

August 20, 2015

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year! We are excited to begin yet another year at Lakeland Montessori Schoolhouse! Whether you are returning or just beginning with us this year, we are delighted that you and your child will be a part of the Banyan class. Throughout the year, your child will have numerous opportunities for academic, social, and emotional growth. Because children grow and learn at varying paces and in different ways, our classroom environment will be set up to meet the needs of all children.

We will strive to achieve the following objectives for our students:

- Provide a safe and trusting environment at all times
- Develop a positive self image in each child
- Help our students learn to make positive decisions
- Encourage a sense of responsibility in each child
- Provide quality academic instruction to each student at his/her level
- Instill in each child a desire for lifelong learning

Communication between home and school is vital in ensuring a successful school year. Our primary means of communication is through our class newsletter that will be emailed through the official Family Communication email group. Please be sure to carefully read the newsletter to obtain important information. The snack calendar is included in this packet and will be posted online on the Parents page of the school website, <http://lakelandmontessori.com/primary-classrooms/>.

Please direct all questions pertaining to your child or your child's classroom to Ms. Pragma through my school email address included at the bottom of this letter. Your questions and concerns will be addressed in a timely manner. You may also reach me by phone between 3:15 and 4:00. The school number is 413-0003. A Family/Goal-Setting conference will be held during the first nine-week grading period. Should the need arise for any additional conferences, I will be glad to make arrangements to meet with you.

Please review the following information carefully:

Class Meetings: This year we will have monthly Class Meetings from 5:30-6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of every month except for December. Class Meetings will provide us the opportunity to share our love of the Montessori methods and materials through parent education sessions, offer discussion groups and address any questions you may have. You will find these meetings of great value as they will provide insight into the purpose of the Montessori materials and their hidden lessons, deepen your knowledge of the developmental planes and make connections between home and school. The best way to ensure your question is on the Class Meeting agenda is to email your question to your child's teacher at least a week in advance. Due to limited Class Meeting time, emailed questions will be answered prior to opening the floor for new questions and discussion. Be sure to join us on our first meeting scheduled Tuesday, September 8th at 5:30 p.m. in the Banyan Classroom! - *(Child care is not provided)*.

Class Visits: Beginning in January, we will be implementing monthly Tuesday Morning Class Visits for parents. More information about Class Visits will be shared in the near future.

Snack Reminders:

Please follow the snack calendar posted on the website when planning your child's snack days. A copy of the year-long snack calendar is also included in this packet along with a detailed list of snack options. **All snack items must be in pre-packaged, store-bought containers.** Please refer to the handbook section of the Lakeland Montessori website (<http://lakelandmontessori.com/parents/handbook>) for further information. **If you have difficulties with your assigned day, please contact another family to switch days.**

Lunch Procedure:

Lunch is an important time of the day to practice manners and grace and courtesy lessons. As part of the lunch routine, students will need to have cloth placemats that will fold up to fit inside their lunch box. Please be sure to include one placemat in their lunch box each day. Placemats will need to be washed at home as needed. The placemats need to be labeled with your child's name. The placemat should be no larger than 12" square. If purchasing or making placemats, please select fabrics that do not contain a cartoon character print. All lunch containers and water bottle must be labeled with your child's name.

A school lunch is available for purchase for students in grades K-5. Age 3 and 4 students, however, **MUST** have their own lunch every day. If your age 3 or 4 child will be leaving at 11:30 (not participating in lunch time), or you will be bringing your child's lunch to eat with them, please send in a **HANDWRITTEN** note stating these circumstances. Ms. Tiwari and I do not have the opportunity to check email before lunch time, so a handwritten note will provide the best means of communication.

If your Kindergarten child does not bring a lunch box, a school lunch will automatically be ordered for your child and your child's account will be charged with the purchase. If your child is leaving early or you are bringing your child's lunch to eat with him/her, please follow the above procedure by sending in a **HANDWRITTEN** note.

Kindergarteners also have the option of ordering milk. If you would like to place a standing order for your child to receive milk every day that he/she is in attendance, please email me. We cannot accommodate an occasional milk purchase. It must be a standing order for every day or not at all.

Lunch on Early Release Days:

On early release days, all students will be dismissed at 12:15 pm. We will still have lunch on these days at 11:30 am, however, **Kindergarten students will have to bring their lunch as we will not be ordering lunches for the students.** Early release days are listed on the school calendar on the Parents page of the school website.

