

# Summit Private School Newsletter

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Rosalie and Olivia with their mom Marjorie on the first day of school.

## Hello Summit Families and Welcome to our first Summit Newsletter of this academic year!

We are off to a busy and wonderful start. We are enjoying the amazing work and sense of community that is already developing in the classrooms. We had our first school-wide assembly so the students could participate in the **"Sing Peace Around the World" campaign** in honor of the United Nations' International Day of Peace. We joined over 80,000 students from around the world who sang "Light a Candle for Peace". You can visit the blog and see our entry at [www.singpeacearoundtheworld.blogspot.com](http://www.singpeacearoundtheworld.blogspot.com). The Upper Elementary class is learning about **Aquaponics**. The system was built on campus to help the students learn about growing a sustainable food source of organic vegetables and tilapia so they can serve humanity by duplicating it in any developing area. **This is an example of putting our academic knowledge to good use, taking chemistry, biology, entrepreneurial skills and global awareness (from the MMUN experience and beyond) and adding compassion helps us to take action to reduce poverty and starvation.** Also, the Lower Elementary students are learning about the process and the pre-primary students are visiting the area on campus with wide open eyes of amazement. The **"Let's Be Friends" -making friends and anti-bullying curriculum** is being facilitated with all of the Elementary students to help them develop friendships, honor how special they are and for the 2nd -3rd and the 4th -6th graders helping them to identify bullying, report bullying and learn techniques on how to deal with it. The students have really gotten into these weekly lessons and enjoy participating. We are learning a lot from each other.

**We are very grateful to Parks Tae Kwon Do Federation**, who has offered their services so that our children can participate in a character development program and earn the school's **Scholarship Fund over \$2,400**. Having given over \$95,000 in scholarships this year, we truly appreciate this generous service and your participation. It's a wonderful program and our children are enjoying it. Speaking of generosity and gratitude, **we want to thank our wonderful community that came to Ms. Margy's and the Christian Mammarella family's aid** when they needed help. They have asked us to thank everyone who contributed and to express their gratitude for the overwhelming outpouring of love and support. **We would also like to thank the Fall Fair Committee** who has been working diligently since this summer to make this an outstanding and fun event for all of our families. The cohesive, energetic and supportive work of the Fall Fair committee, in collaboration with the PTA, administration, teachers and parents has been inspiring. Please see the signup sheets outside your child's classroom and check your emails on how you can volunteer.

**Service plans for the ensemble and possibly orchestra and band** to perform in retirement communities, for charitable events and possibly for children or adults who are ill and in need of some uplifting music to soothe their souls is in the works. If you have any connections or ideas we would love to hear from you.

The Elementary students are enjoying swimming on Fridays once a month, thanks to Elyse Burke, Anyce's mom in Ms. Jennifer's class, volunteering her time. Thanks Elyse! The recent Upper Elementary field trip to Scripps was an absolutely fantastic and amazing experience for the children and parents. We were the first 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade class they have ever had on a Scripps campus. We now have students who want to become scientist and work at Scripps. Our Town Hall Mtg went well and we received some great feedback. Many thanks to all who participated. Watch your emails for a recap of the agenda and discussion. We have much to be grateful for in only a month and we have more to look forward to in the months ahead. Enjoy your child's class entry and the photos that are shared.

Gratefully yours,  
*Drs. John and Susan Mike*

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### Upcoming Events

- ◆ 10/6: Parent Education Night 6:30-8:30 P.M.  
Topic: Intro to the Montessori Philosophy
- ◆ 10/7-9: Individual Picture Retakes
- ◆ 10/13: Boca Speech & Hearing Testing: Pre-Primary & Elementary
- ◆ 10/15: Teachers' Luncheon: 11:30-1:30 P.M.
- ◆ 10/16: Teacher Work Day - **Classrooms Closed**
- ◆ 10/17: Fall Fair Costume Parade 1:00-5:00 P.M.
- ◆ 10/20: Conferences for Pre-Primary **12:00 P.M. Dismissal**

## Toddlers



Trey (above) and Ari at work in Ms. April's class.



(above) Ms. Norma and Ms. Irene with their toddler class. (below) Annelise working with flowers on a lesson.

## First Day of School



Ms. Cindy and Ms. Nena with students Juliana, Ava and Madeline on the first day of school.

