

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**August 23**

LE Student Orientation  
10-11:30am

\*all new students to MSBG  
and all 1st year students  
(see more information on  
page 2)

**August 23**

Lower Elementary new  
Parent Meeting  
11:30am-12:00pm

\*for all parents of new  
students

**August 24**

First Day of School  
8:30am classroom doors open  
8:40am sharp! Class begins  
See you then!

**SUPPLIES LIST:**

- 1 pair of soft canvas shoes, crocs or slippers to wear exclusively indoors (please no high tops, flip-flops, or big character slippers.)
- 2 boxes tissues
- 6 rolls paper towels
- 1 package of paper dinner plates
- 1 pack of 100 six-inch paper napkins.
- A spacious backpack (large enough to contain a lunch box and folder)
- lunchbox (that fits in backpack)
- A folder for school papers and communications

\*\*MSBG provides all other supplies for the student. Please do not purchase pencils, pens, grips, notebooks, etc. We find these supplies unnecessary and a distraction in the classroom.

**It's already time to begin preparations for the school year! We are eager to begin the 2010-11 school year and are excited to build our classroom community.**

**LOWER ELEMENTARY AT A GLANCE**

In the Lower Elementary classroom, the focus becomes one of independence. Children are encouraged to work at their own pace and level while the state guidelines are followed for each grade level. The multi-age classroom promotes leadership and encourages growth via children teaching children. Assessments are used to enhance what the children are learning and to provide guidance for the progression to more challenging work. These assessments are made primarily through observations, one-on-one work with a teacher, and written evaluation. The Lower Elementary classroom has a small child to teacher ratio which enables the teachers to meet and follow all children's individual needs.

Children are required to complete a cycle of work including; language, arithmetic, and culture daily. There are different units to be explored that help fulfill the work cycle. Grammar, science, history, botany, geometry, and geography, as well as writing skills, are included in the language, arithmetic and cultural subjects. Peace education, conflict resolution and community building are also a large part of the curriculum.

Lessons are given individually or in small groups. Occasionally a large unit will be presented in a large group with the children encouraged to explore the activities from the unit. The materials used for presenting lessons and exploration are hands on multi-sensory materials that are visual, tactile and auditory. The activities are placed on shelves in a sequential manner, easy to hard, top to bottom and concrete to abstract. The teachers provide lessons on individual activities relating to each unit, and coordinate units of study. Field trips and speakers enrich the curriculum throughout the year. Students are also involved in Music, Art Studio, Physical Education and Foreign Language weekly.

Learning in the Lower Elementary classroom occurs through the interaction with hands-on materials and cooperative learning with other children. The Montessori environment provides a framework for the acquisition of lifelong academic and social skills.

**WHO ARE THE TEACHERS?**

**"Miss Laura" Drumm**

I am originally from Columbus, Ohio. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Family and Consumer Sciences from Ohio State University. I also have my American Montessori Certification for 6-9 year olds from COMET in Columbus, Ohio. I have taught in the lower elementary program for ten years. My husband, Andy, and I have lived in Bowling Green for 11 years. We have two sons, Mitchell will be a fourth year student in the Upper Elementary classroom and Mathias will be in the Early Childhood classroom taught by Miss Cindy and Miss Jennifer. I enjoy reading, music, and sports.

**"Miss Ruth" Schroeder**

I am originally from Kalida, Ohio. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics Education from Ohio State University and a Masters degree in Reading Education for BGSU. I have my diploma from the North American Montessori Center. My husband, Dale, and I have three sons and four grandchildren. I have taught in the upper elementary and lower elementary programs at MSBG since 1993. I enjoy reading, gardening, biking, and spending time with family and friends.

**"Miss Christy" Fahnstock**

I am originally from Sidney, Ohio. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies, with an emphasis in Elementary Education from Wright State University. I also have my American Montessori Certification for 6-9 year olds from COMET in Columbus, Ohio. I have been involved with Montessori education for 10 years and am starting my third year

### **DAILY SNACK:**

Each child is encouraged to bring their own morning nutritious snack (fruit, vegetables, applesauce, cheese cubes, etc.)

**CONTACT US** at any time about questions, concerns, clarifications, or any information you feel we should know.  
(419) 352-4203 between the hours of 7:45am-4:00pm  
[le203@montessorischoolbg.com](mailto:le203@montessorischoolbg.com)

### **LOWER ELEMENTARY STUDENT ORIENTATION**

for all new students to MSBG and all 1<sup>st</sup> year students

We have scheduled a special orientation session on Monday, August 23, 2010 from 10-11:30am for students. During this session we will introduce all students to their new environment and teachers. We will discuss our daily schedule and tour the special areas of the classroom. Teachers will provide a healthy snack mid-session to share as a group. Lunch will **not** be part of the orientation.

We feel this session will be helpful to make the students feel comfortable and welcomed in their new classroom. We anticipate that this will make the transition easier. The 10-11:30 session is specifically for students **only**.

From 11:30-12:00 we would like to meet for a parent orientation, where both the students and parents can meet with the teachers. After orientation, parents are welcome to stay and explore the classroom with their child.

with MSBG. I enjoy reading, gardening, being outside, music, and spending time with family and friends.

### **IDEAS FOR EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AT HOME**

One of the foundational principles of Montessori education is Maria Montessori's command to "follow the child." She believed that by carefully observing and listening to children, adults would gain important information in how to assist children at their particular stage of development.

Our children are extremely fortunate to have parents that do watch, listen, and respond appropriately to their needs. Casual, informal, everyday conversations allow children to up about their thoughts, feelings, and what they are learning about their world. A parent's time and attention are a child's best gift. Thank you for your dedication.

Listed below are some activity suggestions that promote close family interactions and reinforce classroom learning.

#### **MATHEMATICS**

Montessori philosophy demands that manipulative materials are used, for as long as a child needs them, to aid in a deep understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and other concepts. For these processes, here are two types of problems: static and dynamic.

The Montessori materials for memorization stress and understanding of the relationship between processes and an understanding of numerical patterns. Some children learn math facts easily but for other children, it is a process that takes years.

#### **Math Ideas**

- Fact games—flash cards, oral quizzing
- Board games and card games with numbers
- Cook! Recipes help reinforce fractions
- Money and time games

#### **LANGUAGE**

Montessori philosophy is read, read, read! We know how important it is to read to our children and have them read to us. It is also important for children to see the connection between reading and everyday life.

#### **Reading Ideas:**

- Books on tape
- Board games such as Scrabble Junior, etc.
- Instruction booklets for toys/games
- *Read Aloud Handbook* by Jim Trelease in our school library has a great list of books to read aloud.

#### **WRITING**

Children also need to be encouraged to write. When writing, ask your child to write down the sounds they hear. Attached is a handwriting sheet to help your child pay attention to the formation of letters.

#### **Writing Ideas:**

- Everyday notes to family members
- Letters, thank you notes, apology notes
- Grocery lists
- A special journal or diary—a writer's notebook
- Creative stories

#### **Cultural Sciences**

Montessori philosophy stresses the importance of the Cultural Sciences. This includes: science, zoology, botany, geography, history, music, and art. We seek to strike the children's imaginations and explore the beauty of the world.

#### **Cultural Sciences ideas:**

- Visit the Toledo Zoo, Imagination Station, Toledo Art Museum, Wood County Parks, Mazza Museum, etc.
- Visit other close-by places like the Hayes Memorial, Sauder Farm, and the 577 Foundation in Perrysburg.
- Visit the school or public library for excellent children's book related to your child's personal interests in the Cultural Sciences.
- Simple, everyday experiences such as gardening and nature walks can be very enriching.

