, 1:00-4:00 pm;

Announcements

- ❖ **Sonnie McFarland, the AMS "Living Legacy" for 2011, will begin our Earth Day Celebration on Friday, April 29th! All parents are welcome to attend this fun afternoon and enjoy the activities with their children, from 1:30-3:30 pm.**
- ❖ **Sonnie will then be lecturing at the Ibis Hotel, hosted by IMSP, on Wednesday, May 4th, from 1:00-4:00 pm. We hope to see many of you there!**



-Please see the article on the Parent Board.

Sonnie's long career as a Montessori teacher, lecturer, peace educator and author is outlined in the article in this month's issue of Montessori Life. We are honored to have her visiting our school and our beautiful city, Prague.

- ❖ **Parents Conference Schedules will be posted April 29th on the main Parent Board.**
- ❖ **Dad's Night Out - Saturday April 9th 2011 from 18:00**
Following on the from Mum's night out on Friday 8th of April, the Dad's night out is planned to begin at 18:00 with a fun adrenalin pumping activity at Zlicin, after which we will go and relax at Buddha Bar from 20:30.
All the dad's should have received an invitation already, but for anyone who hasn't please contact the organizing committee (Martin Jaros / Jean-Francois Gatineau) via IMSP2011@GMAIL.COM
- ❖ **The PA fundraising efforts** from last year went toward helping a young man, Ondrej Trojak, from an orphanage, who was trying to attend the university. This year, the PA was made aware of his need for a computer that he could use for his schoolwork. Anke and Daniel Damson knew of some friends who graciously donated one. Ondrej was grateful and very happy. Thanks you, Damson Family! **Ondrej Trojak receiving his new lap top!**



Classroom Events

Toddler News

We hope you had a chance to take advantage of the onset of spring during your March holidays!

This month has been full of sunlight and growth. Our community is close and the children show deep caring and consistently growing levels of help toward each other. The spring is bringing new awareness of animals and their young, the wonder of birth and the cycles of nature, including the green returning to the forest and new flowers budding everywhere. We started sprouting mung beans and alfalfa, and they are a yummy, nutritious treat. Our garden is in the works.

Also, we have a new children's djembe drum in class, and the children are very much enjoying playing and making music!

Many thanks to those who attended our March Parent Workshop, where we discussed parent's chosen topics. The discussion was rich and varied. Please join us on **April 27th, 2011, at 3:15 for the Montessori's topic of, "Human Tendencies"**, which can give us great insight into the behavior of toddlers (and others!). We look forward to seeing you there!

Primary News

We are overjoyed that Spring has arrived and we are able to see many new plants growing on our playground and in the forest. We have also begun planting seeds in our classrooms and looking more deeply at the parts of plants and flowers.

Be sure to collect all snow suits and winter gear from your child's locker. Spring showers bring great flowers, but they also require strong rain pants. Be sure that your child's rain pants are waterproof and have an elastic strap at the bottom to cover the rain boots.

We certainly look forward to this month's Earth Day celebration which will be **Friday April 29th from 1:30-3:30. Sonnie Mac Farland will lead a Peace Project** and there will be many things to learn through group activities such as planting, recycling and composting. Families are welcome and we hope to have a great turnout.

We would like to thank Zuzana Kreckova for sharing her collection of items from Asia and Oceania with Primary 1. The children especially

enjoyed trying to eat their lunch with chopsticks. We also thank Aliya Bokash for her presentation of Kazakhstan's New Year. Both Primaries enjoyed it greatly.

In March we studied Oceania. We enjoyed studying the various animals which can be found in this part of the world like the kangaroo and the platypus. We also looked at the art symbols of Australian aborigines and told stories from our dreams.

This month we will study South America. As always, we invite our families to share any stories, recipes, music, pictures or items from this continent.

Our final **Primary workshop will be Wednesday April 6th at 3:15** in Primary 2 and is titled, **"Story Telling with Primary Children"**. **We hope that you bring your favorite story, (either oral or written), to the workshop.**

Lower Elementary News

Please join the Elementary classes for the IMSP Science Fair. The event will take place on **Wednesday, 13 April**. Primary children will visit the fair from 13:00 to 14:00 and **parents are welcome to visit from 14:00 to 15:15. Everyone is excited to share their experiments! All IMSP parents are invited. Please let Amy and Stephen know if you will attend.**

The children are studying many different things depending on their own choices. They are either deepening their study of animals on the Time Line of Life, creating research projects and reports on specific choices (planets, dinosaurs or tsunamis), writing more book reports, studying different countries or continents or continuing to work with rocks and minerals.

If a child has a particular interest, we encourage them to research more about it and create a project or report. This is a very exciting part of the Montessori elementary program and fosters a great love of learning.

In April, the Czech cultural activities will focus around the different parts of animals. The children will learn nomenclature about different animal parts as well as the classification of animals.

Elementary P.E. Reminder:

Now that spring is here, please make sure that your child has proper outdoor shoes (no boots) and proper clothing to have P.E. outside on nice days. They

should also be prepared to have an indoor P.E, in case of inclement weather. They may keep their indoor P.E. shoes at school so they are always able to participate in indoor P.E.

Upper Elementary News

Upper Elementary children are preparing for their Science projects, writing articles on World media and learning different approaches for research.

