

Summit Private School Newsletter

November 25, 2008
Volume 1, Issue 3

Dr. John Mike, Headmaster
Dr. Susan Mike, Vice Head
Bari Schwartz, Business Administrator

Megan Pflueger, Assistant Head
Karen Grogan, Admin. Assistant
Xiomara Orue, Editor



At Thanksgiving feast.

Contents

Administrative News	1
Upcoming Events	1
Toddler News	2
Pre-Primary News	2
Classroom Moments	2
Pre-Primary News	3
Lower Elementary News	3
Mock Election Day	3
PTA News	3
Upper Elementary News	4
Specials and Enrichment	4
Specials Corner	4

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 12/1-5: Book Fair
- ◆ 12/4: Parent Education Night
Topic: Language
- ◆ 12/5: Pre-Primary and Elementary early dismissal 12 pm
- ◆ 12/6: Toddler Holiday Program
10:00-12:00 pm
- ◆ 12/12: Holiday Program at Olympic Heights Theater
Pre-Primary through Upper Elementary
6:30-8:30 pm
- ◆ 12/20 - 1/4: Winter Break
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
SCHOOL CLOSED

Light upon Light

Thanksgiving feast was an amazing celebration of giving. The many parent volunteers lead by our head volunteer Evelyn Swid did an incredible job of setting up, serving and breaking down at the end of the day. The elementary children showed great enthusiasm in their desire to help and serve the YAC children. There was genuine heartfelt giving from our students to theirs as our students served a scoop of this or a piece of that. The many thank yous, smiles and laughter brought incredible joy and gratitude to our hearts. The process of serving others especially those less fortunate has an uplifting effect on our souls that can only be experienced and never quite adequately explained.

The opportunity to educate children to not only be very bright but to have a strong and positive character is truly a remarkable honor. If I had to choose between a child of average intelligence and a good character and a child that is very bright but whose character is flawed, I would select the child with good character. The child with a good character with average intelligence can still help others and contribute to humanity in a positive way. The child who is very bright yet has a flawed character can actually hurt many others as can be seen in such events as Enron and other events that have rocked Wall Street.

At Summit we combine the two and our goal is to educate children to be outstanding in both academics and character. This combination of the two is light upon light and that child will do amazing things in this world. This is the goal and focus of all our service projects. To help mold the character of our students to begin to look beyond themselves into the sea of humanity and reach out to help make the world a better place.

We wish to thank both Ms. Angela and Ms. Ann for holding elections on campus which give our students the opportunity to discuss politics and share differences of opinions in a respectful manner. This process is another aspect of character development that allows students to develop tolerance for those who have a different opinion.

There are many things to be grateful for this Thanksgiving. We are so grateful and honored to be able to work with such dedicated and brilliant staff and to have such amazing and brilliant students in both their minds and in their hearts.

With Gratitude,

Drs. John & Susan Mike

Classroom Moments



Ms. Norma's students at Harvest Feast



Ms. Cindy's class in Thanksgiving T-Shirts



Albert Einstein in Ms. Angela's Class



Ms. Angela's Class coloring Flags



Upper Elementary working hard during their Friday Fundraiser.

Ms. Jo, Ms. April and Ms. Johanna

Hi Everyone! Just a quick note to let you all know that I am indeed well and recuperating nicely. I really appreciate all of your good thoughts and well-wishes. It was great seeing some of you at the Fall Fair, the November teacher luncheon (it was yummy - thanks!) and the Thanksgiving Feast. I have popped in several times to see the class and was amazed at how the children have grown and developed. Hats off to Miss April and Miss Johanna for doing such a fabulous job in my absence. I hope to see everyone at the Toddler Holiday Picnic at the Boca Raton Community Park, Saturday, December 6 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. We will sing a few songs for you. Bring a wrapped toddler book for our book exchange. If you haven't already gotten a flyer about this event, you will soon. Thanks! *Miss Jo* A special thank you to the Toddler room mothers and all of the parents who made the Toddler luncheon so great. It was beautiful and delicious. Thank you to all of the Summit families for a fabulous Feast. Hope everyone has a nice Thanksgiving and enjoys the fall break. We have a lot of fun and exciting plans for the upcoming holiday season. *Ms. April and Ms. Johanna*

