



Academy for Children

A Montessori School
& Child Care Center

September 2026 Newsletter



 The Academy extends a warm heartfelt “thank you” to our year-round clients as well as a hearty welcome to our returning and new clients. This newsletter will cover the new school year, our August experiences, and upcoming events.

September’s Special Theme

The special theme for the month of September for all classes is “Australia.” Please feel free to send in books, art ideas, or any item (s) related to this monthly theme.

HOT LUNCH

If your child is signed up for the hot lunch program, we will automatically order your lunch every day, unless you call the office and cancel for that day. All lunches MUST be ordered or canceled daily by 9:15 am. Due to all the children we facilitate during lunch, we ask that all cold lunches be ready to serve. We unfortunately will not be able to heat up any of the cold lunches (thermoses are a great way to keep things warm in your cold lunch totes).

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 order sheets may be picked up at the front table.

Office Hours

Ms. DeLynda, our School and Child Care Director, will have office hours from 9:00AM – 11:00 AM, or by appointment. You may always contact her with the Academy email address: afcmont@att.net for a quick response. You can also contact her directly at 701-261-8087.

Information

If you have not received or completed the required forms for your child(ren), please stop by the office and do so as soon as possible. The following forms must be on file for each child enrolled for the fall:

Tuition, FT or Contractual Child Care Agreement
Child Information Sheet
Parent Statement of Health
Certificate of Immunization
Copy of your Child’s Birth Certificate
Parent Handbook Acknowledgement Form
Non-Prescription Medicine Release
Waiver for Insect Repellent/Sunscreen
Park/Nap Release
Lunch Program
Volunteer List
Release Form
Field Trip Form
Water Activity Permission Form

If there are any changes in the information that you have already given to us, please contact the office at 280-0718 or email us at afcmont@att.net.

School Pictures

School pictures will be taken on Thursday, September 24th. Our photographer is Jesse Hanson. If you would like to have your child’s picture taken, please return the photo release form that will be distributed on September 18th. You will receive a photo proof before you actually place the photo order.

Parent Appreciation Morning

The Academy would like to invite all parents to come celebrate Parent Appreciation Morning on Thursday, October 1st from 7:00 -8:45 AM. Come and have breakfast from The Academy! We really appreciate everything you do for us and our school!

Nut Free Center

The Academy is a nut free center. Children with nut allergies can have serious life-threatening consequences if they come in contact with nut oil. To protect the children in our care we have established the center as a nut free zone. Please be aware this includes cold lunches and snacks, so check labels before bringing items in.

Email Information

We would love to share information about your child's day with you through e-mail. If you would like newsletters, general information, and school reminders emailed to you please be sure to request to have your email address added to our list. You may contact us at afcmont@att.net to join our email list.

Parent Directory



The Academy will be putting together information about the students for the Parent Directory to share with our families. This directory will include the child's name, birthday, address, parent's names and parent's numbers. If you would like to have your child's information omitted from this list be sure to let the office know by Friday, September 4th. Parent Directories can be picked up in the office Friday, September 11th. If you would like an email copy let the office know.

Back To School Night

Thank you to all who attended our Back to School Night. It was great to see all the families that stopped in to drop off their school supplies and toured the set-up classrooms. If you have not brought in your school supplies, you can drop them off in the office at any time. The school information packets need to be completed by September 4th. If you need an additional copy, please feel free to stop in the office to pick up any additional forms.

Summer Classroom News



Elementary News – Ms. Shay

Our "Campfire Medleys" week was packed with fun and plenty of summer memories! We enjoyed a special treat at Tea and Crêpe, set up our own lemonade stand, and headed to Downtown Square for s'mores and stories. For food prep, the students made their own indoor s'mores mix using Golden Grahams cereal, mini marshmallows, and chocolate chips. This was our summer music week, and we were so grateful to Ms. Laura for coming in and teaching us songs and music lessons. We finished the week with swimming at the YMCA and of course our annual summer sleepover. This was a long night that felt short with the amount of fun that we had. Each year there are more and more children who stay up and this means action throughout the

entire night! This was the perfect week for enjoying some classic summertime fun together!

We set sail on one last summer adventure with our final theme, "Pirates Ahoy!" We kicked off the week with an ice cream bar for parents, enjoyed a rooftop picnic at the Black Building downtown (thank you to David and Frannie Schlossman!), and took a special trip to the Fargo Theatre where we rented out a movie for our whole group. The class made pirate treasure cups with blue Jell-O, whipped cream, goldfish crackers, and cereal "treasure." We wrapped up our final theme week with swimming at the YMCA, and what a fun way to end our summer adventures together!

