

Summit Private School Newsletter

November 2009
Volume 2, Issue 2

John M. Mike, M.D., Headmaster
Susan L. Mike, M.D., Vice Head
Ashley Charles, Business Administrator

Megan Pflueger, Assistant Head
Jennifer Bueller, Admin. Assistant
Xiomara Orue, Editor



Allie from Ms. Cindy's class washing her hands with a smile!

What an amazing month!

The Fall Fair was an amazing success! Everyone had such a wonderful time and significant funds were raised thanks to the community effort! The school and PTA received \$4,311.78 each, the teachers made \$630.55 from the Snack Center and the ticket sales brought in \$556 for charity! This was all do to the outstanding guidance from the Fall Fair Committee combined with the generosity of auction donations & sponsorships, baked goods, snacks, and an unbelievable cooperative effort of volunteer parents, staff and children. We THANK YOU ALL from the bottom of our heart. You can definitely say that our Summit children are loved and that they are being raised in a devoted community.

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Michael Musoke, our visiting Aquaponics expert, shared with the Upper Elementary students some of the chemistry and biology involved in maintaining the tilapia and hydroponic plants in our system on campus. They learned about measuring and balancing pH levels, how bacteria help convert nitrates to nitrites and ammonia to ammonium and how low levels of iron affect the plants. The students were rattling off elements and chemical compounds like high schoolers! The class has also been blessed with some fantastic cultural geography lessons with Marjorie Wessel. They are enjoying discussions on various countries of Africa in a very personal and relevant manner. Thank you so much Marjorie for your contribution.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 11/3: Parent Education Night 6:30-8:30 P.M.
Topic: **Practical Life**
- ◆ 11/10: PTA Meeting cancelled: Next **TBA**
- ◆ 11/12: Teachers' Luncheon: 11:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.
- ◆ 11/18: Thanksgiving Feast 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.***all families welcome***
- ◆ 11/18: Day of Giving with YAC -3:30 P.M.-5:30 P.M.
- ◆ 11/24: Last Day of School before Thanksgiving Break
- ◆ 11/25-27: Thanksgiving Break- **SCHOOL CLOSED**
- ◆ 11/30: Return from Thanksgiving Break
- ◆ 11/30:Book Fair Begins
Tentative

Throughout the school students have been blessed with cultural enrichments. Ms. Lauren's class enjoyed Lenka Smidbersky singing folk songs from the Czech Republic and adding another language to their "Happy Birthday" repertoire. Several classes enjoyed studies of apple varieties with the smell of homemade apple sauce in the air. I loved being served homemade ginger cookies and warm apple cider by Abigail in Ms. Crystal's class. Inge Behrens, Nina's grandmother, came in and enriched the children with her paintings and water color techniques, thanks to the PTA. View her work at www.ingebenhrens.com. The elementary children continue to swim on Fridays as our "record breaking temperatures" continue. Thank you Elyse Burke for your time!

In November, we are so pleased to have our Thanksgiving Feast and YAC Feast. Kindergarten and Elementary students can sign up to help us with the YAC Feast, where our students serve their students a Thanksgiving dinner and then we share time together. This is my favorite service project of the year and you will want to experience it.

Finally I would like to thank Dr. Mike for nominating me and the Summit family for supporting the many service projects and curriculum enrichments that we do at the school, which together earned me the honor of receiving the Soroptomist International 2009 Woman of Distinction for Health and Education. Soroptomist International is a worldwide organization for women in management and professions, working through service projects to advance human rights and the status of women. It has relations with several UN branches. I am thankful that our school received this positive recognition, since it truly was a school-wide effort.

Gratefully yours,
Dr. Susan

Ms. April and Ms. Johanna

The toddlers welcome the fall season. The children are doing a lot of practical life lessons, pasting, painting, and learning about pumpkins and fall leaves. We have added "windy" to our morning conversations about the weather, a nice change from our everyday "sunny." A special thanks to the P.T.A. for ordering new materials for the classroom. The children have learned to use several new instruments like clackers, shakers, small cymbals, the triangle, tambourines and many more. The children are also following music through dance and the use of scarves. Happy Birthday to Jordan Deratto, she turned three on October 18.

