

The Good News

Good Shepherd Montessori School 972.547.4767
www.goodshepherdmontessori.com

November, 2009



PICNICS &



PICTURES

We are so pleased that the entire campus got to enjoy their picnic day. Some of us got to enjoy the refreshing outdoors while others got to POP (Picnic on Porch). Either way, a fun time was had by all!

As was the case with the picnics, individual picture day started out in the garden, but was moved to the porch due to the weather. Either way, the individual pictures were fabulous!



Thanksgiving Celebration

The children will hold a Thanksgiving Celebration in their classrooms on Thursday, November 19th. This is a special time to share food with friends and teachers, and to show the children all for which we are thankful through this celebration.

The Primary and Lower Elementary Master Party Plans are included in this month's Office Folder. Toddlers, Upper Elementary and Middle School

students will plan their party on an event by event basis - information regarding their Thanksgiving celebration will be sent home shortly. Please note that if you have two or more children, you will be bringing per child, not per family.



Phone Number, Address & e-mail Changes

Remember to contact the office on ext. 10 if you have had any information change: phone numbers (i.e. home phones, cell phones, work phones), addresses, e-mails, etc.. We want to make sure we can reach you if the need arises.



Weather Alert

Now that November is here, please remember to send the proper clothing for your child. The change of clothes in the cubby may need to be changed to warmer clothes. Also remember to send a sweater, jacket or raincoat. In

Texas, you never know what the weather will do. Remember our motto: There are never bad weather days, just the wrong clothing. We want the children to experience all kinds of weather (keeping safety in mind, of course). Reminder: School sweaters, sweatshirts or jackets are the only outerwear worn in the classroom.



Welcome

We want to welcome Jude Cooper and his family into the GSMS family. Jude has joined our Toddler Community. Welcome Jude & family!

Bike-A-Thon

Due to inclement weather, the Bike-A-Thon scheduled for Thursday, October 28th was cancelled. Tuesday, November 3rd is the rain date, which, coincidentally is also the day this newsletter is being sent home. Unfortunately, you'll have to wait until next month's newsletter to read all about it, or hopefully you were able to experience it first hand today!



From the
desk of
Mrs. L. Sutton...

Wow, what a rainy, cool October! I hope November is a bit drier. The children have settled in and are working at a nice pace, the weather allows work in the garden and nature walks around the campus, fall colors are finally evident, children and parents have made new friends - and the list goes on! It's my favorite time of year to be on God's beautiful Earth and a perfect time to help the children learn to give thanks for all the wonderful gifts God has given his people - ALL OF US!

November is parent conference month. Your teachers will be contacting you to set up a time to discuss your child's progress.

At Good Shepherd, both the PTO and the faculty offer a wide array of different events in the hope that you and your family will find connections with other families in social settings and educational opportunities for you and your child/children.

I'll see you around campus!

Peace be with you

Parent Ed Change

LE Math/Science Night is now scheduled for **November 17th - 6:30 to 8:00**. This class was originally set for Thursday, Nov. 5th. However, due to an educator's conference which some teachers are

attending, this night has been rescheduled. We certainly hope you can attend. All are welcome!



Conferences & Student Evaluations

Parent Teacher conferences are currently being scheduled for each child. Anytime you feel the need for an update from your child's teachers, please feel free to contact them by phone or e-mail.

Elementary evaluations are written and sent home 3 times a year - the end of November, February and May. Primary families receive written reports at the end of January and May.



Infection Control

Here are 3 simple strategies to reduce the spread of infection:

1. Keep sick children (coughs, diarrhea, fever) at home. A child must be without fever for 24 hours before returning to school. Pediatricians recommend that children who are returning after the H1N1 virus remain home for 3 FULL days after the fever has broken.

2. Notify the school immediately of any contagious disease diagnosis, such as chicken pox, flu or head lice.

3. Use good hand washing! This means washing with an antibacterial soap, like Hibiclens, on both sides of the

hands for an adequate time. (Sing "Happy Birthday" 2 times!)



Green Sweater Alert

Please label your child's sweater (and all outerwear) with their name. You may want to add a design on the inside with a paint type pen that would make it easier for your child to identify which green sweater is theirs.. Labeling will help cause less confusion in the never ending green sweater search.

The children can wear their Academic Outfitter sweaters, sweatshirts or fleece jackets in the classroom during the colder months.

Inclement Weather Policy

Please remember that GSMS will close for the day if McKinney ISD closes due to hazardous driving conditions and extreme weather.

If they open late, (like last year) we will open at the Elementary school time they set. Toddlers & $\frac{1}{2}$ day Primary should consider staying home for the day.

We will not be listing our school separately on any radio or TV stations, but we will alert you on our homepage.

Again, we follow the McKinney ISD for school closings.

It's Time For the GSMS
Annual Play!

The Upper Elementary &
Middle School
Students will be
Performing

"Toy School"
by

Paul Colloette & Robert Wright

You won't want to miss
this fun, comical story about toys
learning how to work hard and
accomplish important goals.

Date: Friday, November 13th

Time: 7:00 P.M.

(Doors open at 6:45 p.m.)

Place: First Christian Church,
1800 West Hunt St.
McKinney, TX 75070

Cost: \$5.00 Adults

\$3.00 Children 1-12 yrs

Tickets: On sale during the pick-
up carpool - (Please bring
correct change.)

Buy now as there will be limited
ticket sales at the door!

All proceeds will help cover the
play royalties, stage rental and
class trip.



GSMS Tour

Our next tour
is scheduled for Wednesday,
November 18th at 9:30 a.m.