## Ms. April and Ms. Johanna

The first month of school has been exciting. Our toddlers have transitioned into our new beautiful classroom nicely. They especially love our large motor room where they are able to see outside. They are learning many new lessons, while enjoying art projects, reading books, singing songs and sharing with their new friends. We have started to learn about the solar system. So far, we have introduced the children to the sun and moon. We want to thank our community helpers, Jacob, Sam, Annick, Amy, and Hannah too! The children love it when the boys come to spend time with them and the girls have been very helpful with setting up the nap room. We are looking forward to the special year ahead with a great group of children and their families. *Ms. April and Ms. Johanna*

## Ms. Norma and Ms. Irene

Thanks to all of you for your support when I had my surgery. Now that I am in the classroom again, I've had the opportunity to spend two weeks with my new friends. We've had some very good moments together as we are all getting know each other, and I foresee that we will have a great school year together. I want to remind you that this is a very important year for your children and you will see many changes in the months ahead. Let us have patience with them and let us remember that they are little workers that are doing their lessons on "automatic". The children are like little "sponges" that are absorbing everything. This school year we are going to focus on what is most important for toddlers- independence, internal and external order and extending their concentration. I also want to thank Ms. Irene and Ms. Jo for doing a great job while I was recuperating. "Gracias" "Girls, you are the best!" I also want to thank my Room Mothers who are doing a wonderful job with the classroom.

## Ms. Cindy and Ms. Nena

We have had a great start to our school year. It has been wonderful to see our returning students jump right back in and get back to the lessons and our new students are quickly becoming acclimated and experiencing the Montessori environment and all the wonderful lessons it has to offer. These past weeks the children have been learning all about families and sharing information about their favorite things. We had a wonderful turnout to our breakfast on Friday. It is great to share some time together and get to know everyone a little better. The children love to have their parents come and visit the class. Ms. Nena and I would like to thank the PTA for the monies that they allocated to our class. This gave us an opportunity to purchase a laptop which we will be able to use in the classroom. A special thank you to Marjorie W. for taking the time to run around and buy the computer for us. We would also like to thank Lisa B. for donating a printer that we can use with the computer. During the past few weeks we have celebrated several birthdays. They are Daniela (5), Emily (5), Ava (4), Joey (4), Abby (5), Kalle (4) and Kevin (3). We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Birthday.

## Ms. Crystal and Ms. Eileen

It feels good to have the first month under our belts. The children have settled nicely and we are getting into a good routine. The other day I sat back for a minutes and just watched the classroom. I was amazed at what I saw .children quietly working alone, children nicely working together, old helping young and even young helping old. After only a few weeks we are becoming a "family" I know many of you are curious about what going on in the room a key principal of the classroom is the multi-age classroom. We know that children progress at different rates in different areas. Providing a two to five year span of materials and activities allows each child to work at the pace and level best suited for their individual interests and abilities and lets each child find peers with whom the child can share his or her interests. The younger children have role models in the older children, and the older children acquire additional confidence by being the classroom elders. "Teaching" or caring for a younger child is an excellent way to consolidate one's own learning. The Kindergarten children take great pride in being the leaders of the classroom! Materials used in the classroom bring abstract principles to life. There are objects to sort and sequence, beads to add or subtract, letters to touch and trace, and real dishes to wash. The children engage in meaningful activities not just pretend ones. They practice tying their own shoes and hanging their own coats. They peel, chop, and serve bananas or apples instead of "playing" with plastic imitations. Good manners and social interactions are very much a part of each activity because the Montessori classroom is a mini-society that belongs to the children. In October (in addition to our daily lessons) we will continue explore seasons, classical musicians and the parts of skeleton. On October 30th in honor of autumn we will have a day filled with a variety of theme based lessons. This is also an opportunity for parents to volunteer. Thank you all for you continued support.

Peace, Love and Gratitude ~ Crystal

## Ms. Lourdes and Ms. Shelley

We have studied apples this month, by learning the names of a small handful of the hundreds of varieties of apples. Most of our kids are now quite good at classifying the different types of apples. We also had much fun tasting different types of apples, and realizing that the different varieties not only look different but also taste differently too. We concluded our study of apples by peeling and slicing many apples and preparing an applesauce which was delicious!

## Ms. Margy and Ms. Deirdre

We have had an excellent beginning to the school year. I have enjoyed getting to know you and your children. Bringing new ideas-such as DOL, building leadership skills to the classroom sense of calm and quiet, Infinity Street, writing creation stories- and my learning the ways of the classroom from the capable wisdom of Ms. Deirdre have been a major part of joining the faculty at Summit Private School. I can't say enough about the support, kindness, and flexibility Ms. Deirdre has given during the transition of welcoming a new teacher, particularly one who had been hurt. Her grace, calm going way beyond what would be normally expected has been amazing. Thank you, Ms. Deirdre! I would like all of you to know the incredible gift this school is with its amazing sense of family. After I had that terrible accident the week after I moved from Seattle, Dr. Susan, Dr. Mike and Ms. Megan came to my aid. I was pretty incapacitated, so they helped with my basic needs. Ms. Jenny Bueller and her family took me into their home. Parents helped me, too-Kelly doing shopping, helping me move into my apartment by emptying boxes, and hanging pictures, and Doris (Nina's mom) taking me to the doctor's and to lunch when I couldn't fix a meal, and a number of staff driving me to and from school. I couldn't have done this without your kind support and help. I have been truly blessed deciding to move to Florida specifically to teach at Summit. My impressions were true! This is a school of caring families and staff, a family of choice building and sustaining a sense of belonging and safety, a haven in which to learn, grow and become the best we can be, being able to give something to the world. I am truly filled with gratitude, and want each and every one of you to know that I received a gift as a teacher, as a person, to be here working with your children. THANK YOU! In the classroom we have reached the stage where the students are able to do their work because of becoming leaders in creating a quiet classroom with whisper voices. They are adjusting to the expectation of doing two language and two math lessons each day, with the freedom then to choose other lessons including the Greeks, Solar System, Botany, Author's Corner, and maps. The students have worked hard on their creation stories that they are bringing home after sharing them with the class. We read a number of creation stories from around the world. They have had the exciting experience of sitting in a darkened world imagining and experiencing the story of the Big Bang, the First Great Lesson. It will be fun to do follow up activities and learning.

## Ms. Lauren and Ms. Jade

What a wonderful beginning to a new school year! The children have all been eager to learn new lessons as well as help each other transition to the classroom. We have begun our "sound of the week" and hope to have 100% participation each Friday when the children bring in their homework objects. We have been working on our grace and courtesy skills as well as learning the concept of respect. The classroom can now sing Happy Birthday in 8 different languages and we look forward to expanding our repertoire to include the many languages from our multi-cultural families. See you next month with more new experiences to share.

## Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Stephanie

The days are just flying by in our classroom. The new school year started wonderfully with the students getting right to work, even our new 1<sup>st</sup> graders who are always asking for new lessons. The 1<sup>st</sup> graders have been studying nouns, polygons, the parts of the plant and the maps of North and South America. The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have been working on the Time line of Life, antonyms and synonyms and making quadrilaterals from triangles. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are continuing with their grammar box work, learning the capitals of North and South America, and about different holidays celebrated around the world. The class loves reading and is always asking to read. As a group, we have enjoyed listening to Miss Jennifer read Pippi Longstocking and The Swiss Family Robinson. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are exploring the novel Treasure Island. Our highlight of the past month has been Free Swim Friday. We are happy that Anyce's mom Elyse volunteered her lifeguard skills so that the Elementary classes can swim on Friday afternoons. Our class was first in the rotation and had a great time splashing around on a beautiful and hot day.

## Ms. Ann and Ms. Maria

Welcome back everyone! We hope your summer vacations were all that you had hoped and more. This year we have welcomed seven new first graders to our class. They are proving to be a wonderful addition. They are very industrious workers and we are sure that they will have a productive and exciting year. Of, course we are delighted to see all of the children who have returned to our class. On Monday all of the students in our school sang "Light a Candle for Peace", joining in with other Montessori children from around the world, a hosted event for the United Nations International Peace Day for 2009. On Wednesday we visited the Museum of Science and Discovery. We all had a fascinating day exploring their many multi-faceted exhibits.

## Mr. Sesame, Ms. Angela and Ms. Giulia

Wow! It has been a busy first few weeks at school and we have been laying the groundwork for a great year. We have reviewed the Laws of the Universe experiments, The Periodic Table of Elements, The Clock of Eras, The Timeline of Life as well as Math Operations and Grammar. The students are beginning the ALbanesi curriculum this month. It is an amazing Math and Language curriculum. In addition, we have begun the Global Studies Newsletters. Mrs. Wessel will be assisting our class again this year. She brings great depth and experience to the students. Mr. Sesame has been covering square roots, cubing and the various parts of a circle. We have covered the Biomes, all the 4th graders have been introduced to the Pin Maps and the 6th graders have begun a study of US History. We look forward to an exciting year! *Mr. Sesame, Ms. Angela & Ms. Giulia*

## Specials



Ricky and Spring doing community service in the garden.



Ms. Margy's class at Ms. Jayne's Library class.



Baylee in Ms. Rachael's Art class.



Second graders in Ms. Xiomara's General Music class posing for a UN Peace Day picture.