First off, we would like to thank the Berlin's, Whitehurst's, and Sussman's for their generous donations toward the beautiful baskets auctioned at the fall fair. It was a joy to see our toddlers and parents enjoying the festivities. We also want to thank our room parent Francis Boechat for making the baskets. Thanks to all of the parents who volunteered, baked and helped to make the fair a great success and fun time for all! Congratulations to Francis Boechat for winning The Craftiest Pumpkin in the painting contest. *Ms. April and Ms. Johanna*

Ms. Norma and Ms. Irene

Greetings to all. We have welcomed the following new students to our classroom: Cruz Afonso, Lucas Toha, and Zachary Schacter. Thank you to all the parents who contributed to the Fall Fair. It was a success! Thanks to our room moms for all the work they did. On October 28th, we had our fall party celebration. Thank you for all your help so that this party would be possible. All the students are adapting very well to the classroom environment. The older children are helping the younger ones with their lessons to help them integrate faster into the group. Some of the lessons this month include the Continents, the animals that inhabit them, forms, the alphabet in song, numbers and art. Please try to make it to the Parent Ed. nights that are offered every month. In these classes you'll be able to see pictures and see how your children work in the classroom. The next Topic is Practical Life, and it is one of the most important areas for the students in our classroom and the toddler program. Thank you! I look forward to seeing you there! *Ms. Norma and Ms. Irene*

Ms. Cindy and Ms. Nena

Fall is finally here, we have had some cool days which we have really enjoyed. This past month we had our Fall Fair which was a lot of fun for all. We would like to thank our parents who contributed to and put our auction basket together as well as to all those who volunteered time and goods to the event. We celebrated Halloween and fall in our class on Friday with a craft day and treasure hunt. The children had a great time. The treasure hunt is always a highlight to this day. Another big thank you to our volunteers. During the next couple of weeks we will be focusing on Thanksgiving. Our Thanksgiving feast will be held in November and our class is making our Thanksgiving T-Shirts. This has been a tradition in our classroom over several years. The children will be wearing their special "turkey shirts" at the Thanksgiving Feast.

Ms. Crystal and Ms. Eileen

Fall has finally arrived! October is here and I have to say I am really happy about it. October always makes me feel like I made it through another summer and the cooler weather is in sight. I love to see how all of the children play differently when the weather is cooler and how they are so much more focused on their work. The cooler weather also allows us to open our outside environment more often. This work area, right outside our door, includes water activities and other "practical life" activities. The children really enjoy doing their work outside. I was very excited to plan **October's activities**. Fall gave us a lot of opportunities to enrich the children's vocabulary Autumn words including: nature, weather, fruits, vegetables, colors, shapes, etc. It also allowed for the concept of changing seasons to flow in our classroom through activities such as matching and gluing fall leaves, counting and matching apples and pumpkins, sorting different fall objects and our favorite sampling apple cider with ginger snaps! Thank You all for your continued support. Peacefully yours *Ms. Crystal*

Toddlers and Pre-primary



Kennedy from Ms. April's class working on a leaf.



Ms. Johanna, Ms. April, Alyssa, Birthday Girl Jordan and Giuliana.



Kevin from Ms. Cindy's class working in the garden.



Allie and Joey from Ms. Cindy's Class working in the garden.



Jack in Ms. Crystal's class working.

NEWS from the
SUMMIT
MONTESSORI
P.T.A.

After our successful and productive first general meeting held on 10/5/09, your newly elected PTA board has been hard at work fulfilling the teacher "Wish Lists" and gearing up for this school year!

To date, the PTA has been a contributing sponsor to the BBQ at the Summit Family Fall Fair, sponsored visiting artist Inge Behrens (Doris Behrens' mom - www.ingebehrens.com) for Ms. Rachael, purchased a new computer for Ms. Cindy and provided much needed supplies for Ms. Jayne and the gardening program. We're looking forward to the Book Fair, Thanksgiving Feast and Winterfest . . . stay tuned to your email for updates on events and fundraising!

Please join us for the next general meeting on . . . date to be announced! If you haven't yet paid your PTA dues, you can drop a check in the PTA mailbox located in the front office. You may also directly contact any one of the board members for more information: President - Kim Mareira (kmareira@aol.com); Vice President - Betsy Silverfine (bsilverfine@comcast.net); Treasurer - Marjorie Wessel (Marjorie.wessel@gmail.com); and Secretary - Suzanne Materia (suzymateria@gmail.com).

Ms. Lourdes and Ms. Shelley

We have studied fish this month. First, we were introduced to our own class fish which we named together by brainstorming suitable names for our new Beta-Fish. Among some of the selections were; Fish, Hunter, Blueberry, Bluebirdie, and Sarah. The children cast their votes by using their name tags, and the final vote went to: Hunter. We discussed the anatomy of the fish, and what separates the fish from other types of animals, and learned about different types of fish and their habits. We found the sea horse to be the most interesting of all fish. We want to thank all the parents, families, and staff that supported and contributed to such a successful and enjoyable Fall Fair!