Christmas
Sing-a-long

What: Christmas Sing-a-long

Where: Saint Peter's Episcopal
Church in McKinney (corner of
Lamar & College)

When: Saturday, December 5th

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(Children should arrive at 2:30)

Attire: Festive Holiday attire -

Uniforms are NOT necessary

* Christmas Sing-a-long
Songs included *

Please practice these songs with
your child/ren. Thank You



Planning Ahead
for
Teacher
Christmas Gifts

Think about this.....

GSMS will have the
annual Teacher Holiday Fund for
Christmas gift-giving. You will
have an opportunity (strictly
your decision) to give to this
fund for your child's teachers
rather than buying an individual
gift. They can then use their
special gift on a much wanted or
needed item. They will know
each and every child who
contributed so they can express
their thanks, but no specific
amount of money from any
family will be known. You will

receive more information at the
end of November.



Upper
Elementary
Service
Project

"Operation
Christmas Child"

The Upper Elementary
students, again this year, are
organizing "Operation Christmas
Child". Operation Christmas
Child is a project of Samaritan's
Purse. Since 1993, Operation
Christmas Child has delivered
more than 24 million shoe boxes
filled with toys and other small
gifts to hurting children around
the world.

The Upper Elementary
students will start collecting the
boxes beginning Tuesday,
November 4th. Their goal is to
collect 100 boxes this year!

Brochures will be sent
home shortly.



Canned Food
Drive

GSMS is sponsoring a
canned food drive to benefit the
Samaritan Inn. The children will
take their cans to chapel on
Friday, November 6th and
Wednesday, November 11th.
Please share the bounty with
others.

Looking Good

Mrs. Clough, Mr. Meeks, and Mr. & Mrs. Kangara helped out with the indoor repairs on campus even though the outdoor activities had to be postponed. (Small groups of volunteers are being organized for specific projects. Let the office know if you are available.)

Thank you for helping keep the classrooms looking good!

Optional Lunch Program

This year's hot lunch program is off to a great start thanks to Mrs. Clough, Mrs. McCown and Mrs. Miller! They pick-up the lunches from Market Street and deliver them to Good Shepherd on Mondays and Thursdays. GSMS is pleased to be able to offer students a delicious, nutritious, hot lunch - which would not be possible without the help of these three ladies. If you would like to help with the lunches, please contact Mrs. Clough.

Yard Sale

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!! A BIG thanks to all of you who made the yard sale such a huge success! We couldn't have done it without the great support from parents who not only gave of their time but also donated some amazing items for the sale. This was our first year to offer this as a fundraiser and \$2500.00 was raised to help

GSMS and our kiddos! A special thanks, also, to all of the volunteers who helped collect donations, price, organize and run the sale, especially the two "angels," Sarah Morrow and Wendy Stem, who worked endlessly along side me. Another thanks goes to Eric Farkas and Derek Santis for all of their help loading, unloading and driving the trailer that Mr. and Mrs. Gunther so graciously allowed us to borrow. Great job everyone!

Warmest Regards,
Rachelle Farkas

A big round of THANKS goes out to Mrs. Farkas - without her dedication and hard work, the yard would not have come to fruition. Thanks a million Mrs. Farkas - you're awesome.

Peter Piper

A big round of THANKS goes out to Mrs. Angelucci, who, organized the night of Family Fun at Peter Piper Pizza. You did an awesome job organizing this event as well as keeping us all informed. Way to go Mrs. Angelucci!

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

The staff would like to send out a big round of Thanks to all the parents who helped with the wonderful breakfast on Friday, October 30th, our In-

service day. The food was absolutely DELICIOUS and very much appreciated! It helped to start our day off on a sweet note!

Cookies

Another Sweet Thank You goes out to all the parents who baked the most awesome cookies. The cookies were presented beautifully and tasted even better! It can't get any sweeter than that! A special thank you also goes out to Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Miller for arranging and distributing those tasty treats. Yum Yum!

Healthy Environment

The staff and students of GSMS are so thankful for the wonderful air purifiers purchased by the Garcia family. Please refer to the enclosed brochure for more information regarding this awesome product. Thanks Again Garcia Family!

Website Update

The Teacher Appreciation Committee would like to let all families know that the Classroom Wish Lists have been added to the school website. You can find them in the PTO section. This is a great resource when thinking of classroom gifts in honor of your child's birthday, for Christmas, or just because. To log onto the website, use: e-mail: **gsms**, password: **parent**.

PTO Update

A message from the PTO appears at the end of this newsletter.



Directory Updates/Revisions

Add:

Cooper, Jude Rm. 1
Monica Cooper
9900 Summer Sweet Dr.
McKinney, TX 75070
H 903-574-5301
backyardrevival@aol.com

Revise Address:

Harber, Sasha Rm. 4
7501 Crestway Ct.
McKinney, TX 75071

Spotlight Teachers

This month's Spotlight Teachers are: Mrs. Cash, Mrs Austin and Mrs. Stevens.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- Primary & Elementary conferences taking place all month -

Nov. 2nd NO SCHOOL

Nov. 3rd Bike-a-Thon

Nov. 9th PTO EXEC mtg.

Nov. 13th Upper Elementary/
Middle School Play
[Toy School]

Nov. 16th Used Uniform Sale

Nov. 17th 6:30p.m LE Parent Ed
Math/Science Night

Nov. 18th GSMS Tour 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 19th Classroom
Thanksgiving Lunch Feast
(Primary & Lower Elementary -
Refer to Master Party Plan List)

Nov. 20th Beginning to e-mail
Elem. & MS evaluations

Nov. 23rd - Nov. 27th
NO SCHOOL

(Thanksgiving Holiday)

Nov. 30th Classes Resume

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