



The Glen Gazette

February, 2012

Important Dates:

- February 6—In-Service
-No School
- February 14—
Valentine's Day Celebration
- February 20—
President's Day—No School
- February 26—Open house 1:00—3:00 PM
- February 26—Bussing Meeting
- February 26—Open House 1-3:00 PM



From the Executive Director



The Glen is pleased to announce that registration for Summer Camp begins March 1, 2012. This year's camp dates are June 4 through August 17. Summer Camp applications will be ready for distribution on February 27; families may request copies for registration. We do encourage families to register early.

This year's camp promises to be great with many wonderful themes and activities planned. New to this year's camp will be a gym program in our new gymnasium, enrichment activities such as a Chess Club with a chess master coach, and art enrichment with gifted art teachers. The Camp Program will feature **weekly** field trips and with plenty of adventures planned. As always there will be special guest instructors, sprinklers, and zany competitions. Please note, only children aged 4 and above are eligible for field trips.

Camp pre-payment is slated for April (June selections), May (July selections) and June (August selections) to avoid conflict with school year tuition dates.

The Glen, as always, welcomes suggestions and ideas to improve our school and its programming efforts. If you have any ideas you'd like to share, please drop a note in our suggestion box located in the lobby or stop or call me at your convenience.

Bus Information

Private Charter School Bus

The Glen is accepting registration for two bus routes. For clarity, the Private Charter Bus service for (Route 1) Moon/Robinson/Sewickley/Huntington Ave; and (Route 2) Bridgeville-Greentree are **open to any child age 3 and up**. Both routes are two-way and accommodate the Modified All Day student (8:30 AM to 3:15 PM) daily. A mandatory meeting for families desiring busing is Sunday, February 26th at 3:00 PM. The cost of the service is \$116 per month.

Both routes will have women bus drivers and a staff person on board. All students will be provided car seats and safety belts.

School District Busing

School District busing for children Kindergarten and up is available for students residing in the following school districts:

Sto-Rox	Montour	Cornell	Moon	Quaker Valley	N. Allegheny
Pine Richland	Hampton	Shaler	Fox Chapel	Avonworth	North Hills
City of Pittsburgh					

There is no cost for this service since your home school district pays for this service.

Art Enrichment



Reminder for children enrolled in the art enrichment classes; please wear old clothing on your day. Miss Erika likes to use different, but sometimes messy materials.

Target's "Take Charge of Education" Program

Remember your Target Visa or Target Card by using either card, a percentage of the amount you purchase goes back to our school in the form of a cash donation twice a year (March and September). Purchases made at Target and Target.com will give us 1% back and purchases made elsewhere with your Target Visa will give us 1/2% back. This money is used for things that aren't in our budget, like new computers, art materials and field trips - things that can really benefit your kids.

Help us help our school all year through with Target's "Take Charge of Education" program. Just visit target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school. The Glen Montessori School's identification is #124455. Also tell friends, relatives and neighbors to designate our school as well.



TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION®

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Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

The Glen has partnered with the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh's "*Carnegie Cash For Schools Program*". Each time you or your family member buy or renews a Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh membership and identifies **The Glen** as a registered *Carnegie Cash* participant at the point of sale, the school will receive a contribution. Please tell your friends and family to support **The Glen** and the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, one of our community's great treasures.

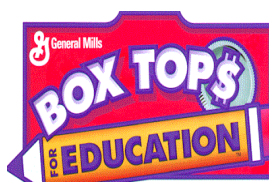


Giant Eagle Apples For The Students

Each scan of your Giant Eagle Advantage Card will provide a bushel of help for our school! Three Easy Steps: 1) Register now at www.gianteagle.com or call 1-800-474-4777. 2) Enter our **School ID #3594**. 3) Shop with your Giant Eagle Advantage Card. As always, thank you for your loyalty and dedication to The Glen.



