

Celebrate the Season with Music!

The Christmas music program this year is shaping up to be one of the biggest and best we have ever had. Not only is it a celebration of Christmas, but it is also a showcase for the amazing music program at GLTW. The Lower Elementary classes will premier two original Christmas songs along with some traditional favorites. The Upper Elementary will come together to sing a great Spanish song, and then they will join the Middle School for the instrumental portion of the evening.

The biggest change in this year's program is the addition of a percussion section to the String Orchestra. They have been working hard not only to perform, but also in writing many of their parts. The Beginning Band has been growing throughout the year as new students have joined the GLTW community and it has been wonderful to see the students pull together to help each other out. The Advanced Band has been ambitious this year, taking on so many pieces that we had to pick and choose which ones to include. The Jazz band has also grown to include eight musicians and they are sure to send us off on a high note.

We look forward to seeing you there!



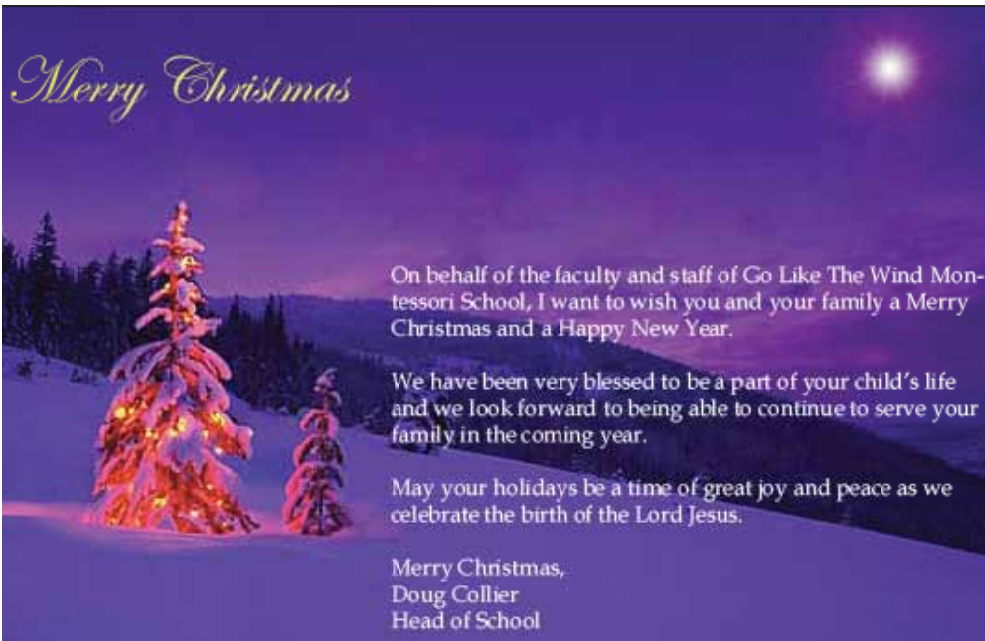
Concert Info

Thursday, Dec. 15th 1:00 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 16th 7:00 p.m.

Go Like the Wind Gymnasium

And don't forget our annual Christmas Sing
Friday, December 23rd at 11:00 a.m.



Looking Ahead: An Evening with Harvey Leo, M.D.

Thursday, March 22
7:00-9:00 p.m.

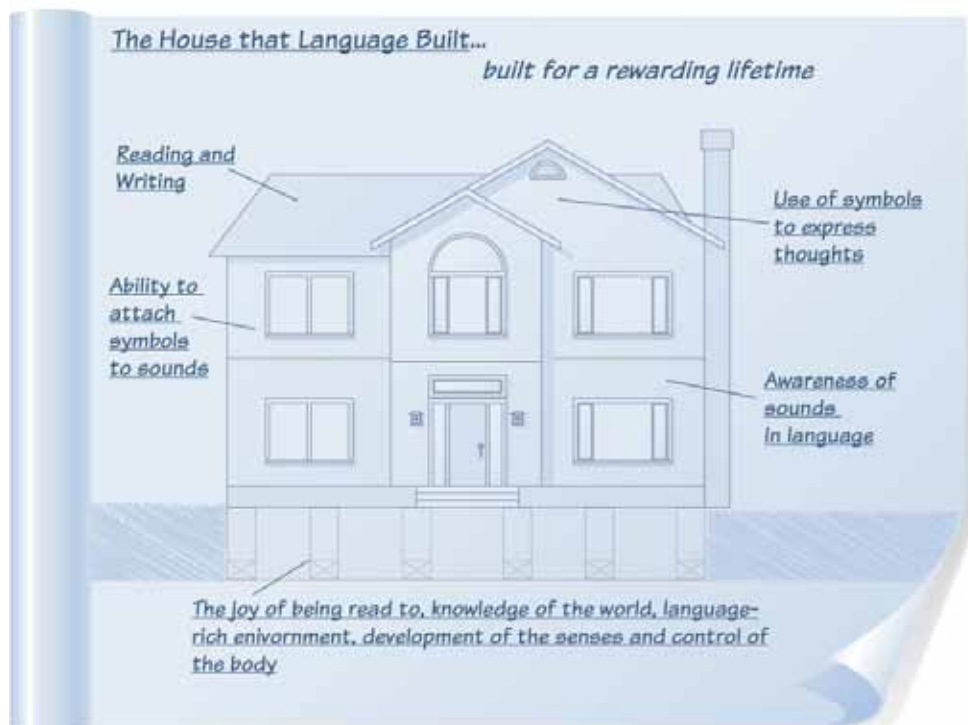
As Assistant Research Scientist in the Division of Health Behavior and Education and Center for Managing Chronic Disease, Dr. Leo's research focuses on addressing the emerging issues of food allergies in the childcare and school setting.