Ms. Margy and Ms. Deirdre

Ms. Margy's class is looking forward to their first cooking class. After a spirited class meeting brainstorming ideas for what to cook, in the students journals they wrote their three top choices explaining why they made that choice. The top choice for the class was Halloween cookies which will be their cooking class project. The children have five more cooking classes to look forward to throughout the year. In our now much quieter classroom the students begin their day with DOL (Daily Oral Language) in which they make editing corrections, complete sentences, and the third graders define words from the context of a sentence and make analogies. They read the work aloud to a teacher. The children also do a morning worksheet, which varies from "mad minutes" to reading comprehension. They then move onto their language and math lessons. Silent reading is frequently done after recess. Afternoons are devoted to projects, research, and lessons. Thanks to all of you that gave both time and contributions to the Summit Fall Fair. It was great fun on Saturday!

Ms. Lauren and Ms. Jade

The month of October has proven to be another exciting month. The class had a great time exploring autumn and all the different aspects of the season. We all had a fun time with the apple lessons. The children washed the apples and labeled them, then we talked about the concept of a Still Life and they all had an opportunity to draw their own. They each had a creative interpretation on the basket full of various apples. After that, we had a tasting lesson. We made observations about the different qualities of each piece of fruit, and then tasted them. Yum!! The children then colored in the picture of the apple they enjoyed the most and added it to our chart. It was close but it seemed the Red Delicious was the favorite. We also had an opportunity to explore leaves from across the ocean. The children had a fun time, smelling them and trying to identify them using our botany cabinet. We ended the study with creating leaf rubbings. They were amazed with the beautiful shapes they were able to design. We all made a treasure bag to collect our treasures that were found on the playground. It obviously was a crowd pleaser. Thanks to all the parents who have been able to participate in reading, singing and donating supplies to the classroom. If you would like to experience this or share an adventure with the class, please let me know. Our schedule is very flexible and it can take from 5 minutes to 20. Your child would love to see you here!!!! We will see you next month!!!

Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Stephanie

October was an exciting month in our classroom. We went on a creative field trip to Art and Seas in Boynton Beach where the students (and teachers) had the chance to decorate pottery. We had two cooking lessons presented by parents. Christina Isabal taught us how to make ice cream – a very messy process, and Elyse Burke helped us create crepes. Our class wanted to participate and not just attend the Fall Fair, so the students decorated pumpkins for the pumpkin contest. We received an award for Best Class Pumpkins, which the students are very proud of. Between all of these events, the students have been working diligently on their lessons and creating beautiful work.

Ms. Ann and Ms. Maria

We've had a very busy and productive October. Our children very much enjoyed "The Big Bang" lesson, after having heard a number of other creation stories from around the world. Our trip to the ceramics studio was most enjoyable. We saw tremendous creativity in the pieces the children painted. The bus almost left without Miss Ann because she was so consumed in her project! Our Halloween luncheon was a great success. Thanks for all of your contributions. We want to thank Katia for coming in to do Halloween crafts with our class. Flory, a special thanks to you for orchestrating our party, the teachers' luncheon and of course for the Fall Fair basket and all of your work on the Fall Fair. Kelli, we want to thank you and your committee for a wonderful Fall Fair. You did a superb job. Have a Happy Halloween everyone. *Miss Ann and Miss Maria*



Mr. Sesame, Ms. Angela and Ms. Giulia

Happy October to all our families and friends. This has been an exciting month for us here in the upper elementary. Thank you to Ms. Chris for chaperoning our trip to the library and all our parents for their support through the year so far. In the classroom, our class has continued to learn about the Kingdom of Plants and we are looking forward to exploring the Vital Functions of Plants next. In our language work, we have been exploring the function of words, preparing for our upcoming writing workshop. Our older students have been working with Sentence Analysis and Grammar Symbolization as well. Our students have been working with the new Albanesi math and language materials, using work plans and working to master concepts presented. Our class has also enjoyed learning about the history of our Earth and our place on this beautiful planet. This year, we are focusing on our human culture and how we have developed through time. Our Aquaponics Lab is continuing to flourish. The lettuce and greens are growing and so are the tilapia fish. Pretty soon we will have to harvest some of these fish and have a special Aquaponic Fish Fry. Fall Festival was a great success and we thank all our parents for their contributions. What a fun day for the kids and adults! Have a safe end to your October celebrations and a great November coming.

Mr. Sesame, Ms. Angela and Ms. Giulia



Dr. Mike with UE teaching Chemistry and Aquaponics



Hannah, Jordan & Antonio observing the fish

Library and Garden - Ms. Jayne

From the Library: Did you know that the Summit Library has 5,382 volumes? That is quite an accomplishment for a school our size. Please stop in and take a look around and see why everyone is talking about the Summit School Library! A big thank you to all the families who have donated books thus far this year. **From the Garden:** Our soil is ready! The temperature is beginning to drop! We are ready to plant! The upper and lower elementary have already begun planting tomatoes, broccoli and impatiens. Ten flats of flowers have been donated by BRAD'S BEDDING OF DELRAY. We are extremely grateful to them for their generosity. Our gardens are beginning to spring to life. **NEEDED PLEASE:** Does anyone have an old wagon they no longer need? We need to transport buckets of our nutrient rich water from the aquaponic farm to the preschool and upper elementary gardens on the opposite side of the campus. THANK YOU.