Class Schedule:

Arrival time begins at 8:15 am. Students that are not inside the gate before 8:35 am will be considered tardy and a parent must sign in at the front desk. If your car has entered our parking lot by 8:30 am, we will make sure that your child is accompanied to the gate. It is important that students arrive on time, as their work cycle begins immediately upon arrival. Both

primary classes have lunch from 11:30 am - 12:00 pm. After the first three weeks of school, you are welcome to come eat lunch with your child after checking in at the front office. Outside playtime is from 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm. You must be an approved volunteer to be on the playground with children. Early pick-up time is between 11:30 am and 12:30 pm. Please go to the office, and the office staff will bring your child to you. **Please do not plan to pick up your child early after 12:30 pm.** Dismissal times are from 2:45 pm – 2:55 pm and from 2:55pm - 3:05 pm. We have a car line during these times. Each family will be given a colored form for their vehicle to be displayed on the dashboard indicating which dismissal time they are assigned.

Half-day Student Dismissal:

Half day students will be dismissed at 12:30 pm from the outside playground gate. **Please park your car and approach the gate only after you see the teacher opening the gate.** The teacher at the gate will then dismiss your child to you. If you wish to come in before 12:30 pm and spend time with your child at lunch and/ or playtime (**after the first three weeks**), please enter through the front office. Bring your driver's license, and then you will be given a volunteer badge to come join us outside. **Only approved volunteers can be on the playground with children.**

Events:

Event days are special days at Lakeland Montessori. Throughout the year, LMS hosts four major events in which the entire school community gathers on campus to interact with family and friends, watch student performances, and have a great time. The following list highlights these events along with dates to add to your calendar.

- Friendship Feast (November 20, 2015): Families bring a covered dish to share and enjoy a picnic-style lunch on the grounds. Food sign-up information will be available closer to the date.
- Multi-Cultural Festival (December 18, 2015): Students perform songs, skits, and dances from the school-wide continent of study. This year we will be studying North America. Families are asked to bring in a food to taste either from their own culture or from the continent being studied.
- Tea and Art Show (March 25, 2016): Enjoy a time of tea and refreshment served by your child as you browse art work completed by the students throughout the school year.
- End of Year Festival (June 9, 2016): The upper elementary classroom hosts this event as the culmination of their service learning projects. Booths are set up as interactive activities for the students and families to enjoy along with various food items to beat the heat.

These events are also posted on the LMS calendar on the school website. Watch for additional details on the Family Communication email group.

Kindergarten High Frequency Words (HFW):

All of the Kindergarten HFW are available in this packet and are posted in the Classroom Information page of the Parents section of the website. Check the newsletter for the specific

words we will be concentrating on in class during each week. Please use these lists to practice the words at home on a regular basis.

Student Work:

Student work will be sent home on Friday. Please do not be alarmed if your 3- or 4- year old does not bring home a lot of papers. Rest assured that they are working and learning in the classroom. Much of their work involves the process of the work, not the product or the outcome of the work. As a child enters their 5- and 6- year old years, more work is recorded on paper. They are still involved in the process of the work, but are becoming more interested in the product that happens as a result of their efforts. Please remember, too, that children develop at different rates, and so the shift from process to product will differ depending on the child. I encourage you to set aside a few minutes each afternoon or evening to talk with your child about his/her day. **Please provide a folder and a small tote bag to place the folder in with your child's name on it (NO BACKPACKS).** We are providing a folder with this orientation packet, you are welcome to use it or choose another folder. The folder and tote bag will be sent home on Friday and it needs to be returned on the next school day. It's important that your child bring in their folder and tote bag each week. This will help your child learn to be organized and keep their cubby clean.

Extra Clothes:

All age 3 and 4 children will need to have a full change of clothes at school. Please include a **uniform top and bottom, underwear, and socks.** Kindergarten students will need to at least have a uniform top and socks. **Label each item of clothing** (including socks) and place in a labeled gallon-size Ziplock bag. If your child uses all or some of their change of clothes, the articles of clothing used will be sent home that day. **By the next school day,** please replace whatever articles of clothing were sent home in a clean labeled gallon-size Ziplock bag.

Shoes:

One of the direct goals of the primary classroom is to encourage and foster the growing independence of the child. Young children are particularly interested in doing things for themselves. One of the ways this desire for independence can be encouraged is in the routine of taking off and putting on of their own shoes. A child's confidence in their own abilities grows when they are successful with this task. **We encourage you to send your child to school with shoes that they can successfully put on and take off by themselves.** If your child is not yet able to tie the laces of their shoes, please consider providing them with slip-on shoes or shoes with Velcro. **No open-toe shoes.** It's important that your child wear shoes for outdoor play. Having shoes that are manageable according to each child's level of ability will allow them to feel successful and to grow in confidence!