It is hard to believe our summer together has already come to an end! From all our different themes and projects, to our field trips, food prep, swimming days, we had countless laughs and made so many great memories together. It has been so much fun watching the elementary class explore, create, learn, and enjoy everything summer that the Academy had to offer. Thank you to all our families for helping make this summer so special. I hope everyone has a wonderful rest of the year, and I am already looking forward to all the fun and adventures next summer will bring!

Preprimary II News – Ms. Rachel

The summer really flew by! I can't believe school is right around the corner! We started August off with our last two themes, "Campfire Medleys" and "Pirates Ahoy!" The class had lots of fun with art projects. We made a tinfoil stamp campfire and paper bag bear puppets for our campfire theme. For our pirate theme, we got to decorate our own eyepatches and make our own treasure maps. We also did our last food preps. We made cracker and pretzel campfires for "Campfire Medleys," along with bagel and cheese pirate ships for "Pirates Ahoy!"

Ms. Laura visited our class during "Campfire Medleys" week to do music with us. It was so fun to be in class with her again- we miss her during the summer! We loved getting to sing campfire songs and do some learning about musical elements throughout the week.

The Pre-K group got to take a little field trip downtown for a rooftop excursion this month! We got to learn how to play mini golf and have a special treat. Thank you to David and Frannie Schlossman for inviting us on this fun trip! The kids look forward to the rooftop visit every year, and it is

so fun watching them explore the activities and look at downtown from a different perspective.

Everyone is definitely getting excited for the school year to start and it's bittersweet to think of all the Pre-K children going off to start Kindergarten. I can't wait to see what this school year will bring for both the new Kindergarteners and our returning students. Thank you for a great summer!

Preprimary I News – Ms. Ashley

What a fantastic summer it has been! Our days were jam packed full of fun activities. We started the month with our "Campfire Medleys" theme, where we read books and sang songs about camping and the great outdoors. Our art projects for this theme included a s'more made of popsicle sticks and a campfire we created by stamping red and yellow paint with aluminum foil. The food prep this week was walking s'mores and they were delicious! We practiced our turn taking by using a buffet style to make these yummy treats. We would like to thank Ms. Laura for coming in this week to sing with the kids every day. We missed her and can't wait to see her again when school starts!

The last theme of summer was "Pirates Ahoy!" We read many silly books about being a pirate and their adventures. The art projects for this theme included making our own pirate hat headband and eye patches! Our last food prep was making a Banana boat with an apple sail, and we used gummy bears as our pirates.

We enjoyed our last few water days of the summer and had so much fun splashing and playing together in the sun. Summer went by fast, but we are all looking forward to the school year! Thank you, families, for helping make it a great summer!

Toddler II News – Mr. Tank

This month we enjoyed the last of our fun summer themes. We started with "Campfire Medleys." During this theme, we pitched a tent together and took turns laying inside. For art we cut sponges into the shape of trees and used paint to make tree imprints. We turned off the lights and practiced making shadow puppets as a fun camping activity. After our puppets, we played a game of flashlight tag. We also used white paper, paint, and our fingers to create a firefly jar. Another art project we did involved ripping and cutting up red, orange, and yellow tissue paper. We added our tissue paper to brown paper logs to create a nice cozy campfire.

Ms. Laura came in to do music with us this week, and we were excited to see her again before fall!

Our final theme was "Pirates Ahoy!" We read "Pete the Cat and the Treasure Map," then started our own treasure hunt. We hid items in the sand and dug them up. We also added water to our sensory bin, and did a boat race where we enjoyed the "open waters." For art, we made a handprint fish to go in the water. To end our theme, we had a gold coin scavenger hunt, where we hid coins throughout the classroom and counted them at the end.

We spent the last two weeks of summer enjoying our final water days and soaking up our time in the sun. We loved making so many fun new memories this summer before we head into school this fall!

Toddler I News – Ms. Michell



Our first theme of August was "Campfire Medleys." For this theme, Ms. Laura came in to teach us some new songs. We enjoyed this time with Ms. Laura because we really love to sing! We also talked about things we can do while camping. We decided the best part of camping is making yummy s'mores and spending time together with family and friends!

