

# Schoolhouse Scribbles

Olive Room

Scribbles

December 15,

## Highlights of the Week

Happy Holidays!

In the Montessori environment, celebrating holidays and festivals is an important and exciting study for the students that focuses on the tradition and rituals of celebrations. Teachers provide students with long lasting impressionistic lessons that reinforce the idea that people around the world have distinctive yet similar celebrations. Students retain the joy of holiday celebrations as they learn about a variety of cultural observances. Learning about the holidays of different cultures embraces the Montessori principals of inclusion and peace and helps students understand that celebrations have had a great significance to people throughout time and across all cultures.

Holidays are a way that people come together to worship that which they hold dear, to rejoice, and usually to feast with their community and families. The message is clear: it is wonderful to be different and honor what is unique about each culture and person, but let us celebrate our humanity together.

The Children have been practicing the songs and dances to the Nutcracker Ballet and they would like to invite you to their presentation on Friday, January 12. The show will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. We have changed the performance date to the new year because many of our students will not be attending school next week. They are leaving early for their holiday vacations. Happy New Year!



*"Children become like the things they love."*

-Maria Montessori

## Home/School connection

Can I do Montessori at home with my child?

Yes, you can use Montessori principles of child development at home. Look at your home through your child's eyes. Children need a sense of belonging, and they get it by participating fully in the routines of everyday life. "Help me do it by myself" is the life theme of the preschooler. Can you find ways for your child to participate in meal preparation, cleaning, gardening, caring for clothes, shoes, and toys? Providing opportunities for independence is the surest way to build your child's self-esteem.

At the school level many homeschooling and other parents use the Montessori philosophy of following the child's interest and not interrupting concentration to educate their children.

In school only a trained Montessori teacher can properly implement Montessori education, using the specialized learning equipment of the Montessori "prepared environment." Here social development comes from being in a positive and unique environment with other children -- an integral part of Montessori education.

### Reminders:

- Winter Recess December 22<sup>nd</sup> -January 2<sup>nd</sup>
- School Resumes January 3<sup>rd</sup>