Sound of the Week:

In your folder, you will find a schedule for the sound of the week. At the beginning of each week, we focus on one phonetic letter sound. On the first day of the week, the children are encouraged to bring in one small item to share for the sound. For example, "s" as in snake. If you can't find an item, your child can bring in a picture printed from the computer. **We only have one day scheduled for sharing the sound of the week. Please do not send an item in the following**

day if your child forgot or is absent. Our sharing day is on Monday or the next day after a holiday.

Sharing Box:

The Sharing Box is a way for your child to tell us a little more about him/herself. It encourages public speaking skills and helps to build community within the classroom. Your child will be bringing home the Sharing Box sometime during the school year. Please help your child place two to three items in the box that are of interest to your child. Suggestions include: pictures, souvenirs from vacations, items from nature, etc. **Please do not include toys.** All items must fit within the box. When your child brings home the box, please send it back on the following school day.

Walk-Around-the-Sun:

The following is an excerpt from the LMS student/family handbook located at <http://www.lakelandmontessori.com/handbook.htm#Celebrations>:

In recognition of the day a child is born, we gather at group time and tell the child's life story as they hold a globe and "orbit the sun" provided that we receive the **Milestones Form** (available on the Parents page of the school website under classroom information, with your child's information. You are welcome to join us for this activity at 11:00. We are unable to accommodate birthday party type activities during classroom time.

If you would like your child to participate in this event, **please contact me via email at least one week before you would like the event to take place so that we may set up a date.** It does not have to occur on your child's actual birthday, if that time is not convenient for you or for the classroom. Should you have any questions, I will be happy to provide additional information.

Field Trips:

Plans are being made for this year's field trips. We will be going on three field trips this year. Check the weekly newsletters for further details, including signing up to ride the bus as a chaperone.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Pragya Tiwari, Lead Teacher
ptiwari@lakelandmontessori.com

Kate MacDonald, Assistant Teacher

Sounds of the Week 2015-2016

Aug 31- s as in seal	Dec 7- f as in feather
Sep 7- m as in moon	Dec 14- g as in gorilla
Sep 14- t as in turtle	Jan 4- o as in owl
Sep 21- a as in apple	Jan 11- d as in dog
Sep 28- c as in cat	Jan 18- w as in winter
Oct 5- r as in rabbit	Jan 25- n as in nest
Oct 12- p as in pumpkin	Feb 1- e as in egg
Oct 19- i as in igloo	Feb 8 - q as in quilt
Oct 26- h as in hat	Feb 15 - k as in kite
Nov 2- j as in jet	Feb 22- v as in violin
Nov 9- l as in lion	Feb 29- z as in zebra
Nov 16- u as in umbrella	Mar 7- y as in yo-yo
Nov 30- b as in bat	Mar 14- x as in the ending sound of box

First Set: (s,m,t,a)

Second Set: (c,r,p,i)

Third Set: (h,j,l,u)

Fourth Set: (b,f,g,o)

Fifth Set: (d,w,n,e)

Sixth Set: (k,x,z,y,q,v)

The dates listed above are the beginning days of those weeks. Please encourage your child to look around your home and bring in a small item that starts with the phonetic sound of the week to share with the class on the listed days. We only share the objects on Mondays or the next day after a holiday.

We always encourage the children to be careful and respectful of the classroom materials, however sometimes accidents happen and things break. Please do not bring in anything that you do not want broken. ☺

Polk County Schools

Kindergarten High Frequency Word List

Kindergarten students are expected to know 71 high frequency words by the end of the school year. Students are asked to read these words aloud from a list. Words are scored as being correct if they are recognized and pronounced accurately and quickly. Mastering increasing number of high frequency words is evidence that students are moving toward becoming fluent readers.

The emphasis on these basic words is to promote reading success for students by establishing the opportunity to acquire vocabulary that is encountered consistently in printed material.

Acquiring a large reading vocabulary is the foundation for the comprehension of printed text. This is a key to reading success.

First Nine Weeks	Second Nine Weeks	Third Nine Weeks	Fourth Nine Weeks
1. a	1. go	1. do	1. for
2. my	2. we	2. what	2. me
3. the	3. on	3. no	3. one
4. I	4. to	4. see	4. little
5. like	5. you	5. look	5. are
6. at	6. have	6. come	6. here
7. it	7. an	7. came	7. than
8. as	8. can	8. all	8. this
9. has	9. is	9. not	9. first
10. am	10. his	10. out	10. long
11. school	11. him	11. he	11. get
12. boy	12. will	12. went	12. then
13. girl	13. if	13. them	13. but
14. cat	14. did	14. big	14. jump
	15. had	15. its	15. just
	16. dog	16. milk	16. fish
	17. pig	17. box	17. sun
	18. cow	18. blue	18. boat
	19. car	19. book	19. duck

