

Parents of Datzyk School (PoDS) Newsletter

DATZYK MONTESSORI SCHOOL



Issue 4

November 2004

Letter from PoDS

Dear Parents and Teachers,

Happy Thanksgiving! It has now been a few months since we started PoDS this year and we are still getting organized. We have done many things over a short period of time and plan to do more this Spring. We have not always been perfect in our execution of the projects. Our approach was to get some things started and learn and improve as we go along. Thank you all for your patience during this time. Beginning at the December meeting, we will change our meeting structure since, in the current structure, our meetings last more than the scheduled hour. To date, we have discussed the various projects at the meetings and have made many detailed decisions. We have found that takes too much valuable meeting time. Moving forward, we will hear a brief summary from each committee chair on their future activities and spend more time talking about parents' concerns and suggestions. The committee chairs will be expected to take a leadership role on their committee and make the necessary decisions. The general PoDS membership will not get involved in the detailed planning of each event or activity. Anyone is eligible to participate on any committee. PoDS exists to serve the parents of Datzyk children. We would like your input and feedback at any time and will do our best to respond to it. As a small example, based your parents' feedback, this month we have changed the format of the newsletter to allow for larger font and a more easily-readable format.

One way to make your voice heard is to attend our monthly meetings. They are held on the first Monday of every month from 7- 8pm in Mrs. Molter's room. If you are unable to attend and have questions or concerns for PoDS, feel free to call me at 610-317-9262 or leave a note addressed to PoDS in your child's folder and I will get it.

I look forward to seeing you at the 03 December PoDS meeting.

*Melanie Sanchez-Jones,
President PoDS*



Coming Events

- 24—28 Nov: Datzyk closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- 3 Dec: First day of Parkettes
- 3 Dec: Last day to return entertainment books & monies collected to Datzyk
- 6 Dec: PoDS Meeting, 7—8 p.m. in Mrs. Molter's room
- 8 Dec: Teacher Meeting; Volunteers needed 12:15-1:15pm
- 10 Dec: Last day fo Clothing/Book Drive
- 21 Dec: Holiday Party—More info coming soon
- 22 Dec—2 Jan: Datzyk closed for Winter Holidays
- 03 Jan: PoDS Meeting, 7—8 p.m. in Mrs. Molter's room



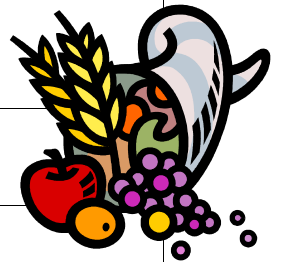
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Miss Ryan's Classroom

We are thankful for...our moms, dads, brothers, sisters, Clifford and Spiderman. These were some of the things the two-year olds were thankful for when we discussed this months holiday meaning. We learned about the pilgrims and Indians and made art projects out of turkeys and cornucopias. Our class made a cornucopia using real fruit and vegetables that the children brought from home. The children brought in a family picture and got the chance to talk about their family and themselves. They really loved showing their pictures to their friends! We then created our own family portraits to hang in the classroom. With all the holidays near, the children are still working hard on their letters, numbers and colors. They are continuing to learn new jobs weekly and take time out to enjoy the holidays on the way! Over the next few weeks, we will be discussing the holidays that are approaching very quickly. The children will see how some countries celebrate them differently from one another. We'll be learning them through songs, stories, and arts and crafts. **Parents, if you are interested in sharing your holiday story with us, please let me know!** Our conference week went very well and I wanted to thank the parents for showing your involvement in your child's education. Happy Holidays!



Mrs. Serrecchia's Classroom

We wrapped up the month of November with a discussions of what we are thankful for and a few songs about turkeys and feasts. We have made great strides in the practical life area with hanging up and zipping our coats. As we enter into December, we will be continuing to focus on jobs such as:

Walking heel to toe on a line
Putting jobs away

Sitting correctly on the line
Saying Please and Thank you

Many students have mastered the pink tower, brown stairs, the knobbed and the knobbed less cylinders and are moving on to more challenging work. I will be introducing construction triangle boxes as well as a few water jobs. The practice of letter recognition and letter sounds will continue throughout the year and this month I will be adding more challenging work to this area, such as matching objects to their beginning letter sound and identifying objects in our room that start with a particular letter. We will also be discussing Winter and the weather that accompanies it along with investigating where the animals go during this season. Look for our "peek at the week" for weekly updates from our class. Have a safe and happy holiday season!



Mrs. Vassallo's Classroom

During the month of November, we spent time talking about harvest time and Thanksgiving. We talked about what makes us happy and that those are things we are thankful for. We discussed the first Thanksgiving and why we still celebrate today. The children have been hardworking this month practicing the materials they know and are very excited to learn something new:

Red Rods
Spindle box

Knobless cylinders
Number rods

Color tablets

We have been practicing Spanish colors and will soon start Spanish numbers. Next month will be an exciting and busy month. We will spend time talking about the many holidays celebrated and the traditions that our families have throughout the holiday season. **If there is something special that your family does, share it with us so we can talk about it. Also, our class loves books so if there is a special book that your child enjoys at home, send it in so we can read it together.** Have a safe and happy holiday season!