Ms. Lauren's students planting broccoli.



Adding enriched soil to Ms. Lourdes' garden.

Specials

Art - Ms. Rachael

CYBER NEWS FROM THE COMPUTER LAB

The students have been eager and very motivated to learn in their computer classes at Summit School so far this year. All lower and upper elementary computer classes are currently divided into one part of the period on keyboarding and one part on appropriate grade level computer skills and software. The lower elementary k-2 is learning keyboarding using "Kid Keys k-2" software. They also spend class time on critical thinking, early literacy, math and language arts programs. Grade 3 and the upper elementary have been learning keyboarding using the program "Type to Learn 3". The third grade is also learning word processing skills. The upper elementary has been learning advanced internet research skills. The unit consists of the following lessons: 1. What are the different types of websites e.g. .com, .gov, .edu, .org etc. 2. How to evaluate a website for reliability and validity. 3. How to refine internet searches using the Boolean expressions AND OR and NOT. We look forward to a great year in computer class.

Update on After School Pottery

We have had a great start to our after school pottery enrichment classes where "hand building" is the way to go!!!. The groups this year have been smaller and this has enabled me to give the children individual attention. They've already made pinch pots (thumb pots) and have worked with coils and with slabs. We've made animal sculptures and each child made an awesome octopus. The children are enthusiastic and there are many more exciting projects planned for the coming sessions. Please stop by the Summit office to see the octopus photos.

Miss Lois

Summit Private School

A Montessori Environment
3881 N.W. 3rd Ave.
Boca Raton, Florida 33431
(561) 338-5020

We're on the Web!
www.summitschools.com

This month was great fun in the art room. We enjoyed our visiting artist, Ms. Inge Behrens who was sponsored by our PTA! Ms. Inge is Nina Neely's grandmother. You can view her work on her website: www.ingebehrens.com Ms. Inge shared her work with all the children and demonstrated how she sketches flowers and leaves. She also gave a watercolor demonstration. The children were inspired by her work and seemed to have a great time painting their own flowers. We thank Ms. Inge for spending time with us! Kindergarten practiced drawing circles and making circle art. They also enjoyed creating underwater fish scenes as well. Next we will be creating flower sculptures. Lower elementary created underwater fish scenes as well. Our next project will be to create gratitude decorations for Thanksgiving. Half of upper elementary created copper foil masks. Students were given a lesson on the many different reasons different cultures use masks and we looked at several different mask styles. The class sketched masks on paper and then traced their favorite one on the copper foil. The masks were then mounted on black cardboard and the students used wire, beads and feathers to further decorate their masks. The other half of upper elementary worked on recycled art. This is always a favorite project for students. They design their creation from egg cartons, cardboard and boxes then cover their project with paper mache and paint. Look for these creations to come home soon.

Elementary Spanish - Ms. Simy

We have had an excellent start in Spanish since my arrival this year and the children are enjoying every second of their Spanish class. The lower elementary students are learning about food and the different meals, animals and the family. Classes are implemented with games, vocabulary bingos and various activities including introduction to reading, coloring, writing and crosswords among others. The upper elementary is having similar activities with a higher level of difficulty and it is my intention to include among their activities several computer programs to develop further approach to the language. As this is the Spanish Heritage Month they are also going to learn a little bit about Spain. I am also happy to announce that we have just started a new class for advanced children only conducted in Spanish. During this time the children practice conversation, reading comprehension and use of the language. This is just the beginning! Please follow up for more great news about our Spanish class! *Ms. Simy*

Music and Pre-Primary Spanish - Ms. Xiomara

October has been a busy month. Members of Jr. Band and Band performed at the Fall Fair and did a great job! Ensemble and Orchestra continue to practice their pieces for the Holiday Program which is coming in just under 2 months. Jr. Orchestra is working on learning their notes to be able to make an appearance at the Holiday Program. Congratulations to Martina Cavard and Alexandra Patels who have earned the lead roles as "Marty" and "Allie" for our Holiday Program which is titled "A Holiday Moosical". Everyone is excited as the days get cooler and the feelings of the "Holidays" are in the air. A **big thank you** to parents who have signed up to donate a music chair to the music department. These chairs will help the students have good posture. If you are interested in donating one of these needed chairs, please stop by the music room and sign up! In the world of Pre-primary Spanish, the students are learning and reviewing the parts of the face, colors, numbers and members of the family. The students are also learning how to sing songs in Spanish. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving! *Ms. Xiomara*

N.B. Contributions for the Summit Newsletter can be sent to msxiomara@summitschools.com
Please visit our web page to view Newsletter Supplements