Snack List for Primary Classrooms

The following is an excerpt regarding the daily snack provided by classroom families from the LMS Student/Family Handbook:

- **Required:**
A store packaged pre-cut FRESH (not canned or dried) fruit or vegetable snack. Whole fruit may be sent as long as there is enough for each child to have their own whole piece of fruit (example-bananas).
- **Optional:**
In addition to the fresh fruit or vegetable item, please consider providing a protein and or whole grain item to complement the fresh fruit or vegetable. If the item is made with whole grains, at least one of the ingredients will have the word "whole" next to the type of grain and the majority of the time the package will state that it is made with whole grains. ALL optional items must have 3 grams or less of sugar per serving. **Items with artificial sweeteners are not allowed.**
- **ALL FOOD MUST BE STORE PACKAGED.** Items that do not meet the guidelines above will not be returned.

Peanuts and other nuts: VERY IMPORTANT

Because some children have potentially dangerous allergies to peanuts and other nuts, do not bring any foods or snack containing peanuts or peanut byproducts (such as peanut oil), or foods that may contain peanuts or any other types of nuts. Labels on processed foods are generally very explicit about the inclusion of peanuts and nuts.

To ease the process of choosing and purchasing snack for the classroom, we have provided a detailed list of options, including package size/quantity for a classroom of 26 students.

Please bring ONE of the following choices:

- Pre-packaged sliced apples (4 one pound bags)
- Small whole apples (26)
- Strawberries (at least 48 oz.)
- Small whole bananas (26)
- Whole plums (26)
- Clementines (26)
- Whole pears (26)

- Whole peaches (26)
- Pre-packaged cut up watermelon (at least 4 lbs)
- Pre-packaged slice watermelon (26 slices)
- Pre-packaged cut up cantaloupe (at least 4 lbs)
- Pre-packaged slice cantaloupe (26 slices)
- Pre-packaged cut up honeydew (at least 4 lbs)
- Pre-packaged sliced honeydew (at least 26 slices)
- Pre-packaged pineapple chunks (at least 4 lbs)
- Baby carrots (at least 32 oz.)
- Pre-packaged cut up celery (at least 40 oz.)
- Pre-packaged cut up broccoli (at least 36 oz.)
- Pre-packaged cut up cauliflower (at least 30 oz.)
- Sugar snap peas (at least 40 oz.)

You MAY bring one or more of the following optional choice:

- Cheese cubes (at least 36 oz.)
- String cheese (26 sticks)
- Cracker cut cheese slices (26 slices)
- Baby bell cheese rounds (26 rounds)
- Cheese spread (one container)
- Wheat Thins (one family size box)
- Mini whole wheat bagels with cream cheese (26 bagels/1 container)
- Multi-grain Ritz crackers (one family size box)
- Triscuit (one family size box)
- Vegetable Dip (one container)
- Lunch meat slices-turkey, ham, salami, etc. (26 slices)
- Pepperoni slices (at least one 6 oz. package)

August

2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Tavin	25 Aurora	26 Samantha	27 Kaylen	28 Maya	29
30	31 Pleidia	1	2	3	4	5

Notes:

September

2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 Adriana	2 Mabry	3 Gauge	4 Evelyn	5
6	7 No School	8 Nathan	9 Logan	10 Myka	11 Xander	12
13	14 River	15 Roman	16 Lucas	17 Aubrey	18 Liam	19
20	21 Amelia	22 Simon	23 August	24 Audrey	25 Ethan	26
27	28 Di	29 Tavin	30 Aurora	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Notes:

October

2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1 Samantha	2 Kaylen	3
4	5 Maya	6 Pleidia	7 Adriana	8 Mabry	9 Gauge	10
11	12 Evelyn	13 Nathan	14 Logan	15 Myka	16 Xander	17
18	19 No School	20 River	21 Roman	22 Lucas	23 Aubrey	24
25	26 Liam	27 Amelia	28 Simon	29 August	30 Audrey	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Notes:

November

2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Ethan	3 Di	4 Tavin	5 Aurora	6 No School	7
8	9 Samantha	10 Kaylen	11 Maya	12 Pleidia	13 Adriana	14
15	16 Mabry	17 Gauge	18 Evelyn	19 Nathan	20 Logan	21
22	23 No School	24 No School	25 No School	26 No School	27 No School	28
29	30 Myka	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Notes:

December

2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 Xander	2 River	3 Roman	4 Lucas	5
6	7 Aubrey	8 Liam	9 Amelia	10 Simon	11 August	12
13	14 Audrey	15 Ethan	16 Di	17 Tavin	18 Aurora	19
20	21 No School	22 No School	23 No School	24 No School	25 No School	26
27	28 No School	29 No School	30 No School	31 No School	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Notes: