



Academy for Children

A Montessori School and
Child Care Center



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026

OCTOBER'S THEME

Each month, the Academy features a special theme. The theme for all classrooms this month is "Insects." Please feel free to send any books or educational items related to these topics.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

We have had numerous requests for Academy children's addresses and phone numbers from parents. A directory has been compiled with each child's name, birth date, parents' names, address(es), and telephone numbers. If you would like a copy of the directory, please stop by the office or send an email so we can place one in your child's cubby. If there are any updates or corrections to your family information, please let the office know. Thanks so much!

Parent Appreciation Day

Parent Appreciation Morning is October 1st from 7:00-8:45am. All parents are welcome to stop in for a breakfast treat. The children will be working hard preparing the applesauce and butter for you to enjoy. We really value all of our families.

Scholastic Book Orders

If you wish to place a Scholastic book order, please submit your order sheet to the Academy office by the 6th of the month. We will be placing an order at the end of the day. Book orders may be picked up at the front table. If you place an order online, please let the Academy know.

Preschool Screening

Pediatric Partners will be coming in the morning of October 14th to do free pediatric screenings. Consent forms will be sent out the week before the

screenings. If you have questions, please let the office know. You can also contact (701)356-4384 or email jackie.miller@sevitahealth.com.

Pre-Kindergarten

Field Trip



The Pre-K children (Those children going into Kindergarten next year) will be going on a field trip to the Plains Art Museum on October 9th. They will be able to walk around and look at some beautiful art exhibits, and they will also have the chance to do an art project in the museum's art studio! Please sign the field trip form by October 7th. Chaperones are welcome, just let the office know!

TEACHER IN-SERVICE

NO SCHOOL, CHILDCARE OPEN

Monday, October 12, 2026

If you need childcare for this day, please sign up by Wednesday, October 7th. This is a non-Montessori school day and is not included in your regular billing. Our theme for this day will be "Pumpkin Palooza!" Your child is welcome to wear their favorite fall pajamas this day as well!

"SMALL HANDS"

The Montessori Services family order sheets for "Small Hands" is now available. The Academy will be placing a group order on October 23rd. Fifteen percent of the group order total will be credited toward materials for the Academy classrooms. Please use the Academy code, "100068," on your order form. Individual orders can be placed at any time. If you place your order with the Academy group by October 23rd, there will be no shipping charge for your order. To ensure arrival by the winter break, please place your order early. You are welcome to bill your order to your Academy account.

SIGHT 4 KIDS

The Lions Club will come in later this month to provide free eye exams through the Sight 4 Kidz program for the children on October 28th in the morning. This screening is for the Toddler 2 and Preprimary classes. Watch for sign-up forms in your email and in your child's cubby.

PAJAMA DAY

Ms. Connie's and Ms. Michell's classes will be having a pajama day on October 30th. Children are welcome to wear their favorite or festive pajamas!

HALLOWEEN PARTY 🎃👻

The Preprimary classrooms will be having a costume party on Friday, October 30th. Both classrooms will be having their parties from 10:00am to 10:45am, then we will start to get costumes off. Families of preprimary kids are welcome to attend! The costume party will be held indoors with treats, games, and art projects. The children will have a parade at 10:00am. They will walk through all of the classrooms so their families and the Toddler classes can see all the wonderful costumes. The Toddler children will be doing Halloween projects and activities throughout the day. Toddler 2 and Preprimary children are welcome to wear an easy-on, easy-off costume or Halloween pajamas. Please bring your child's costume in a labeled bag.

Please consider your child's ability when choosing a costume. Fun and friendly costumes will be wonderful. Following the Academy's policy, we ask that no weapons be part of the costume, as we focus on an independent and peaceful environment. We thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

If you have any concerns about your child's speech, language, or development, your child may be tested at no expense through the Fargo Public Schools. To arrange a screening appointment, please call Fargo Public Schools at 701-446-3108.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up in November on the 5th and 6th. Be on the lookout for more details. Parent sign-up sheets will be posted in the entryway by October 23rd. Please sign up for a conference by November 4th.



School pictures went great! The proofs are available to view online. If you didn't receive your child's code, stop by the office to get a copy of it. We would like all photo orders to be

returned by Wednesday, October 7th. You are welcome to place your order online.



CLASSROOM NEWS

Preprimary II News: Ms. Ashley

What a wonderful start to the school year we've had together! September has been full of learning, discovery, and community! The theme this month was "Australia."

