

OCTOBER 2016

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR YOUR INVITATION TO OUR AUCTION. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT!

- At a glance . . .
- 10/3 Begin 6 week phone calls
 - 10/12 Childcare Provider Orientation 10 am/1:30 pm
 - 10/14 NO SCHOOL for students
Staff Retreat
 - 10/17 NO SCHOOL
 - 10/22 CGMS Auction



Staff Retreat--Building Community, One Group at a Time

Every year, we come together as a staff to develop as professionals and to bond. This year is no exception. When you look at the calendar, you will notice that we are closed from October 14 until October 17. We will begin our retreat here in Denver as we meet with the Board to participate in a short presentation on Our Reggio Roots, headed up by founder and former Director Bobbie Hobbs. Afterwards, we will travel up to Breckenridge as a staff to enjoy some bonding time in the mountains. In addition to eating and hanging out together, we will be exploring our individual identities and how they influence what we look like as a community. Because of all the hard work over the weekend, the staff will need a day to catch up on sleep and chores, hence the day off on Monday, October 17. It should be an exciting and enlightening time! Stay tuned, we'll try to share our revelations with you sometime in the near future!

Caregiver's Visiting Day

Wednesday, October 12th

10:00 am and 1:30 pm

Care providers are an important part of the children's lives. Children's Garden would like to welcome all care providers and give them an insight to what we do here at school. When we work consistently together, the children benefit. This is a great time to learn more about the Montessori philosophy and hear the reasons why the children come home with their shoes on the "opposite" feet or their coats on upside down.

If you have a care provider, please invite them to come to school on October 12th and learn about our program. After the brief discussion, the care providers are invited to observe the classrooms.

Six Week Phone Calls

We hope by this time in the year, the children are happy at school and beginning to know the routines and expectations, feel they have a friend or two or three, and a teacher who is always available.

To check on that, each of the teachers will be touching base with you via phone to share a bit with you about your children, and hear how you feel they are doing at school. These phone calls have been called "Six-Week Phone Calls" for years, but it can take a good two weeks for a teacher to get through her list, so we ask for your patience. They are not meant to be a full parent-teacher conference, but instead, simply a time for us to tell you briefly how your child is doing at school, and answer any questions you might have.

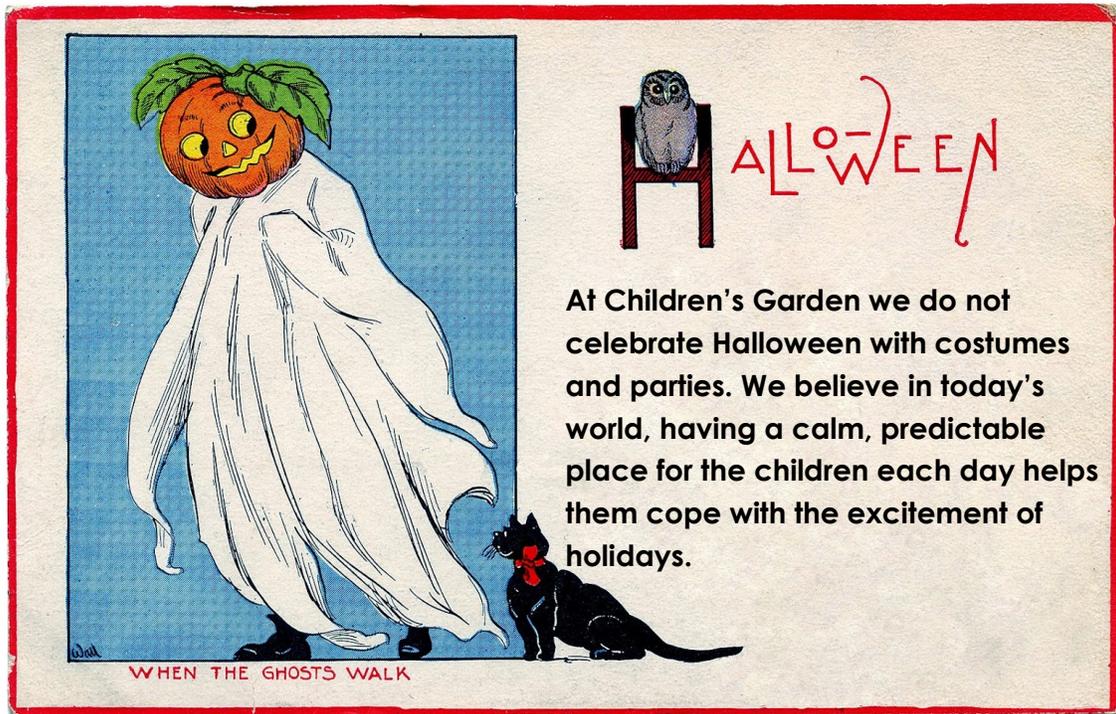
Dressing for the Weather

Just a reminder from the handbook: We go outside in all types of weather. Please send your child in the appropriate attire, i.e. rain coats, rain boots, winter coats, gloves or mittens, snow boots, sun hats, sunglasses, etc.

There is no such thing as bad weather - just bad clothing!

We realize these cool fall mornings and warm summer-like afternoons can be challenging. **LAYER!** Remember to label your child's clothing and we will do our best to make sure your child, with frequent reminders, returns with what he or she came with.





At Children's Garden we do not celebrate Halloween with costumes and parties. We believe in today's world, having a calm, predictable place for the children each day helps them cope with the excitement of holidays.

