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October 2020 Primary Newsletter

EVENTS TO TAKE NOTE OF IN OCTOBER 2020

Friday, October 2nd: Gandhi's birthday. No school.

Wednesday, October 7th: Peace lessons start

Monday, October 12th: Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day

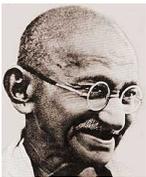
Friday, October 16th: Optional parent Zoom meeting with classroom staff

Friday, October 23rd: United Nations Day. Minimum day. School ends at 12:00 noon.

Monday, October 26th: Parent-teacher conferences for **new** students. Minimum day.
School ends at 12:00 noon.

Friday, October 30th: Halloween celebration

GANDHI'S BIRTHDAY



We will honor Gandhi's birthday on **Friday, October 2nd**. There will be no school. Please take the time to discuss the idea of nonviolence as a preferable way to resolve differences with your family.

for peaceful conflict resolution; it helps to create a more nurturing environment with more supportive, interdependent relationships.

Our full Peace Curriculum, including songs, is available on our web site in the "Parent Corner." You may also purchase a bound hard copy book of the Peace Curriculum for \$25.

PEACE LESSONS START



On **Wednesday, October 7th** we will begin our Wednesday morning peace lesson. Every Wednesday, all children will need to be in the classroom in circle by 9:00 am, so please try to get here on time. If you will be late to school on any Wednesday, please do not come to school until 9:30 am after the peace lesson is over. The classroom staff will be unable to accept late children until the peace lesson has ended.

COLUMBUS/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY



We will acknowledge the discovery of North and South America by the Europeans and discuss its impact on the indigenous people who were living here on **Monday, October 12th**.

Our Education for Peace Curriculum is a pragmatic, concrete way to prepare children

ZOOM MEETING WITH TEACHERS



The classroom staff will be available every other Friday (except for minimum days and school closures) via Zoom if you need to "drop

in" and discuss anything with them. We hope this helps keep the lines of communication open.

As each conversation is private, one family at a time will be admitted from the waiting room. You may drop in anytime during that hour; please be patient while you wait your turn.

In October, there will be one meeting on **Friday, October 16th from 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm.** See login information below.

Primary 3:
Meeting ID: 525 227 2323. Passcode: 1170

Primary 4:
Meeting ID: 290 171 3373. Passcode: 1170

UNITED NATIONS DAY



Maria Montessori believed it was important for even very young children to become aware that all people have similar needs,

but may satisfy them in different ways, depending on what is available to them within their environment. She believed that imparting this information to children is essential if we are to evolve into a more accepting and peaceful species. For that reason, we include "Peoples of the World" and "Fundamental Needs of People" materials in our classrooms.

We also celebrate United Nations Day. Although all of us now live in the United States of America, and many of our families have done so for generations, all of the people presently living in North America, aside from Native Americans, originally

came from a different continent and followed customs from different countries.

We will be acknowledging and enjoying the richness of this cultural diversity on United Nations Day -- **Friday, October 23rd.** **Please note that this will also be a minimum day; school will end at 12:00 noon.**

For United Nations Day, the children come to school dressed in the traditional garb of the country of one of their ancestors. If



you are having trouble coming up with a costume, please speak with us. We will help you. All the children need to wear a special costume on United Nations Day. We will be learning songs, greetings, and phrases from each country that is represented.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES



Although we are happy to discuss any issues that come up during the school year at any time, we hold formal

conferences twice a year. For parents of new students, we schedule our first conference after the first six weeks of school, so that we have an opportunity to touch base with one another and review how your child has made the adjustment to our school, answer questions, and address any concerns.

These conferences for all **new students are scheduled for Monday, October 26th.** A sign-up sheet will be emailed to all parents of new students.

Please note that this will also be a minimum day; school will end at 12:00 noon.

CREDIT TOWARDS VOLUNTEER TIME

How many minimum days are in October?
The answer is found in this newsletter, so please read it thoroughly!

The first two people to send an e-mail to the office – office@oneworldmontessori.org - with the correct answer will win two hours of volunteer time credit for this school year.

HALLOWEEN



On **Friday, October 30th** we will celebrate Halloween with special activities in the morning, including arts and crafts and trick-or-treating.

Costumes: The children and staff will be coming to school in costume. Halloween can be a lot of fun for children, as they love to dress up and make believe. However, it can sometimes be frightening for a child to see familiar people dressed so differently. We would like all the children to enjoy it this year, so we are including an outline of our celebration and some guidelines we have set up for their costumes. Because it is hard for children at this age to wait, and because we want to be sure that the half-day children can participate, our celebration will be in the morning. The children should come to school in costume, but send a change of clothes as we will be changing back into our normal selves after the celebration. Please leave all accessories that go with the costume at home (e.g., handcuffs for policemen).

When choosing a costume with your child, make sure that it is comfortable and allows for freedom of movement. Make sure that it does not limit or obscure their field of vision. We do not allow masks at school, as they often frighten the little ones and obscure vision. Weapons are also not permitted (even though they might seem to go with the costume), and will be taken away. Costumes that are likely to promote violent

or threatening behavior (e.g., ninjas, Superman, Spiderman, etc.) are also not permitted. We also would like to avoid costumes of cartoon characters (e.g., Cinderella, Belle, etc.). We cannot stress this strongly enough! If children come to school dressed in such costumes, we will remove them and give the children some other costume to wear. If you are having trouble coming up with non-violent costumes, come see us, we'll help!