Ms. Norma and Ms. Irene

This year is passing by so quickly! We are already nearing December and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best this holiday season and thank you for all your help and support. The classroom is better than ever, it is now normalized as the children are working by

themselves. Our new project is the garden. Our goal is to beautify the garden with flowers and tables so that we can sit there for lunch and snack. We will soon be asking for your help with this project! Happy Holidays and have a wonderful Thanksgiving break! *Ms. Norma & Ms. Irene*

Ms. Cindy and Ms. Nena

Fall is finally here, we have had a number of cool days which we are enjoying. Over the past couple of weeks we have been busy doing our Thanksgiving T-shirt Project. This has been a tradition in our classroom over several years. The children got to wear their special "turkey shirts" at the Thanksgiving Feast. The feast is another tradition. Summit has put on this great event for many years and we all get to enjoy an amazing array of side dishes, turkey and let's not forget the desserts.... Thank you to Evelyn and a great team of volunteers who made it all happen as well as to all the families who contributed by bringing in all the dishes to complement the turkeys supplied by the Dr's Mike. The children have also been very busy in the classroom learning all kinds of new lessons. Some of the children have shown a keen interest in tying their own shoes - we are very happy to have a few less shoes to tie during the day. This task involves a lot of fine motor control and the patience to keep trying until it is mastered. There have been broad smiles of achievement in our classroom as they make that first bow. We also have a couple of new readers who are so proud to be reading their first books and working on the next workbook. It seems that every time we pass a sign or poster the children are trying to decipher and read it out loud. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a wonderful Thanksgiving, we will see you back at school to start the new month of December.

Ms. Crystal and Ms. Jennifer

It is hard to believe that it is almost December. It seems like it was just a few weeks ago when the School year started. The past couple of weeks have been an amazing period of transformation. I am very happy to see that all of the children are thriving on the daily routine and becoming more and more confident in the environment. It is really interesting to see how they help each other, remind each other of the rules and have a real sense of care and concern for their work and friends. It is such a fascinating cycle to watch it and I feel so lucky to be part of your children's lives. Thank you for sharing them with us. This month students watched a film on environmental science that focused on the topic of weather and climate. Afterwards, the students were able to put what they saw into action by exploring hands on science experiments and activities in and out of the classroom. It helped to make science come alive and enhance their understanding of the world. I would like to thank you all for being so kind and gracious in making Ms. Jennifer feel welcome. She is a wonderful addition to your child's lives and we are so incredibly lucky to have her. I would also like to welcome a new friend to our community, Lily B., another ray of sunshine to brighten up our day! "Honor your inner child". Children are a never ending source of amazement and insight. They teach us a lot about ourselves, what's important in life and how to be happy. Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving, Peace, Love and Gratitude *Ms. Crystal and Ms. Jennifer*

Ms. Lourdes and Ms. Mireily

The month of October was very busy. We started using our china plates and washing them, and we began our study of pumpkins. We carved a pumpkin and baked pumpkin pie with the generous assistance of Maria Romano. We also saved the seeds, washed and dried them, and then planted them. We produced some beautiful pumpkin plants which we continue to observe and watch it's progress. Some are in the garden and some are on our window sill. As we prepare for the Holiday season, we want to invite the parents or grandparents to come into our class to share with us either a story, song, lighting of candles, and or a treat reflecting your family traditions. There will be a sign up sheet on our bulletin board.

In this season of Thanksgiving we would like to express our gratitude to our very helpful and generous parents who support our program. We wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Holiday Season!