Box Tops



Three easy ways to make a difference here at The Glen! **The Original Box Tops for Education** - 1) clip box tops 2) send box tops to school (barrel is in the lobby on the reception desk) 3) our school earns cash (twice each year Box Tops will send The Glen a check worth 10\$ for each box top redeemed - so keep on clipping!) **The Box Tops for Education Marketplace** 1) sign up online boxtops4education.com 2) shop online (choose from quality stores like JCPenney and Lands' End) 3) our school earns cash. **The Box Tops for Education Visa Card** 1) apply by either calling 1-800-650-0235 or visit boxtops4education.com 2) shop using your Box Tops Visa Card 3) our school earns cash - a full 1% of every purchase made with the Box Tops Visa Card. Box Tops makes it easier to shop...all while making a difference for The Glen!

Kindergarten/Elementary Afterschool Program

Even though the weather sometimes stops us from going outside, that doesn't mean we can't have fun in after-school! Before Thanksgiving, we made birdfeeders out of bagels, vegetable shortening and birdseed. We named them Bird Donuts. Then during December, we made decorations out of salt dough. We made the dough, shaped it and cut it, and let it dry for about week. Then we painted our creations and hung them from yarn. They were beautiful—and unique! In January, we did a science experiment with the snow that prevented us from playing outside. We tested the melting ability of a few different substances. Our hypothesis was that the salt and water mixture would melt snow the best, but we found out that straight salt was the winner! (And did you know that baking soda will actually slow down the melting process? It was news to us!) Of course, we have been enjoying the mild winter by playing outside as much as possible, but we have more fun in store in case winter decides to return!



From the Primary Classes Educational Director



Transitions and Flexibility

There are many childhood transitions for young children to handle. They start early with the transitions from a bottle to a cup, from giving up a pacifier or a nap and, of course, from diapers to underwear!

Our children make transitions in our daily school routines from home to classroom, from classroom to naptime, from school to home. Some children make transitions easier than others. Children have different temperaments and handle transitions accordingly. An easy-going child might be able to handle multiple changes with no issues, but a child who is resistant to change might have to take the transition in slower steps.

Flexibility is a key component. Children need to see the ramifications of conflict and that they can resolve differences by reaching a compromise. They need to know that people who disagree can remain friends. As children learn to negotiate, they accept that they can't always get exactly what they want. Children who can look at revised plans or new situations in a positive way will be considered flexible to others and are easier to be around. Flexibility allows children to adjust to new places, new ideas, and new circumstances. Flexible children work well in groups and accommodate others, making them fun and easy to be with.

All of our students will be making a transition for the 2012-13 school year. Whether from Montessori primary to Montessori elementary or from our current location to our new building, or from Montessori to public school. Studies suggest that these changes can be managed very successfully. A recent research project in Milwaukee concluded that early Montessori education had a long term impact on later school performance, at the very least, students transitioned excellently on an academic level.

As parents, you can discover ways to help your child with new things and get advice for improving challenging areas by being in good communication with your child's teacher. Open communication with your child is also vital. Have frequent conversations with them about what they are feeling and experiencing. Encourage them to feel free to make plans with a potential new friend. Children who have been allowed to explore and discover themselves in the general freedom of a Montessori environment have got powerful tools to assist them. They have had daily practice in working cooperatively, negotiating with peers, being a leader or follower depending on the situation, and learning how to learn. The children develop self-reliance and dependability as they make decisions about what to work on and pace themselves on activities. They have experienced the Montessori emphasis for developing knowledge and awareness of the wonderful world around us. This awakens the natural human desire to know and understand and to develop internal motivations.

Our Montessori children are prepared for successful transitions.

Jeanine Thornton
Primary Program Educational Director



From the Elementary Educational Director

The Montessori elementary program is characterized by three prevailing themes: Cosmic Education, the awakening of the sensitive period for moral development and the child's need for community. This translates in the best of moments to an amazing curiosity, a heightened sense of justice and a desire to form nurturing and supportive relationships. During the most challenging of times it becomes a seemingly endless string of questions, a need to tattle for what seems like even the smallest infraction and a child's elevated concern for what his friends think (with little concern for what the adults in his life have said). In the elementary program at The Glen, the curriculum and routines are constructed to address these needs.