This Year's Newest Employees

For those of you who missed their original introductions, here is some information about our newest employees:

Lorraine Carter--Before joining Kirsten in the Toddler Classroom as a teacher, Lorraine worked at Ficus Tree Montessori in Playa Hermosa, Costa Rica. Originally from the East Coast, Lorraine moved out to the Denver area in 1971 to pursue a BA in Early Childhood Education from Metropolitan State College (1974). After working at a variety of preschools in the Boulder area, she moved with her family to Estes Park in 1993, where she worked at Circle of Friends Montessori as an assistant. In 2004, she received her Infant Toddler certification from the Montessori Education Center of the Rockies and went on to start the first Montessori toddler program in Estes Park. Later, she moved to Lyons Community Montessori where she established another Toddler Program, and remained there until 2014, when she moved to Costa Rica to help Ficus Tree become established. In addition to being a lifelong Montessorian, she is a strong supporter of Reggio philosophy and looks forward to the opportunity to blend the two philosophies at our school.

Kimberly Gomez--With a BA in Behavioral Science and Early Childhood Education from Metropolitan State College of Denver, Kimberly is currently pursuing Montessori certification from Montessori Casa International at the Primary age level. A mother of three, she has extensive classroom experience in a variety of more traditional schools. She has served as a lead teacher in an Early Head Start community as well as at Community College child centers and Willows Child Learning Centers. Recently enrolling her youngest children in a Montessori program located in Lowry, she fell in love with the philosophy and decided to pursue a career in it. Additionally, she is a certified children's yoga instructor and has run several children's yoga classes. She joins us with a strong work ethic, solid morals, a willingness to learn, and high standards.

440 PM Staffing News

While the parents in 440 PM and the Staff already are aware, I wanted to update the rest of the community. There have been some changes in the staffing of 440 PM. Our teacher Kimberly Gomez, who originally worked full-time in 440, recently cut back to mornings only starting the week of October 3. Kimberly has two young boys under three and has been struggling with balancing working full time and caring for her family. As the school year has gone on, her family circumstances have changed and her responsibilities have increased. She has found herself pulled in many directions. Although it has not been an easy decision, she has decided to cut back to part-time in order to best support her family and to better balance all the expectations that are piled upon her. She is deeply sad about stepping out of the afternoon program as she is quite fond of all the children with whom she works.

Since there has been so much change in the staffing of 440 PM over the past few months, I find it especially necessary to be able to assure all of you that decisions are being made with the children's needs at heart. For this reason, I have asked recently retired, veteran teacher Beverly Jackson to step in and help. She has graciously and enthusiastically agreed to work alongside Dale for the next several months. This is a wonderful opportunity for Dale to settle into Children's Garden routines of the year, and for the children to benefit from the consistency of a master teacher. It will also give me plenty of time to find the perfect permanent fit. For those of you who do not know her, Beverly has taught at Children's Garden for over 35 years, as a teacher, mentor, and collaborator in all of the various classrooms. She recently retired in order to spend more time with her grandchildren, but is available in the afternoons to help us out.

We have scheduled the first **OPEN HOUSE** for prospective families on



Tuesday, October 11th

4:30 and 6:30 pm

Please tell your friends and family who are interested in applying to Children's Garden to visit our website - www.cgmontessori.com - and schedule to attend. We will be accepting on-line applications from November to February 10th for enrollment in August 2017.

Visit the School

The first 6 weeks of school have passed and the time when you can visit your child's class is here. They love to share their environment, routine, and interests with you. You are welcome to stay for the entire class time, but if you are unable to do that, we suggest you arrange to come after the class is in session and stay until dismissal.

Please call Catherine Ramey at 303.322.0972 or email cramey@cgmontessori.com to schedule your visit.

We would like to thank attending the Back to School Nights and contributing food for the community events; Sara Yelapaala for providing lunch for the staff; Afsaneh Noori for the meat patties for the staff; the Staff Appreciation committee for the Starbucks and cookies and for providing lunch on our in-service day; Emily Stone for the yummy (and still warm) sweet rolls for the staff. We are so spoiled!

Thank you for sharing your beautiful children with us - we are off to another great start.

Studio Notes

All living organisms are known and understood through some form of listening. To listen goes beyond hearing, it involves being present and open to a new way of thinking and understanding. The children and I are listening to the life all around us... to one another, to the wind in the trees, to the play of light and shadow, to the changing colors of fall, to body language and facial expressions, to the weather and more. This year's studio research question involves Communication, Creativity, Collaboration, Community and Connection, all of which function best on a foundation of listening.

Some of the projects already emerging include:

The XP children have adopted individual plants, generously donated by City Floral. These plants will be sent home with the children and they (alongside their families) are invited to spend the next several months listening to the needs of their plant and responding to those needs accordingly. Mistakes are welcome and expected, that's how we learn a new language. In this way, we are expanding our research to the broader systems of the natural world in which we live.

The morning and afternoon primary classes are taking Community Walks with me. Together we are noticing the neighborhood and practicing mindful listening through the senses. The children are collecting leaves and twigs and photographing natural treasures along the way. As ambassadors of the school and representatives of children everywhere, they are also greeting our neighbors and local business owners forging new connections and widening our circle of community.

The toddlers and I are building relationships and discovering what this year of inquiry may look like alongside the youngest members of our CGMS family.

Each one of YOU is an integral member of our community, please contact me if you would like to lend your voice to our research or just chat. As always you are invited to join us, wherever you are, in the act of listening, through all the senses, to the song of life that each day has to offer.

Please visit the studio blog to find out more: <http://natureandchild.blogspot.com>

Your Studio Teacher,

Angelina

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