Ms. Jan and Ms. Jade

Fridays have become special project days. On Halloween, Karen Simpson, Robin Delisser and Flory Schwarz came in to do craft projects with the children. They enjoyed candy making, jewelry making and spider making! The following Friday, Nicole Smith and her mother-in-law came in to make exquisite Thanksgiving card with the children. Every Friday afternoon we are happy to make smoothies as a community service to other classrooms. Anyone wishing to send in yogurt, strawberries and bananas on a Friday may contact Miss Jan ahead of time and we'll assign you a day! The children love both preparing food and serving others before they serve themselves. Fridays remain open for anyone who wishes to come in the morning to do a special craft with the children or give a cultural presentation, particularly of the holiday/holy season. Just let Miss Jan know when you are free and what you would like to do.

Blessings! *Ms. Jan & Ms. Jade*

Ms. Angela and Ms. Deirdre

It has been another busy month in the classroom. We had a few famous people stop by on Halloween. Wait until you see how well Einstein has aged! We also visited Morikami Museum this month and had a wonderful visit. I recommend you go to the next festival in February. It's a blast. Author's corner is still a big hit and even though I am unable to include all the topics and pictures - I will try to include one or two each month. The students are in a huge writing phase right now - they are quite creative with their adjectives. We are working on the grammar aspect of their creative writing but the excitement and desire is wonderful. The election was a lot of fun and the kids learned so much. We sincerely appreciate everyone's support and participation. The students were even interested in seeing Obama's acceptance speech so we watched it on Youtube the next day. We just took the information down and the wall looks incredibly bare and boring with the posters!

Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Stephanie

The weeks are just flying by in our classroom. On November 12, we enjoyed a trip to the Morikami Museum. The students enjoyed learning how children from Japan are different from us (they go to school 6 days a week) and the same as us (they bring a backpack to school). It was a great opportunity to learn about something so close to home. The Thanksgiving Feast was a wonderful day spent eating and meeting

more of the Summit family. The children enjoyed introducing their friends to their families. In class, the 2nd and 3rd grade students are learning how to do research and creating dioramas based on their research. The students will then learn how to do a presentation and present their research to their classmates. This is just one of the many practical life skills students learn in the elementary classroom.

Ms. Ann and Ms. Maria

It was lovely to see all of our families gathered together for the, as always, sumptuous Thanksgiving Feast. Thank you to Evelyn, the PTA, and to all of you who let us taste your specialties. Our field trip to the Morikami Museum and Gardens was just delightful. The children gained much wisdom from the docent and by putting their heads through the Wisdom Monument. We also got enthusiastic about origami and are especially keen on the crane. We hope to have 1,000 paper cranes made by Peace Day. Then, the children thought it would be good to send the cranes to Sadako's monument in Hiroshima. It's a lofty goal, but we will try. In our class, the children are learning the Theory of Stellar Nucleosynthesis. It is a fascinating theory about our giant stars. Thanks to a most generous anonymous donor from our class, our turtles swim freely in their new 75 gallon tank. Thank you so very much! Have a wonderful Thanksgiving everyone.



Mock Election Day



Voting at Ms. Ann's Classroom



Voting at Ms. Angela's Classroom



PTA News:

2008 Events:

12/1-5 **Book Fair** (evening hours December 2, 3, and 4)

Have you joined PTA yet?
Every membership counts!

Call Evelyn (561) 367-1270 or Robin (754) 246-3954

Specials & Enrichment



Ms. Cindy's students in Ms. Jayne's Garden class.



Mr. Sesame with students in Ms. Rachel's Art Class



Ms. Angela's students in Ms. Rachel's Art Class.



Duncan in Ms. Lois' Afterschool Pottery Enrichment class.



Ms. Xiomara's students in Beginning Orchestra.