The children explored many books and songs about Australia and had lots of hands-on fun. We matched Australian animals to their labels and used three-part cards to learn different names. We also classified some of the animals as carnivores, herbivores, or omnivores, and learned what each one eats. We made some fun art to go along with our theme. The projects included a snake we painted using a traditional Aboriginal art technique, a kangaroo pouch we could wear with a cute joey in it, a jelly fish we hung up in our classroom, and a rain stick!

We celebrated International Peace Day by learning about famous peacemakers and what it means to be a peace maker in our classroom. The children created a special art piece of a peace sign using watercolors that we hung up on the big bulletin board along with the doves that Ms. Shay's class created! We also discussed "bucket dippers" and "bucket fillers" and made art that is proudly displayed in our school entryway.

We also began our Sign-In Process! Each week,  children will practice writing their names as part of our morning routine. Parents will get to see their child's growth during conferences—it's such a wonderful way to watch progress unfold. The kids get really excited when they see how well they are doing! This month, the children had the chance to churn butter and peel apples. Together, we made applesauce to be served during our Parent Appreciation event. We are so excited to welcome our families for Parent Appreciation on October 1st. The children are looking forward to sharing their work and time with you!

Next month we study insects! If you have anything you would be willing to send to share with the class for this theme please let us know!

Preprimary I News: Ms. Shay



Our school year began on August 31st, and it is wonderful to see how much the children have already accomplished! During our first month together, the students have been learning classroom routines, caring for their environment, building friendships, and becoming more confident and independent each day.

They have shown excitement, curiosity, and a wonderful willingness to try new work.

This month, we focused on Australia and surrounding areas. The children explored the continent's geography, wildlife, and unique natural features. They practiced identifying and labeling Australian animals while learning the differences between mammals and marsupials. The students also worked with three-part cards featuring animals such as the koala, wombat, palm cockatoo, brown noddy, black swan, green tree python, Australian lungfish, and rainbow lorikeet. This Montessori work helped strengthen vocabulary, reading, matching, classification, and memory skills. The children especially enjoyed discovering interesting facts about each animal's habitat, diet, and physical characteristics. Another exciting project was our study of the parts of a koala. The children learned how a koala's eyes, ears, nose, fur, strong forearms, hind legs, and hooked claws help it survive and climb trees. Our geography work introduced the children to important landmarks throughout Australia, New Zealand, and nearby Pacific islands. These lessons encouraged the children to appreciate the variety of landforms, cultures, animals, and environments found throughout this part of the world.

It has been a joyful and productive first month of school! I am incredibly proud of the children's hard work, growing independence, and enthusiasm for learning. To end the month, we will be doing apple peeling and butter churning for our Parent Appreciation morning on October 1st. We are so appreciative of our parents and everything they do for us. Thank you to all our families for helping us begin the year so positively- I look forward to continuing this wonderful journey together!

Toddler II News: Mr. Tank



This month we had lots of fun talking about Australia. We studied quite a few animals, such as kangaroos, koalas, ostriches, emus, sea turtles, and a few tropical fish. We used paper plates and ripped paper to make our own emus as an art project. We also did a little baking, making a treat called "Lamingtons." This was a tasty cake that was covered in chocolate and coconut. Next we painted rocks using Q-Tips to make dandelion stones. We also made mini versions of the Sydney Opera House and Harbour. We finished the month's themed activities out by making "Fairy Bread!"

We also enjoyed looking at our animal cards, going over sounds, names, and what they eat. Afterwards we enjoyed a couple of books like "The Worrysaurus," "Animals Here We Grow," and "Penguins Love Colors." We looked at different colors and things

matching that color via the classroom or outside. Then we went over a few shapes: circle, triangle, square, and rectangle. Everyone has also enjoyed practice with the tongs and spoons to make their own snacks. With fall holidays approaching, we also spent time reading some cute books like "Squasherella" and "Ten Little Pumpkins."

Toddler I News: Ms. Michell

Our first theme of the school year was "Australia." Toddler One learned some very fun facts about the continent nicknamed "The Land Down Under." We learned that kangaroos only come from Australia, along with a lot of their reptiles, mammals, and frogs. We also found out that they have a lot of beaches, and that K'Gari is the largest sand island. We thought about the endless sand castles we could build, and even made some of our own in the sand box!

We also started going to music classes again twice a week with Ms. Laura. We are learning new songs as well as some of our old favorites. We are always so excited for music class because of all the tunes we get to sing throughout the day.

