



Handprints



Frisco Montessori Academy Parents Organization

January/February 2010

In This Issue:

Benefits of Montessori Education

See "Director's Corner" page 3



Mark Your Calendars

February

- 11 Used Uniform "Fireside" Sale, 2:30-3:15 pm, by FMA Garden
- 12 Valentine's Classroom Parties
- 19 Muffins for Moms, 7:15 am, FMA Gymnasium
- 28 Open House, General Public, 2:00-4:00 pm

March

- 2 Classroom photos
- 15-19 School Closed
- 22-26 Teachers Appreciation Week
- 26 Teachers Appreciation Luncheon

April

- 1 Spring Classroom Parties
- 2 School Closed
- 10 FMA Family Day at Frisco Roughriders
- 15 1st Annual Walk-a-Thon
- 22 Student Art Exhibition, 6:45 pm at FMA

A Letter from the President

I hope that you all had a fantastic winter break and a happy new year! We're ready to get back into the full swing of things and have a lot of fun activities planned throughout this semester.

Did you know it takes about \$10,000 to run the Parents Organization? Half of that is gifted towards teacher classroom and appreciation gifts. The remaining is divided up between all the other events we sponsor and support, such as: Grandparents Social, Donuts for Dads, Muffins for Moms, Discovery Nights, Graduations, Service projects, Communication, Babysitting, School Directory, Teachers Luncheon, etc. On top of the \$10,000, we also raise money for the school. In the past, we have helped raise money for the garden, playground equipment, new computers, books for the library, and much more. It is the continued support of all of us parents that help make the Parents Organization so successful. It is also through our support that we add a special aspect to our children's experience while at FMA. We foster relationships between the parents, teachers, and staff through our socials. We create knowledge of what and how our children are learning through our educational events. We create an awareness of the community through our service projects such as the Food Drive, Toy Drive, and Support Our Troops Drive. Our children are receiving an excellent education from FMA. We just add that extra layer of specialness that makes the experience that much more enjoyable.

With that said, it's important that we continue to support the Parents Organization. Without your support, we would not be able to continue to do what we do. We have worked hard to create some FUNdraisers that involve not only the parents, but the children. Family is our #1 goal and we love doing FUNdraisers that involve the whole family. Be on the lookout for our three exciting spring FUNdraisers. More information will be coming home to you in the next months.

- **Color Me Mine/Tin Star Family Night**— (The event was held on Feb. 3 as this issue of the newsletter was being published. We'll let you know the results in the next issue!)
- **Frisco Roughriders**—April 10—this is our 3rd annual Roughriders event. Our Kindergarten and 5th level graduates will be singing the National Anthem prior to the game. Come on you sports lovers...this is a fun outing for the whole family! Let's show our school pride!

We are only halfway to our goal. Support our fundraisers and watch the handprints go up!



The FMA PO is now on Facebook — Become a Fan!

A Letter from the President (cont.)

- **FMA Walk-A-Thon**—April 15—This is FMA's first Annual Walk-A-Thon. We are very excited about this. It is 100% kid participation and will be taking place at school during the school day. Be on the lookout for more information in March. We will let you know when your child's class is walking, so you can come watch the fun! If you are interested in helping out, please let us know.

On a personal note, I would like to thank our board for all their hard work. I appreciate their time and dedication in helping make this a successful year. Without the help of all of our committed FMA parents, we would not be able to do what we do for the school. As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to contact me or any member of the board.



Samantha Lollar
FMA PO President

FMA Alumni Gather and Discuss "Life After FMA"



"Everytime I struggle with something, I think about my years at FMA, and that helps me a lot," said Ivonna Elizondo, 2007 FMA graduate, during FMA's Annual Alumni Night held January 21. Kathryn Shultz (class of 2008) agreed, crediting her FMA teachers with teaching her the organization skills required in her new school.

Ivonna and Kathryn were among 13 alumni who spoke to an audience of FMA parents and teachers about their transitions to other school environments. Each alumna described their accomplishments since leaving FMA as well as the skills learned at FMA that helped to ease the transition. Among the skills mentioned were organization, focus, time management, understanding and following rules, problem solving, and research.

Other alumni present were Aaron Albright (2005), Alicia Chatten (2006), Jessica Bathea (2006), Ian Stanfill (2007), Raul Quintanilla (2007), Michael Multani (2008), Will Kassen (2009), Destiny Nelson (2008), Cameron McCord (2009), Gianni Stanfill (2009), and Kyra Sorenson (2008). Perhaps Gianni Stanfill summed it up best when he said, "The transition was much easier than I expected!"

Help Wanted: Fundraising Coordinator

The FMA Parents Organization is looking for a parent(s) to assist in coordinating our upcoming Fundraising events, including FMA Family Day at Frisco Roughriders, FMA Walk-a-Thon, and the Used Uniform Sale. Volunteering is an excellent way to give back to your school while meeting other FMA parents. If you are interested in donating some of your time, please contact Samantha Lollar, FMA PO President (Samantha.lollar@att.net).

Box Tops For Education



We are still far from this year's goal of \$700 for Box Tops For Education. You can help the PO earn money by clipping Box Tops from hundreds of your favorite products or by shopping online at your favorite store through the Box Tops website. For a complete list of products and internet shopping websites, please visit www.boxtops4education.com. Your child can help too by gluing/taping the Box Tops on the collection worksheets as you clip them.