In Math, some are doing word and percentage problems, division facts, cube rooting, pre-algebra, bar, graph and line graphs. Some of them are continuing with the study of areas.

They are continuing their study of Biomes and are now working on classifying their continent mammals, after working with the Chordata classification.

In History, they are working with the Pleistocene epoch, the study of the principal hominids and human migration.

With the onset of Spring weather, Upper Elementary has also turned its thoughts toward the May Marathon. Ms. Kathleen has begun working with the children in learning stretches, warm-ups and with general body conditioning. It's great to see the children's surprise as they discover what their bodies can do...and that it's fun!

The Science Fair is coming again, let's see
[what this year's scientists bring...](#)

April Birthdays

Toddler	Primary	Elementary	Staff
Nobody!	Magdalena Krskova April 8 th , she turns 6!	Lukas Klesken April 23 rd , he turns 7!	Glynis Hull Rochelle April 17th !
	Rudolf Suchy April 9 th , he turns 4!	Barbora Casenska April 24 th , she turns 9!	Mirka Lansdorfova April 27 th !
	Adam Lhotak April 10 th , he turns 6!	Karolina Muchova April 27 th , she turns 10!	
	Frantisek Smolen April 26 th , he turns 4!	Jakub Kaplicky April 28 th , he turns 9!	
	Linda Doan April 26 th , she turns 6!		

Alice's Corner:

Spring is finally upon us, so here is some inspiration on how to enjoy the longer and warmer days. The Old Sewage Treatment plant in Bubeneč, Prague, is a fantastic gem of industrial architecture. Visitors can go on guided tours of the underground passageways of the building and visit the steam engine room that contains working engines which are shown running on special days.

<http://www.ekotechnickemuseum.cz/>

If industrial architecture and sewage treatment is not exactly your cup of tea, then why not visit the recently opened Lego Museum. With over 2000 models and 20 expositions containing over 1,000,000 Lego bricks! It should provide plenty of inspiration and fun for all Lego enthusiasts past and present. <http://www.muzeumlega.cz/>

(Czech only)

- Alice



Primary Forest activities

Tuesday and Thursday:

We had lots of changing weather in March, so it was great to visit our forest place of houses a couple of times to see how things have changed in nature.

For remembering the colors of nature, each child got a small atlas of plants we can use for coloring. They were given this after I received seed from any plant they found. Right after winter it was quite difficult, but finally nearly all children had found one. Playing in nature is always a discovery for us. In that time, we discovered there are not many seeds we can see on the ground right after winter.

Some of the children used the atlas later in class to color each plant or flower with pencils ☺. I am looking forward to coloring some T-shirts later in spring or in summer.

I introduced an instrument called a „fujara“ by playing it in our „children forest circle“. We usually play it when we get in one place. When we got back to school, each child got a chance to touch it and see it during the elipse time that we have during naptime.

Days are sunny most of the time now, so we can enjoy playing in a „dry“ environment and we can still see some water in some places in the forest.

Being in the forest with the children is the most enjoyable part of my working time, especially last few weeks. My heart is happy and warm when I can see children flowing in free play outside.

Sandra Cabajova

Library

Dear Parents,

As you know each student with loaned library books gets a bookmark that is marked with the date of return.

Books can be kept for two weeks, but I would like to encourage that books are returned to the library box right after reading is finished.

Please remind your child to return books on time. Unreturned books means no further loans.

A few tips on helping your child return books on time:

*Keeping a calendar with the library return due date circled, is a good way to help your child

*Finding a special place to keep library books, helps children remember to return them on time

*Teach your child how to handle library books; no holding books with dirty hands, bending the cover or pages, scribbling or tearing. Young readers need to understand the importance of protecting books so that other students can enjoy reading them over and over again.

*Most important is to help develop a love of reading by enjoying books with your child. Set a time aside each evening to read with your child.

Thank you
Ivana Sket
Librarian

***NEWS FLASH ***

There is a new series of books available at our school library!!!

Horrible Histories is a series of illustrated history books published in the United Kingdom by Scholastic. They are designed to get children interested in history by concentrating on the unusual, gory, or unpleasant. The books are written by Terry Deary, Peter Happlewhite and Neil Tonge and illustrated by Martin Brown, Mike Phillips and Philip Reeve.

The Awesome Egyptians-

How to make your own mummy, how to test the theory that pyramids have magical powers and, among all the handy hints and tips, a few tales of dodgy Pharaohs and their nasty habits.

Anyone who ever thought they knew all they needed to know about the Egyptians and their strange ways will be amazed at the gaps in their knowledge as they discover which king had the most blackheads, unusual ways Victorians displayed their mummies and how to become a true Egyptian peasant in ten easy (or, in fact, rather difficult) stages.

- The Groovy Greeks

Apparently the Greeks (we are talking about the Ancient variety) were a rather groovy bunch. The boys didn't start school until they were seven and girls didn't have to go at all. Greek children invented all manner of cool games just for something to do, and the grown-ups invented the Olympic Games and made the men run naked.

As Terry Deary points out, though, in his Horrible Histories: Groovy Greeks, things were not always quite as jolly and some of the more disturbing facts unearthed in this funny and clever alternative to the history book are actually quite, well, horrible.

-We hope you enjoy and learn!