The last theme of August had us saying "aargh!" "Pirates Ahoy!" was filled with treasures and fun. We painted our own treasure chests, then dug through kinetic sand to find beautiful treasures and fill our chests like real pirates!

We had our last water days during these weeks. Please make sure you have taken towels and suits home. We are always sad to end our water days, but we had so much fun splashing, pouring, and of course getting our teachers wet during the last ones!

The last two weeks of August were child care weeks. We spent this time getting ready for the upcoming school year. How did summer go by so fast? Enjoy the last lake days and warm weather! Thank you to everyone for helping and making it another great summer- bring on the school year!

Infant News-Ms. Connie

Just like that, summer is over! The last few weeks were lots of fun! Our first theme was "Campfire Medleys," so Ms. Laura came in and taught us new songs. We also made a lot of art and read books like "My First Book of Camping" and "C is for Camping," which taught us all about different ways of camping and how to camp safely.

The next theme was "Pirates Ahoy!" We made footprint pirate ships, anchors, parrots, and treasure maps. We also felt new textures in our book, "That's Not My Pirate." Our class enjoyed our last

water day of the summer, and the older infants spent a little extra time in the sun to celebrate.

The past few months have been full of new milestones, from sitting up, to pulling up to a stand, and even some first steps! Our class has been working hard on gross motor skills with push toys and our triangle climber. We've also been working on fine motor skills with our worm work- we drop rubber worms into a container with a small hole on the top.

We had a great summer and we look forward to all the fun to be had in the fall!

Thank you!

Strand family – books

Todd family – clothes

Mangen family – books

Opitz family – playground structure

*Bremer, Traiser, Gerdes, and Tehven families-
staff treats*

*Thank you to all who donated items
to the Academy.*

Academy Staff 2026-2027

Rachel Dawson is the Assistant Teacher in the Preprimary II classroom. She is completing her Preprimary Montessori degree through NAMC and will be interning in the classroom. She has worked at the Academy for three years and was the Child Care Supervisor last school year, as well as the Lead Teacher in Preprimary II this summer.

Monique Martin is the Assistant Teacher in the Preprimary I classroom. She has her degree in Child Development and taught Preschool and PreK for four years! She loves languages and incorporating French, ASL, and more in her teaching. In her free time, she is on a local roller derby team. She loves music and karaoke, and lives with her dachshund, Hulk.

Cyntia Mponimipave is the Assistant Teacher in the Toddler II classroom. She joined us towards the end of last school year and was the Assistant Teacher in Preprimary I this summer. She will be attending Rasmussen this fall to pursue Early Childhood Education.

Patty Denchfield is the Assistant Teacher in the Toddler I classroom. Patty has been working at the Academy for the past twenty-six years! She enjoys her time with the toddlers and looks forward to another year with them.

Darla Nordlund will be working with all the children this year. Darla has been employed with the Academy for seventeen years. She looks forward to spending a great year with us.

Josh Tappe has worked at the Academy for many years, and floats within all of our classrooms. He will be working with all age groups this fall. He is looking forward to working at AFC until October, after which he will return to NYC to pursue theatre!

Abby Dunn is starting her second school year at the Academy and will be working in all the classrooms throughout the school day. She will work with the Preprimary I children after school each day. She was also the Assistant Teacher in the Elementary classroom this summer.

Layla Garcia started with us this summer and will be assisting in all the classrooms during the school day, then with the Preprimary II students after school. She is in the Graduate Counseling program at MSUM and holds her BA in Psychology. She has thirteen nieces and nephews so she has a lot of child care experience! She has a cat named Sage, and is a big fan of Spider Man.

Emma Christl is starting her third year with us. She will be floating between the infant and toddler rooms primarily. She is excited to spend the school year with the children.

Lora Okke is starting her second school year at the Academy. She will be assisting part time during lunches. She looks forward to a great school year with the children.

Amelia Briggs is starting her second year at the Academy and will be working primarily with the infants in the afternoons. She attends NDSU and is majoring in Radiology. She can't wait to start another school year with the students and families.

Giahna Eilers joined the Academy last school year and will be working with the infants in the afternoons. She was the Assistant Teacher in the Infant classroom this summer. She is attending Concordia for Exercise Science, minoring in Public Health.

Grace Halter is starting with us this school year and will be working with the Preprimary II children after school each day. She is attending NDSU and majoring in Nursing. She is excited to meet all the families and children!