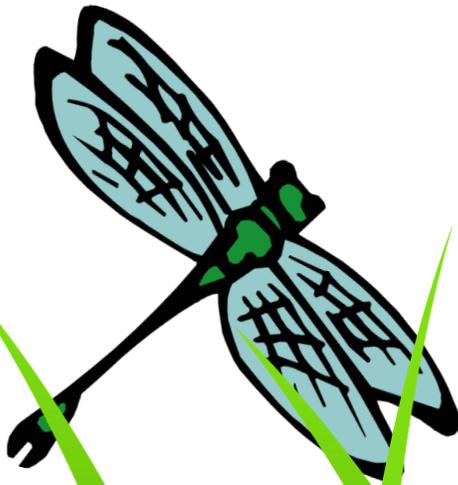
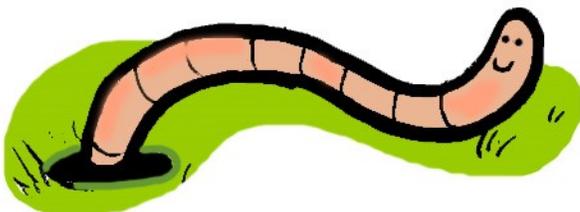


# GARDENnotes



## May 2017

- 5/2 Parent Discussion Group 10:00 am / 1:30 pm
- 5/6 Earth Day 9 am - noon
- 5/11 Spring Art Show 5:30 - 7:00 pm
- 5/12 NO STUDENTS Teacher Work Day
- 5/17 Parent Orientation 6:00-7:00 pm
- 5/26 Parent Appreciation Day 10:30 am / 2:30 pm
- 5/29 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day
- 6/1 End of School Picnic 5:00-7:00 pm  
(no rain date)



## Following Passions

As the rain poured down on the soggy lawn for the second day in a row, the children clustered together under the corner of the canopy. Gently elbowing each other, eyes fixed on their classmates performing center stage, they quietly awaited their turn. First in line, Audrey adjusted her mouse ears and crown, eyes wide as she stood statue still. Then, suddenly, the moment was upon her, and she scampered confidently to the middle of the stage, calling out clearly, "We can help you! Come mice!"

For many reasons, my first year as an Extended Primary teacher stands out distinctly in my memories. One of my favorite memories was collaborating with the class to create a play of the "Wizard of Oz." After reading the book together and watching the movie, the children were excited to perform their own rendition. Many of the students were extroverted performers. Others were quiet introverts. We divided up the parts accordingly, relegating the most timid to the chorus. As our youngest and quietest XP student, Audrey's name quickly popped up on the chorus list. Clearly, Audrey did not see herself that way! When asked what part she might prefer, she quickly named Dorothy, the Wicked Witch, and Glinda. We persisted, suggesting that the chorus would be right up her alley. Wouldn't it be fun to get to be four separate characters? She refused. Finally, we hit upon a compromise. If she would join the chorus, we would add a new character just for her, the Queen of the Field Mice. She readily agreed.

When we speak about Children's Garden, we tout our school as not just a Montessori school, but a Reggio one as well. The Montessori pieces are easy to see. Montessori is a curriculum full of instructions, materials, and lessons. There are where teachers learn how to ods. The Reggio pieces are Emilia philosophy is one that and is not a curriculum in any about education that empha- and community. As a staff, into this way of exploring our ways. The philosophies have many differences. Finding our



numerous training programs implement these teaching methods not as transparent. Reggio grew out of a community in Italy way. It is a way of thinking sizes creativity, collaboration, we struggle with ways of diving Montessori curriculum in Reggio many commonalities, but also way is not ever easy.

Last month, the staff divided both sides of the country, hoping to understand both Montessori ourselves, and returned with renewed excitement. However, we continue to struggle with figuring out how to bring both sides together in meaningful ways. Collaboration is difficult, especially for passionate, innovative, and diverse educators. One thing is certain, we are all committed to guiding our students on the paths to find their passions. We agree that there are infinite languages of expression and we are committed to helping our charges with finding the language that speaks to them. It just takes time to figure out how to do that.

up to attend conferences on ing to delve deeper into our un-ri and Reggio. We all enjoyed

Eight years after that rainy performance, Audrey is still following her passion in the theatre. As a middle school student at the Denver School of the Arts, she starred in the all school musical her first year. The opening curtain found Audrey standing alone, in the spotlight, center stage, belting out the first notes of song in the musical "Oliver!" When her mother described the scene, I felt a pang of guilt. If I had only known how deeply those passions ran, I might have been able to help Audrey follow them from their beginnings. Because of that, I am committed to making sure that we continue to support all our students as they search for their languages--not just those of academia, but of creativity as well!

Signed contracts and  
your 2nd tuition  
deposits are due  
Monday May 1st!

The final  
Parent Discussion  
for the year with Mary Ervolina  
is one you don't want to miss!  
Tuesday, June 2nd  
10:00 am & 1:30 pm

Earth Day Saturday, May 6th  
9 am to noon

1. Family
2. Gardening tools
3. Plants, etc.
4. Ready to work!

Check the sign-up in your inbox  
to see what we need!

Creating Connections,  
the 2017 Spring Art  
Show is for  
the whole family!  
You should have already  
received your invitation.

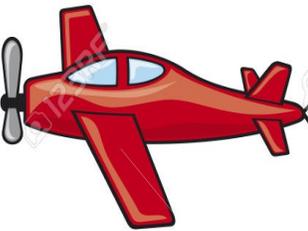
Parent Orientation  
Wednesday, May 17th  
6 - 7 pm

For parents new to the  
school or who have a child  
in a new program next fall.  
(but all are welcome)

There are still a few  
spaces left in the 2nd  
Session of Summer  
Camp

Refreshments, singing,  
community, gratitude...

Friday, May 26th is  
Parent Appreciation Day  
10:30 am & 2:30 pm



End of School Picnic  
Thursday, June 1st 5-7 pm  
Congress Park