Cosmic Education is implemented in the Montessori elementary classroom by giving the universe to the child. The beginning of the universe is presented to the children at the very beginning of each school year in order to spark their interest. This spark is also meant to ignite the children's sense of their place in the greater universe and to instill a sense of gratitude for all that has come before so that we may have what we need today. This idea of the interconnectedness of things is also found in the Montessori elementary curriculum where nothing is taught in isolation, but instead presented in an integrated fashion.

Dr. Maria Montessori noted that the child of six years old has entered a sensitive period for moral order that must be nurtured in the same way that the younger child's sense of order requires a well-designed, prepared classroom environment. To aid children in developing during this period, classrooms need to provide regular problem-solving opportunities and the chance for children to explore rules and fairness in regular community meetings. These steps aid children in their development of justice, and they spill over into many other settings. In a 2006 study of Milwaukee public Montessori schools as compared to other schools with similar populations, researchers discovered that the Montessori students not only performed better on standardized measures of reading and math, but also that teachers reported the students engaged in more positive interactions on the playground and showed more social cognition and executive control (Lillard, 2006).

The community meetings that help in the elementary children's moral development also help them to feel more a part of the group and to become better invested in the success of all members of the classroom community. In a Montessori environment, where children have the freedom to move around and make choices, they are encouraged to forge deeper friendships and to rely on one another. Relying on one another gives them the opportunity for leadership, responsibility and self-perceived success. Respect is a cornerstone of every Montessori elementary classroom community as every form and type of contribution is welcomed and appreciated.

"We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity. This idea helps the mind of the child to become fixed, to stop wandering in an aimless quest for knowledge. He is satisfied, having found the universal center of himself with all things." (Montessori, 1989)

-Dr. Maria Montessori

Lillard, A and Else-Quest, N. (2006). The early years: evaluating Montessori education. *Science, volume 313 (5795), 1893-1894.*

Montessori, M. (1989). *To educate the human potential.* Oxford: Clío Press.

Hello From Classroom 7

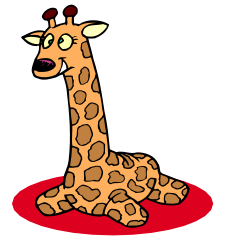
During the month of February, the children will be learning about the human body. The children will be taking an in-depth look at the different parts of our bodies; organs, bones, and muscles. Another important topic we will be discussing is how to take care of our bodies.

As a classroom we are very excited to welcome parents and families into the classroom on Fridays! We

welcome you to come and share an interest/talent with the children or to read aloud. Please sign up on the time sheet located outside the classroom door!

Need a good laugh? Often the children are the best source for this during our days! Jayden shared with us, "Louisiana! I thought it's name was 'lazy anna!'" Campbell

shared a joke, "What do you call a bunch of giraffes stopped at a red light?... "A Giraffic Jam".



Hope to see you all soon!

Lindsey Holland and Kayla Fader

Hello From Classroom 8

It's hard to believe January is over. We were so busy we didn't realize how fast it was going.

February brings the study of the human body and nutrition. We will be learning about our bones and organs as well as healthy foods and exercise.



We will also be learning about money. Through various works we will recognize pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters.

We will also learn how many it takes to make a dollar.

On February 10, the primary classes

will celebrate the 10th day of school. Hope everyone has a fun day.

Ms. Kepple & Mrs. Joanie

Room 2

Hello Everyone,

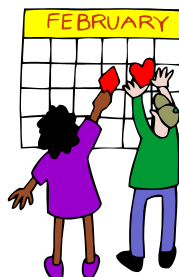
January has come and gone and we had so much fun learning all about mammals. We also celebrated Martin Luther King Day and Chinese New Year. We welcomed our new pet Min to the classroom. Thanks

to Mr. & Mrs. Davis (and Carson). February we will be learning about the human body. Please remember no Valentine's Day cards. We will do our own celebration! Also, if you have not been receiving our weekly emails, please email me a@ glen-

roomtwo@yahoo.com so you can keep up with our classroom news.

Thank you.