If you have questions, please contact Wendi Berge, Social Coordinator (wschaff1@yahoo.com).

FMA Director's Corner

Happy New Year to All! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break. The children are settling back into their routines. We would like to welcome the new students and families to our school. The children seem to be adjusting nicely to their new classrooms and teachers. We have a busy schedule in store for our second semester, so remember to watch your calendars for upcoming events.



We would like to thank all the room parents and volunteers for their help with the classroom holiday parties. The children had a wonderful time making crafts, playing games, and eating special treats.

Once again, our Parents Organization accomplished amazing results with the help of all the parent donations. The Thanksgiving Food Drive and "Children Helping Children" toy drive were a huge success. We want to thank the FMA PO Board, parents, and all the volunteers for helping to make the holidays much happier for hundreds of less fortunate children and families.

Our Elementary students had a wonderful time singing holiday songs, playing recorders, and piano for their parents and student body before Winter Break. Thank you, Ms. Madsen, for the enjoyable Holiday Program.

The Elementary students also visited the Frisco Sci-Tech Museum to experience grossology. The children had a wonderful time and came back with interesting stories.

We are now accepting orders for the 2009/2010 FMA Yearbooks. Jennifer Holmes is designing and working on this cherished book of memories. The cost is \$25. Please make your check payable to FMA, and put your child's class and name on the check. Turn in your checks to the front office as soon as possible to reserve your copy because only a limited amount will be available. Remember, memories last a lifetime! We have last year's copy in the front office if you would like to see a sample.

Each year, families are faced with decisions on where to place their children for school. **It is important to explain some of the positive reasons Montessori can and will make a difference.**

- ◆ **The Montessori curriculum focuses on many areas** including Practical Life, Sensorial, Language, Math, and Cultural. We include specialized classes in Music, Art, Horticulture, Computer, and Spanish.
- ◆ A Montessori education **fosters a strong feeling of community**. Each child is a vital part of that community and takes pride in his/her own accomplishments, as well as those of his/her classmates.
- ◆ **Mixed age grouping encourages the sense of family**, while providing mentoring opportunities in which the older help the younger, reinforcing their own skills as well as building self-confidence and self-worth.
- ◆ The "family" atmosphere of the small school situation **allows for maximum growth emotionally and socially**. Each student experiences first hand the value of working cooperatively in a community where there is a strong sense of trust.
- ◆ **Non-competitiveness is fostered** since each child works at his/her own level. There is the opportunity for children to work together on projects or in small groups. In general, many more opportunities are available for social interactions in a Montessori classroom than in a traditional setting.
- ◆ **Students are encouraged to exchange ideas** and to discuss freely with their peers. Effective communication skills are sharpened with each new day. These strong communication skills continue to mold them as confident leaders.
- ◆ **We focus on helping the student develop solid social skills**. Respect is of the utmost importance. We help the children to learn to verbally resolve differences. Peer mediation is encouraged, and we guide the children into understanding and accepting responsibility for their actions.

The upper elementary years are a time of interpersonal growth. It is also a time of physiological and emotional change. Peer pressure can greatly influence children going through these changes. A Montessori environment recognizes this stage of development and works to build a child's confidence and self-esteem. Part of this process includes a strong moral character.

FMA Director's Corner (cont.)

The small student/teacher ratio allows the teacher to focus on each student's individual progress and needs. Children learn to accept responsibility for their actions and are given the skills to help them make responsible decisions. Eventually, these children may transition from a Montessori environment to a traditional school. It is important that they take with them those interpersonal skills that will help them deal with the challenging social issues of today.

We believe your child will have many years to be in a large social environment but has only now to build the foundation in which positive choices and lasting friendships will be made. We encourage you to have your child remain in our care through fifth grade so as to ensure this foundation which is built on strong self-confidence, self-worth, and self-esteem.

Open enrollment is now under way. If you have not re-enrolled, contact us as soon as possible, or you could lose your child's place. Due to the continuing sluggish economy, FMA's tuition and fees will remain the same as those in the 2009-2010 school year.



Ms. Rosen
Director

Save the Dates...



February 11, 2:30-3:15 pm, Used Uniform "Fireside" Sale.

Did your child have a growth spurt over the holidays? Do you need to stock up on more uniforms? Join us near the FMA garden and find gently used uniforms at seriously reduced prices! Questions? Contact: Samantha Lollar.



February 19, 7:15-8:15 am, Muffins for Moms. Mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and significant women in the lives of FMA students are invited to attend this annual event. Enjoy a delicious breakfast, tour the school, and meet FMA teachers and staff.



April 10, FMA Family Day at Frisco Roughriders. This will be our 3rd annual Roughriders event. Our Kindergarten and 5th level graduates will be singing the National Anthem prior to the game. The event has been a successful fundraiser for the FMA PO, so look for more details to come, and plan on enjoying a day out at the ballpark!



April 15, FMA Walk-a-Thon. FMA's first Annual Walk-A-Thon will be a fundraising event for the Parents Organization and will include 100% student participation. Our children will be seeking pledges for the number of laps they walk. The event will be taking place at school during the school day. Be on the lookout for more information in March.

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Please contact us with questions or comments...we want to hear from you!

Check out the boards inside the school lobby and outside at the school entrance for the latest information!

And, join us on Facebook for postings and discussions!