Mrs. Molter's Classroom

We continue to study the skeleton and bones. We are learning about the femur, humerus, spine, ribs, pelvis, cranium, and more. We also continue learning German and are working on a song about a cuckoo. Mrs. Dighde kindly spoke to our class about Divali, the Festival of Lights. Thanksgiving is coming and we have been reading stories and working on projects with turkeys, Pilgrims, Native Americans, and cornucopias. Next month we will be working on holiday surprises, so no peeking!

Our class would like to welcome Joshua Newnham. We now have 18 children for snack. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Mrs. Datzyk and Mrs. Turrisi's Classroom

Our class had another special visit, actually 4 more special visitors...Ahmad Kanan's parents and his siblings, Aya and Yusuf, came to tell us about Ramadan and Eid. Ramadan is a month of fasting that the Muslim faith practices—and at the end of the fast the grand celebration of Eid! At the close of the Kanan's presentation we asked the class why the Muslims fast and they replied, "They fast because Muslims appreciate food" and "they want the food they usually eat to go to children who don't usually have such good food." Ahmad's parents do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset. "Sometimes Aya and me fast with my family—it is a good thing to do." Ahmad added. "When you come to our classroom, you will see the decorations we made. They are hanging from the ceiling in our room and it looks like a party!" Our very warmest THANK YOU to the Kanan family for visiting and sharing that part of their lives with us. A very Happy Eid to you!



We have discussed the pilgrim's arrival to the "New World" - and all of the help offered to them by the Native Americans. We learned about various Northeastern tribes, and foods they introduced and shared with the "coat-men." In November, Rob Aptaker, a Native American specialist, came and spoke to us about the Native Americans. Following his informative visit, the children had these comments, "I liked all of the things he brought—he had no bow and arrow because it was a weapon." - "His pants were made of deerskin and his purple top was cotton. The early people did not have cotton or silver." - "The songs and stories were fun!" - "He really sounded like a bear and then an ant!" - "We danced like Native Americans and heard him speak Algonquin." - "The pilgrims shared too!" - "Even a long time ago friends shared!" WASHIBI (Thank you) PoDS for sponsoring this enlightening event! We feel it tied in beautifully with our current theme of sharing!

Thank goodness we finished the leaf books before the last leaf fell! Next we will wander to the park to hunt for animal tracks in the snow! We will talk about hibernating animals and watch for winter birds. With information we find and feelings we feel, we are going to compose Haiku poetry. We will discuss Hanukah and Christmas. If there are no objections, the children will put up a Christmas tree and adorn it with their own handmade decorations. There will also be a day of cookie baking then a morning of cookies and hot chocolate—perhaps even a visit from a white bearded gent!

Mrs. Datzyk announced that there are now only 3 children in our class who have not yet made the leap into reading—at the onset of our school year, the number of non-readers was 14. As one parent said, "Mrs. Datzyk, you are like magic!" Thank you parents for the support you give our teachings at home. Have a blessed holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

"Under the guidance of the intellect, human hands transform this environment and thus enable us to fulfill our mission in the world." Dr. Maria Montessori

Reminder!



The Parkettes visited our school for a free trial and will begin their weekly sessions on Friday, December 3rd. Remember to hand in your PARKETTE forms if your child is to participate in the classes. Music classes will be on Thursday to accommodate the Friday Parkettes program.



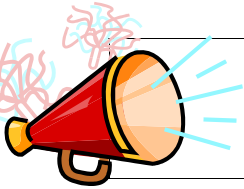
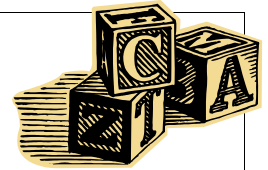
Native American Storyteller

Rob Aptaker, the Native American storyteller, visited Datzyk on Friday, 12 November to help the students celebrate the Thanksgiving season. I was fortunate to watch his presentation with the two and three year olds. First he talked about his Lenape tribe costume and had the children "sleep" in beds made of deer, beaver and bear skins. He taught them Native American words and phrases and played a drum made out of a tree trunk with an animal hide top. Rob told the children that the drum's beat represents their heart beating.

We sang songs, did stop dancing (a huge success!) and we also did a snake dance as a group. He showed the children several rattles made of a squash and deer nails. All the students were enthralled by two Native American stories about how the turtle got cracks in its shell and about the contest between a bear and an ant over whether or not there should be day and night or just night all the time. Lastly, all the children got to grind corn in a stone bowl with a rock... another huge hit!!! My son Noble was able to talk in so much detail about the event, including what all the rattles were, that evening and we are still talking about the stories!

Discovery Toys Update

Thank you to all parents who purchased toys! Final sales were \$600 and raised \$110 towards free educational toys for Datzyk. Everything on the teacher's list was purchased.



Calling All Volunteers

More parent volunteers are needed for morning drop-offs. Contact Mrs. Datzyk or John if you can.

Easy Ways to Help Datzyk

When you shop at the following stores, just give these account numbers and Datzyk will get rewards.

- *Superfresh Account: 444441027—Datzyk gets cash*
- *Office Depot: 5% School Id: 70084861*

Don't forget to cut the tops off General Mills products and put the Box Tops for Education in the box in your child's classroom. Each top could be worth 10 cents!



Special Thanks!!!

- *Thanks to the parents who donated money for the Native American Storyteller. He was a big hit!*
- *Thanks to John Roche for volunteering to be the PoDS Treasurer.*