Mr. Sesame and Ms. Julia

In the upper elementary we have had a fun and productive month of November, starting with a wonderful trip to the FAU Physics Fair and pumpkin drop. According to our student reporter Caitlen Macias, "Our favorite part was the pumpkin drop. It was so cool to see Einstein, Galileo, Aristotle, and Isaac Newton...and the Pumpkin Master." Students also enjoyed the physics booths and the huge explosions in the garbage bins. After all the fun we had, our class is looking forward to the next Physics Fair at FAU. Thanks to Ms. Ana, Ms. Wendy, Ms. Susan, Ms. Noreen, Ms. Lori and Dr. Mike for driving students in their vehicles and for chaperoning. Also, thanks to Ms. Kelly and all the parents who brought food in for our Halloween feast. Special thanks to Ms. Cindy and Gatlyn for the spooky decor. This month saw the launch of our writing workshop, with essay writing, and Literature Circle taking front stage. We had great fun exploring the novel Tuck Everlasting, after which we enjoyed comparing it to the Disney film of the same name. As a class we were able to extract the settings, characters, and vocabulary words that were most important to us, and we also created our own illustrations of the most exciting parts of the novel. We have also begun exploring expository essay writing as a class. In science, we have focused on the Vital Functions of the Animals and are now beginning to explore Evolutionary Chemistry. Our class is also studying the importance of our physical environment, focusing on the Work of Air, which has included some fun experiments. Near the end of the month our class was able to visit the Morikami Japanese gardens and learn a little bit about Japanese culture. Thanks again to the parents who were able to accompany us and provide transportation. Students enjoyed learning about Japanese tea ceremonies and writing, as well as enjoyed the overall esthetic beauty of the gardens themselves. Some beautiful haikus were written by the students who were inspired by the natural environment and we hope to compile them and publish them in the near future. Hope all our families have a wonderful and rejuvenation Thanksgiving break. *Sesame and Julia*

Specials Corner

Garden and Library - Ms. Jayne

GARDEN: Our seeds are coming up! Radishes, carrots and wildflowers are sprouting in all the gardens. In addition, many of our tomato plants have flowers and tiny tomatoes. It is very exciting to see nature at work. The kids are captivated. A tremendous thank you to Mayan Schwartz and his boys Elyah and Adian. They donated their time last Saturday, November 15, to weed, clear and prepare the entire garden outside Ms Crystal's classroom. It was a huge job and is most appreciated. **NEEDED:** Volunteers to water the pre-primary and elementary gardens over both the Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks. Our gardens will need attention while the school is closed. Please let Miss Jayne know if you can help out and a schedule will be created. Thank you so much, in advance.

LIBRARY: You can't tell a book by its cover! We have been discussing how to select a book to read. Many new choices are being introduced and you will notice your child broadening his or her horizons. Look up! Bend down! We always select the books at eye level. It is amazing how many books are rarely opened because of their location on the shelf or a cover that doesn't have just the right appeal. Encourage your children to experiment. Great reading kids! As of November 18th, we have 402 stars and rockets on the walls in the library. Can we reach 2009 by the end of the school year? Thank you for doing such a great job of helping your children to remember to return their books on time. There is a bit of confusion about the due date for library books. Please look at the white library card in the book pocket. The date is there next to your child's name. The book should be returned before that date even if he or she does not have a library class. **HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL.**

Art - Ms. Rachael

Dear Parents, Thank you for the toilet paper and paper towel rolls. Please send in more! They are great for sculptures. (I will share with Ms. Xiomara as she needs them too). The art room could also use: ~2008 calendars with pictures ~Cylindrical oatmeal containers ~Small cardboard boxes (smaller than a shoebox) ~Flat cardboard rectangles or squares- (all sizes) ~Cardboard egg cartons ~Catalogs with pictures of poster art. An important part of the art at Summit is the sharing we do after the projects are completed. The students are asked 4 questions: 1. Where did you start? 2. Where did you finish? 3. What's your favorite part of your art work? 4. Where would you be if you could be in your art work? One of the reasons I ask these questions is it is a way of accepting students' art work without judging their work. I do my best to have a supportive and nurturing art environment for all the children. Happy Thanksgiving, *Ms. Rachael*

Music - Ms. Xiomara

Happy Thanksgiving to all! Two more weeks until our Holiday Program on **December 12, 6:30 pm** at Olympic Heights Theater. Please **Save the Date** as your children have worked long and hard for this upcoming performance which will be short and sweet. We should be done by 8:30 pm. Please look in Friday Folders for upcoming information on special rehearsal dates and program preparation.

Any financial questions can be addressed with Bari Schwartz. (561) 338-5020
N.B. Contributions for the Summit Newsletter can be sent to msxiomara@summitschools.com

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