Be wary of costumes that tie around the neck; they tend to rip very easily, and if the cape gets caught on something, a child can choke.

BIRTHDAYS



Before your child's birthday, please see one of his/her teachers so that you can schedule a day to celebrate at school. The celebrations are at 11:45 am. On this day, please send your child's photos to school – one at birth and one picture for each year of his/her life – for a timeline.

At this time, we are unable to invite parents to the birthday celebrations. We will be sure to let you know when parents are welcome back into the classroom to celebrate with us.

Please do not send treats to school on your child's birthday. We will provide something appropriate for the children. Instead, we would greatly appreciate a donation of something for the classroom in your child's honor – a book for the library, a CD of music, or a contribution toward the items on a classroom wish list. Please see your child's teacher for suggestions.

If you are planning a party at home and wish to include some of your child's classmates, please extend invitations via telephone, e-mail or mail. **WE WILL NOT ALLOW INVITATIONS TO BE PASSED OUT**

AT SCHOOL. This policy reduces the possibility of hurt feelings among those not invited. A class list with parent contact information is available from the office.

Please encourage your child not to discuss private birthday celebrations at school in front of others who have not been invited.

ABSENCES AT SCHOOL



We would like to remind you to call the school if your child will be absent for any reason. If your child is ill, please be sure to let us know the diagnosis (if there is

one), as we are required by law to distribute exposure notices for certain communicable illnesses.

SIGNING IN AND OUT AT SCHOOL REMINDER

Remember that your child/ren need to be signed in and out every day.

Parents/caregivers need to write their complete **first and last names legibly on this form, as well as the time when dropping off and picking up their child.**

This procedure is **REQUIRED BY LAW** to insure the security of each child, so please remember to follow through! If a child is not checked in/out properly, we can be fined by Licensing. If this occurs, this fine will be passed on to you.

Failure to abide by this policy (forgetting to write your complete, legible name or to indicate the time) will result in a charge of \$5 per child and per occurrence.

SOILED CLOTHING/BEDDING



All children have ONE washable tote bag to bring wet and soiled clothes home. This bag must be washed every time you are taking wet clothes

home and returned to school the next day. If we do not receive it back, you will be charged \$5 for a replacement bag, which will be billed on your next statement.

All children who nap at school have ONE large washable tote bag to carry their bedding home every Friday. If your child has an accident during the week and we have to send the bedding home, please make sure to also wash the bag.

We will also provide each napping child with a washable, waterproof pad to use during nap time. If your child has an accident during his/her nap, we will send it home for you to wash. The nap pad needs to be returned to school the following day. If you do not return your child's waterproof pad, you will be charged \$13 for a replacement.

CLOTHING REMINDER



We would like to remind you about our “no characters” policy, as stated in the Primary handbook (page 10, section 27):

Clothing with super heroes, Pokémon, violent motifs of any kind as well as other cartoon characters (e.g., Disney, Thomas the Train, Sesame Street characters, etc.) are also not allowed. Shoes with lights are a distraction and are not permitted. Children will be given other clothing to wear if they come unacceptably clad.

Please note that this policy includes anything brought to school, including shoes, lunch boxes, blankets for napping, etc.

PARKING LOT

Please do not leave bags or anything of value (especially purses) in your car – even if you will only be at the school for a few minutes to pick up or drop off your child. Although it has not happened recently, we unfortunately have had thefts in the past.

LUNCH REMINDER



If your child stays for lunch, s/he should bring a lunch in a labeled lunch box or bag. Be sure to include all utensils. Siblings should not share a lunchbox or any

containers/utensils.

We do not allow cartoon characters or action figures on the lunchbox. Plain boxes or those with generic pictures are required. When using a container, make sure that you label both the container AND the lid.

Suggestions for lunch include sandwich squares, carrot sticks, fruits, yogurt (no gogurt!), cheese, celery with cream cheese. Due to our COVID-19 health and safety requirements, **we are unable to refrigerate or heat up** any food at this time. Please be sure to include an ice pack in your child's lunch box and/or pack warm items in a thermos.

We do not allow junk food or sweet drinks (e.g., soda, sweetened juice, chocolate milk, cookies, candy, etc.), as well as any tree nut or peanut containing products.

As part of One World's commitment to sustainability and waste reduction, we encourage parents to pack lunches that are as close to waste-free as possible. Here are some suggestions for reducing the amount of waste in students' lunches:

Pack lunches in a reusable lunch box or bag rather than a paper or plastic bag. Plastic

or glass food containers cut down on the need for disposable plastic bags, which are difficult to recycle and therefore wind up in our landfills. Another alternative to Ziploc bags for smaller items are reusable fabric sandwich and snack bags, which can be purchased or even made if you're handy with a sewing machine.

PEANUT BUTTER ALTERNATIVES



Our classrooms are peanut and tree nut-free environments this year. There are alternatives to peanut butter at your local market -- sun butter and Soynut butter.

We thank you for not sending peanuts and tree nuts in your child's lunch.

NOVEMBER PREVIEW

Wednesday, November 11th: Veterans' Day. No school.

Friday, November 13th: Parent-Teacher conferences for returning students. No school.

Wednesday, November 25th: Minimum day. School ends at 12:00 pm.

Thursday and Friday, November 26th and 27th: Thanksgiving break. No school.