As a class we are focusing on getting our work out independently and putting it away ourselves. Sometimes we spill and that's okay! We know to slow down, try again, and ask for help if we need it. We are also learning our routine of how our days go. Of course, outside is our favorite time and when mom or dad pick us up after our day full of learning.

The new school year is off to a great start! We can't wait to see what all we learn this year!

Infant News: Ms. Connie

Our first theme for the school year was "Australia." For art we created koalas, birds, snakes, turtles, and kangaroos. We also did a couple of painting exercises. We used forks and paper plates to make koalas. We used star shaped cookie cutters and sponges to make our version of the Australian flag. We also made a flag with our hand. It is fun to use different textured things for painting, but our favorite is our hands. We have also done several touch and feel books that talk about our animals: "That's Not My Kangaroo, Its Ears are Too Fluffy," "Never Touch a Koala," "ABC Animals," and "Never Touch a Snake."

We are doing a lot of rolling and tummy time. Two of us are also working on crawling! One of our favorite activities is talking to the elephant, playing with the different balls, and playing peek a boo with the tissues.

We have also been enjoying music classes again each week with Ms. Laura. It has been a great start to

the school year, and we are excited for all that is to come! Next month's theme is "Insects."

Music News: Ms. Laura

We've had a wonderful start to our music year as we settle into our classroom community with familiar back-to-school songs and favorite musical activities. We have also begun our Pitch Recognition classes, giving the children opportunities to explore and develop their musical sensitivities through listening, singing, movement, and hands-on experiences.

This month we introduced the colorful C Major Scale and our very first note, the Red Middle C. The children have been listening to the Middle C Major Scale on the resonator bars, and learning the note letter names, solfège sounds, and hand signs. Adding motor movement as the children use their hands and bodies to physically represent each pitch helps the children build associations with each pitch.

They have also been using the resonator bars to independently explore the sound of the note Middle C, while connecting what they hear with what they play. We look forward to adding new notes and continuing our musical exploration together!

Child Care News- Ms. Chrislynn

We have had an amazing first month of school! After a long day of hard work, the kids love winding down with fun art projects and exciting activities. I'm looking forward to the year ahead, being a part of their days and enjoying all the fun experiences we have planned. 

To start off the school year, the kids made their own silly crayons during child care art time. This month's school theme was "Australia," so our art projects included the Australian flag, emus, painted plate koalas, and coloring the Sydney Opera House. For the first day of fall, we did a fun sensory activity where the kids pushed paint around a pumpkin outline inside a Ziploc bag.

October 12th is the first non-school day of the year! Please watch the entryway and your emails for sign-ups. The theme is "Pumpkin Palooza." We will spend the day enjoying fun snacks, playing silly games, and doing art activities. Children are welcome to wear their favorite or festive pajamas!

Please ensure that your children have weather appropriate clothing, as we spend as much time outside as we can each day! If your child will be picked up early, please let the staff know so we can plan accordingly. If your elementary child is wanting to attend the Academy on their days off from school, please sign them up by contacting the office.

Donations



A big "Thank You" to the following families for the donations:

Ottinger Family - Books and Toys

O'Donnell Family - Toys

Nerby Family - Paper Cutter

Larry Nelson Family - Art Supplies

Young Family - Montessori Works

Thank you to Clair Keene and Anna Carceder for coming in to talk to the preschool children about grains this month!

A QUICK REMINDER

Preschool, Toddler, and Infant classes begin at 8:40 a.m. and end at 3:15 p.m. Classroom-only children may be picked up no later than 11:30 a.m. for all morning only children, and 3:20 p.m. for ¾ time children. Morning classroom children who are dropped off before 8:30 a.m. or picked up after 11:30 a.m. or 3:20 p.m. will be charged the drop-in rate of \$16.85/hour for Preschool or \$19.50/hour for Toddler/Infant, which will be added to your monthly statement. If you need contractual childcare, please stop by the office and check out the different options we provide.

We realize that occasionally an emergency may arise that prevents you from picking up your child on time at the end of the day. The Academy closes at 6:00 pm each day. In accordance with our parent handbook, a non-negotiable late fee of \$30 for the first fifteen minutes beyond the center closing time will be charged to your account. Additional charges of \$25 will occur on the 15 minute intervals.

Child Safety



Unattended children – The Academy requires an adult on our playground if children are playing. If you are dropping off or picking up and have older children, please bring them in the center with you if there is no other adult outside with them. We would hate to see anything happen. If you have forgotten something in the school please do not leave your child unattended in your car. The Academy staff is here to help you. Give us a call if we can assist you.