## Library and Garden - Ms. Jayne

**GREETINGS FROM THE SUMMIT LIBRARY:** We have had a wonderful beginning to the school year. Your children are already enjoying their visits to the library. I am reading stories and poetry to them. As always, Shel Silverstein and Jack Prelutsky are two favorites. The students are learning how to search for a wonderful book. We are also starting the year with basic library skills. The lower elementary classes have signed and decorated their "library behavior promises" for the year. "When you sign your signature, it is like making a promise." All students are learning that the library is a peaceful, quiet and interesting place. Our theme for the 2009 - 2010 school year is DIVE INTO A GREAT BOOK. Come visit us and see our waves. Each month a different sea animal will be chosen by the students as the sign out card for our books. Our first is a green sea turtle. You have probably seen a turtle by now, in the pocket of your child's library book, along with their card that has the DUE DATE stamped on it next to his or her name. Please help to remind your child to write their name on the turtle after they have read their book. These cut-outs are put up on the wall. The kids do love to see their name up in the library; they are already excited about our dolphins for October. Please help your child to remember when to return their books. All books are checked out for one week. They may renew them if they need more time. If a book is not returned on their library class day, they may not take out another book. It breaks my heart to have to say "no" to them. I thank you for your assistance. Please note that as in previous years, as of November 1st we will begin to charge our late fees. This should give the children enough time to get into the routines of the school week. Thank you all for your support and interest in the school's library. It is a very special place. I hope you will come in and have a look around. Parents may take out books too!!!!

**HELLO FROM THE GARDEN:** Well, after the long hot summer, we had a jungle of weeds to welcome us back. Thanks to those Summit families who have come in to weed and beautify, we are now ready to add compost, fertilizers, fresh soil and finally rototill to loosen up the densely packed earth. All of the students are planning their gardens. The most votes seem to be for basil, mint, rosemary, beans, carrots, tomatoes, peppers, sunflowers, morning glories, petunias and a Summit favorite, marigolds. Marigolds, aside from being very lovely, have a pungent fragrance that helps repel insects. The kids love to "deadhead" the spent blooms and split them open to scatter the seeds back into the soil. Thank you to so many families who have expressed interest in the garden program at Summit. There are many wonderful new ideas for this year's gardens. As we begin to make purchases of flats, plants and seeds, I will keep you posted as to how you can help. You will see our campus bloom right before your eyes as the weeks go by.

## Art - Ms. Rachael

From the Art Room...Welcome back to a great school year. I am excited to be back with Summit's creative children. The Kindergarten classes have been creating collages with a variety of materials. The favorite September activity in Kindergarten was 'fold-over' painting. We discussed symmetry and looked at pictures of butterflies and then tried out the 'fold-over' technique. The children enjoyed making one of their 'fold-over' creations into a butterfly. Elementary students enjoyed collaging their names on accordion books while we discussed how we got our names. The next project we worked on was fingerprint art. The children made a fingerprint, studied it up close using a jeweler's loupe, and drew what they saw. The fingerprint sketches were outlined with Sharpie markers and then enlarged on the copy machine. This led to many conversations about our fingerprints. Upper elementary created their names in a mandala style. Look for these colorful name projects hanging in the Upper Elementary classroom. Half of Upper Elementary created recycled art projects. I was amazed to see what these kids do with boxes, cardboard and egg cartons. The other half of Upper E. started creating copper foil masks. We discussed the different cultures that used masks and why they were created. We used texture with lines and patterns in our masks. Thank you to everyone who dropped off items from the art room wish list! The PTA has been working to enrich the art program. The PTA will be sponsoring Nina Neely incredibly talented artist grandmother to come and work with us in October. Stay tuned for more great surprises coming your way from your PTA...

## Music and Pre-Primary Spanish - Ms. Xiomara

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! The General Music classes focused on learning to sing the song "Light a Candle for Peace" which we sung as a school on September 21st from 10:50-10:55 am. The students sang this song acapella for the five minutes that were assigned just for our school. The instrumental program is doing well with 41 students divided amongst the Orchestra, Bands, and Ensemble. Many of our students have chosen to learn how to play more than one instrument and are participating in more than one of the groups. Parents, please assist your children as they find the time to practice, and in filling out the practice logs with your signature at the end of each week. Students are receiving one ticket per complete practice session, good for using at the Fall Fair, which takes place Oct. 17 from 1-5 pm. In the world of pre-primary Spanish, our young students have been practicing introductions with each other. We have also been practicing numbers from 1-50 and our colors. Please encourage your children to use their new Spanish words, and teach you what they've learned in class. I would like to thank the PTA for purchasing hand bells, amongst other goodies that the students will use for many years to come. Thank you for all your support!

**N.B. Contributions for the Summit Newsletter can be sent to [msxiomara@summitschools.com](mailto:msxiomara@summitschools.com)**

## Summit Private School

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