Room 2



News From The Toddler Classroom

Maria Montessori said...

"The child's need for order is one of the most powerful incentives to dominate his early life".

We have been very busy this month learning all about mammals. We have been busy using activities, hearing stories, singing songs and doing art works.

We have talked about the weather. There have been days when we

could not go outside due to the high winds or the cold or the snow. We do like looking out our big windows to see what is going on!

At the end of the month we celebrated the Chinese New Year. We colored dragons and made lanterns. We tasted chow mein noodles, they were a big hit, so much so that we decided to include them on our February snack calendar.

Thank you Ms. Erika for such a fun Parent Ed

Night. It was great to have such a large number of parents come and hear all our songs. Singing is therapeutic for the whole body, and gives practice in language. A child's musical taste is formed early in life, so provide an environment rich in beautiful music!



The Toddler Staff

Greetings From Classroom 9

Hello, Classroom 9 Families!

January was an exciting month. The weather was kind by providing us with many opportunities for outdoor play. We also learned a lot about mammals and their families.

During February we will have projects for Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day and president's



Day. We will not be handing out cards, but we do

have a special project and snack planned. We will also be learning about our bodies, exercise and good nutrition.

Please remember to stock your child's cubby with clothes and socks and to dress your child appropriately for the weather.

****Important Reminders****

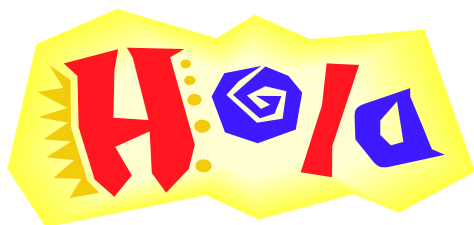
- Our work cycle begins at 8:30

AM.

- One of our goals is potty training. A number of your children are ready to begin. Please send in appropriate clothing. If you would like to discuss, please contact us.

Ms. Andrea and Ms. Colleen

Spanish



In January we worked on classifying objects according to their "formas" (shapes). We also enjoyed a few more felt board stories in

Spanish. This month and beginning next month we will also be taking songs learned in the classroom and singing them in Spanish as well.



ELEMENTARY- A FUN-FILLED DAY

The elementary class has been taking advantage of the cooler, wetter temperatures of January and February to introduce the units of yoga and dance in Physical Education class. The students have enjoyed both units.



"I like yoga because it's fun!"- Isabella Hartings

"I learned how to do the tree pose."- Ashley Good-Lang

"I thought it was very active and fun because we did very stretchy stretches."- Sarah Good-Lang

"I like doing dance in PE because we get to listen to music."-Hunter Stuckwisch

"Yoga helps me get strong."- Akshay Balaji

"I like the dance because we get to listen to really good songs and learn dance moves."- Morgan Sadlowe

"I think dance is really fun. And I really like the hedgehog position in yoga."-Clayton Dexter

"I like all the poses in yoga except plow position because it's really hard."- Jack Kelly

"I like yoga because I am really flexible."- Lucy Moran

"Yoga is my favorite because it gets you ready to go."-Juliette Vybiral

"In dance it takes a lot of energy and usually some steps are hard and you have to practice the steps that are hard. At the beginning it's really easy. It's easy because at the beginning there are a lot of simple steps. It's fun." - Aditi Srivasta



Enrichment Classes

In Elementary Art the month of January, we worked to finish our torn paper Snowmen collages and embellished them using sparkly glitter accents. The children also studied the form of the human face and using mirrors, created self portraits using colored pencils. The students were instructed to create their face exactly as they saw it, but could be creative with the backgrounds of their portraits. We hope you will visit our page on Artsonia.com to see our collection of artwork. It is amazing to see how much the children have created since the beginning of the school year!

In Science, we have been spending a lot of time working with magnets, magnetism, and static electricity. We have

explored all the different types of materials and whether they are magnetic or not. The students enjoyed making magnets move depending on which poles were facing each other. We even discussed and experimented with the magnetic poles of the earth by making our own compass from a needle. The most "shocking" class came when the children conducted a variety of experiments using static electricity! None of us will ever look at balloons or fluorescent lights the same way again! Be sure to ask you child about our "en-lightening" experiments!

Enrichment classes for the Primary grades had their usual break during the month of January, so we are excited that they have all started up for the Spring Term. We have so many exciting

art projects and science experiments planned!

In our Music classes in the Infants, Toddlers, and Primary grades we spent January singing and doing a variety of gross motor movement songs. The children enjoyed playing bells and working with rhythm sticks while singing. It was fun having our Infants, Toddlers, and Transition classes join together with their parents for a Pajama Jam Sing Along during our Parent Education night in January. It was so much fun getting to see the parents and children all singing and moving together!

Erika Pierce

Greetings From Room 5

Last month, we had a lot of fun learning and researching all about Mammals. Through literature, artworks, and class works, the children enjoyed discovering where these animals live, how they live, and what they eat. The older children enjoyed researching the animals of North America while the younger students explored the animals of the Polar Regions and North America.

We also learned about Chinese New Year! Along with listening to stories about Chinese New Year, the children made Chinese lanterns, folded paper to make red envelopes, and explored Chinese artifacts at the "beauty spot" in the classroom. A "beauty spot" is a desk filled with items that the children handle extra carefully.

The month of February is short but the activities are lengthy! We are studying the human body as well as celebrating various holidays. We learned about Groundhog's Day Did you know that this holiday originated with the German immigrants who came to Pennsylvania celebrating Candlemas Day, which is on February 2nd? The saying goes: If Candlemas Day is bright and clear, there will be two winters in the year. These early settlers thought that a smart animal like a groundhog could predict the weather. The people of Punxsutawney have been celebrating Groundhog Day for over 100 years and they think that they have the smartest groundhog around, Punxsutawney Phil!

We can't wait for the 100th Day of Learning, Valentine's Day, and Mardi Gras! It is through the holidays that we learn more about the cultures around us, in our house, our town, our country, and around the world. We are anxious to see who will get the baby from the King Cake!!

We would like to introduce the newest member of our classroom, Christopher! Chris is an afternoon student who is quickly making friends and fitting right in. We want to extend a warm welcome to Chris and his family to our classroom and to our school!

Warmest Regards,
Carolyn Kelly and Jeanine Thornton

GREATER PITTSBURGH

community
food bank

A member of Feeding America™



Thank you
all!

January 20, 2012

Nadia
Glen Montessori School
500 Huntington Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15202

Dear Nadia and Students,

On behalf of the seniors, children, and the hard working families who are able to access nutritious foods each day because of your support, I want to thank you for the 457 pounds of food you collected for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

While the Food Bank works to raise friends and funds to allow us to continue our important work, donations of food items are, and always have been, integral to our efforts to make food assistance services accessible to all people in need. We are especially grateful for your support in what everybody knows is a tough economic year. The Food Bank has been serving an average of 2,500 new households each month, so your support is especially critical and appreciated.

Many of the member agencies we support with food items to distribute to those in need are run by volunteers, and operate on small budgets. Food raised through drives like this one help Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank distribute more grocery items to more agencies across our service region, ultimately helping more people to access food assistance.

We often remind ourselves, and our supporters, to think of how life might be for the many thousands of people living in poverty, and those living on the edge of poverty, in southwestern Pennsylvania. No one who uses any of the 380 pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters we support wants to feed themselves and their families this way, but we will be there when they need us.

We are grateful for the contributions of schools like Glen Montessori School, and in fact, could not accomplish all that we do without this support. Thank you for your commitment to helping those in need.

Sincerely,


Patty VanDillen
Special Events & Food Drive Coordinator

In compliance with IRS rules governing charitable donations, we are informing you that no goods or services were provided to you in exchange for your donation. For more information, please contact Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank at (412) 460-3663 or visit www.pittsburghfoodbank.org.

1 North Linden Street • Duquesno, PA 15110 • (412) 460-3663 • Fax: (412) 460-0418
Reach us on the Internet at www.pittsburghfoodbank.org

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.

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