



# Little Miners Montessori

May & June 2012

## Moms, Kangaroos & Grandparents Too!!!

May has arrived and the weather teeters between summer-like temps to moments of winter chill, but overall our spring appears to be coming in and going out like a Lamb. The children will be taking full advantage of the sunshine. Please dress your child appropriately for the warmer temperatures and showers.

**Mondays** the children will travel down unda' to both Australia and Antarctica!!! Our month begins in Australia and then by the month's end we will explore the cold and penguin laden land of Antarctica.

**Tuesdays** in Geology we will learn about Australia's most noted geologic features: the Great Barrier Reef and Ayres Rock. Then we will learn about the Icebergs & Glaciers of Antarctica!

**Wednesdays** in Zoology we shift from last months study of birds to this month's focus on mammals! We will study the qualities and characteristics that differentiate mammals from other animal phylums.

**Thursdays** in ecology and botany the children will learn about fruit: variety and shape.

**Fridays** we continue our focus of Art and explore a diverse sampling of Aboriginal art from Australia. 'The paintings we see on canvas today were originally painted in the sand and only lasted until the wind blew'.



## Important Dates

### May

Mother's Day Lunch	14
Grandparent's Day	18
Memorial Day – No School	28
Teacher Appreciation Week	29-June 1

### June

LMM Graduation/Performance	7
Classroom 2:	1:00
Classroom 3:	2:00
Classroom 1:	3:00
Last Day of School	8

## Summer Camp Schedule

Superheroes and Heroines	July 9-13
It's a Bird...It's a Plane... It's Things That Fly!	July 16-20
Lights! Camera! Action!	July 23-27
Cooking Around the World	July 30 – August 3

Happy Summer Vacation

## Summer Bucket List & More

*Each month an area/discipline of the Montessori classroom will be highlighted.*

The doors may be closed at school soon, but the opportunities to learn together as a family are endless during summer. Below are five ideas on how to keep your child's passion for learning sparked throughout vacation:

### 1. Create a bucket list!

You can create a Toddler Fun Bucket that is filled with ideas and craft supplies or together as a family you can create your own bucket list. The beauty of making a bucket list together is that it helps set an intention for the summer months. So often, we have a things that we always "talk" about, but never get around to experiencing. Thus, the bucket list is a perfect way to kick off the summer on the right foot.

### 2. Read, read, read!

Reading is one of the most important ways to promote learning during the summer. Reading can be done anywhere, anytime. Include favorite children's books or magazines to read together and invite your child to read environmental print that is around you everyday. Environmental print can include the back of a cereal box, a menu, a grocery list, and a recipe.

### 3. Cooking with kids

Cooking is a wonderful and fun way to promote math, science, language, literacy, and daily living skills. Have a few children's cookbooks handy that will help promote reading as well. And don't forget clean up time – a little time learning to clean up teaches responsibility and a responsible student is a successful student.

### 4. Board Games

Introduce your child to a few new board games over the summer. Board games promote strategical thinking, a sense of fairness, playing by the rules, taking a turn, and other core concepts for learning. Sometimes, playing board games with a young child may be challenging because of that "fairness" or "I want to be the winner" issue. Be patient and keep it fun. Remember, the best place for a child to work through some of these issues in an environment where they feel safe and secure.

### 5. Get outside and play!

Outdoor play is a critical component to addressing the needs of the whole child – the whole learner. Outdoor play offers many opportunities for exercise, play and exploration. There is no need to structure every moment of your child's summer, but throwing in a scavenger hunt or a family walk in the park, then journaling about it later, is a great way to build memories, get a little exercise and promote learning.

## Inside and Outside of the Classroom

### Art with Miss Wren

Australia offers our little artists with ample opportunities to truly connect with nature in a creative way! In art we will experiment and use earth, sand and natural pigments to create Aboriginal inspired artworks. After our journey down under we will then do monoprinting. A monoprint is a single impression of an image made from a reprintable block, such as a metal plate used for etching, a litho stone or wood block. To close out the month and the school year, we will create interesting line drawings. Thank you for an amazing year in the studio!



### Mother's Day Lunch



Our special Mother's Day Luncheon is Monday May 14<sup>th</sup>. Our Little Miner's will be hosting a luncheon for all the incredible LMM moms. Your children have been working hard to create a wonderful lunch experience for you. Grandma's are welcome as well (even a favorite auntie)! Please join us from 11:30am to 1:00pm for Mother's Day LOVE.

### Grandparent's Day

Friday May 18<sup>th</sup>, we are inviting the grandparent(s) of all our Little Miners to school. The children will show their grandparent(s) around their classroom and teach them what they do while they are at school. If your child's grandparent(s) are not local, feel free to send any substitute you see fit: aunt, uncle, friend, nanny. The purpose of this day is to let the children express their pride in their school and learning accomplishments. Morning session is 10:00-11:00 and afternoon is 2:00-3:00.



### Graduation Ceremony Thursday June 7th



Graduation is right around the corner! We know that many of you have several commitments with your other children and/or travel plans. Below is the schedule for the day so you can prepare accordingly:

- Classroom 2 - 1:00**
- Classroom 3 - 2:00**
- Classroom 1 - 3:00**

Weather permitting; Little Miners will be hosting a BBQ at 4:00 to celebrate the end of another wonderful school year! We ask for parents to volunteer by making a side dish or dessert. Please sign up in the office to know what kinds of food we would love you to bring. Little Miners will be grilling hot dogs, hamburgers and bratwurst. LMM will also provide beverages for the little ones, parents feel free to BYOB!

### Summer Birthday Celebrations

If your child has a birthday that occurs during the summer months we celebrate the birthdays with a pizza and popsicle party on Friday June 8<sup>th</sup>. We would like any birthday boys and girls to share their birthday timeline with their friends. Please check with your child's teacher to complete their birthday timeline book in time for the celebration.



## Parent Notes:

### 1 Summer Camp at LMM

There are four weeks of summer camp fun and adventure:

- **July 9-13: Superheroes & Heroines**
- **July 16-20: It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's Things That Fly!**
- **July 23-27: Lights! Camera! Action!**
- **July 30-August 3: Cooking Around the World**

Camps hours are 9am to 2pm Monday thru Friday. The cost of camp is \$185.00 per child per camp. If you are interested please sign up and deliver payment to the front office. Children ages 3-8 are welcome and incoming students are encouraged to attend.

### 2 Gifts for Teachers

As the end of the year quickly approaches, some parents are curious about what to give their favorite teachers! This year your favorite teachers will have a choice between a gift certificate at REI, Nordstrom or Gateway. If you decide to contribute, please write a check to Little Miners and designate which classroom/teachers you would like the money to be gifted. Also, please write your name on check or cash envelope so we know whom to thank!

### 3 Teacher Appreciation Week May 29-June 1

The final week of May is National Teacher's Appreciation Week. From Tuesday May 29<sup>th</sup> to Friday June 1<sup>st</sup> we would like to honor and express gratitude to all of the wonderful LMM teachers! We are fortunate to have such an amazing teaching staff at LMM and they truly do so many incredible things for the children. Please stay tuned to see how you can help to make this a special end of the year celebration. During the week the TAW events will take place from 11:00am to 1:00pm. This will include daily lunches and a special gift made by the children for each teacher!