Since collaborating with the Ann Arbor School District to implement a district-wide food allergy response plan, he now educates and guides accredited childcare facilities in appropriate and systemic approaches to food allergies.

The Silent Journey: Language in a Montessori Classroom

Please join us for an evening of learning. We will introduce you to another facet of the Montessori curriculum - Language. What does Montessori Language look like? We will provide you that answer through an interactive multi-sensory experience.

Our evening will start with a potluck dinner in the gym, beginning promptly at 5:00pm. At 6:15pm, Preprimary and Elementary children will head out to participate in other activities with our Educare. The Silent Journey – Language in a Montessori Classroom will begin promptly at 6:30pm.



Leaps and Bounds

News from the Classroom

Infant Room: Miss Leann

The Infants wrapped up the fall season with a feast of corn bread muffins and sweet potatoes. They really enjoyed participating in the mixing and baking of the corn bread.

As winter comes upon us, we will be talking and singing about snow, Christmas time, and the many wonderful things winter brings to us. We hope that as the holiday season is fast approaching that all of our families celebrate the true meaning of this time. As the weather outside is becoming colder, please remember to bring warm clothes for the children's cubbies.



Top Right: Bree mixes corn muffins in the Infant room.
Above: Carving a pumpkin in Toddler 1; Luke of Toddler 2 enjoys the snow.

Toddler One: Ms. She'Lon

The holiday season is well underway and the excitement continues to build. This month, Toddler One will be decorating our classroom Christmas tree, learning about snow, and taking on multiple holiday projects. Look forward to the artwork and pictures that will be sent home! Toddler One would also like to welcome our new students Isabella, Gisselle, and Alex to the classroom.

As the temperatures continue to drop, we would like to remind you to send in hats, coats, mittens, snow pants, boots and anything else your child may need to keep warm. We will be going outside daily as long as the windchill is above 20°F. Please remember to label everything sent in with your child's name. Also, please take the time to go over our school illness policy. Coinciding with this time of year are increased cases of colds, runny noses, and other contagious illnesses. It is good to have a plan of action if or when your child becomes sick (who will watch them, who will pick them up, etc.).

Preprimary A: Mrs. Dona/Miss Laura

We hope you enjoyed Thanksgiving and were able to take the time to share with each other the many things you are thankful for. We certainly enjoyed having the opportunity to spend time with you at GLTW's Thanksgiving Feast. As a preparation for Thanksgiving, we asked the students what they were thankful for. Of course we heard "mom," "dad" and "toys." They also told us over and over that they were thankful for their classmates.

That brought to mind a quote from Maria Montessori about children as they spend more and more time in the Montessori classroom: "The child... suddenly becomes aware of his companions, and is almost as deeply interested as we are in their progress and their work."

In a three-year classroom, older children learn to be patient and tolerant as they serve as role models and teachers for the younger children. An older child teaching a younger one reinforces previously learned concepts and aids in complete mastery of concepts. Montessori reminds us that "there is nothing that makes you learn more than teaching it yourself." Younger children learn about courtesy, manners, and conflict resolution by watching older children.

"To understand what the older ones are doing fills the little ones with enthusiasm." Thank you Dr. Maria Montessori for your insight. We join the students in saying I am also thankful for our friends in our class.



Top Right: In PPA, Isabella, Zakary, Charlotte & Celia enjoy the collaborative learning process.

Right: PPC's Adarsh traces the continent of Asia.

Preprimary B: Miss Jennifer

It is hard to believe that the month of November is over already; time really flies when you are having fun! Our classroom studied North America this past month, and many were interested to learn that this is where we live. We learned about the animals, people, and food of North America. In our practical life area our favorite work was tweezing kernels of corn from the cob and transferring real gourds to a cupcake holder, but the best practical life this month was all the cooking!

We were extremely excited to present our parents with our Thanksgiving Feast at the end of the month. We all had a chance to help prepare food for our feast. Our classroom made cranberry sauce, applesauce, corn muffins, stuffing, green beans, pumpkin pie, and a turkey! We want to thank all of the parents who donated items to the feast and those who were able to attend—the children truly enjoyed sharing their food with you. In December, we look forward to learning Christmas carols and watching the snow fall! We will also be studying the continent of South America and look forward to trying new foods from this continent.



Top: PPB's Kyce crafted this Wintertime snowman.
Above: Exploring continental geography in PPE.

Leaps and Bounds (cont.)

Lower Elementary 1: Miss Angie & Miss Mary

The students in LE1 have been experimenting with different ways of combining solids and liquids. They learned about suspensions, solutions, and super-saturated solutions. Now they are learning the difference between a mixture and a chemical reaction through various experiments. They learn that a chemical reaction cannot be taken apart and is changed permanently, while a mixture can be separated. Chemical reactions almost always involve heat and gas exchange.



Clockwise from top: LE 1 students enjoy their Thanksgiving Tea; Douglas and Priya give a presentation at LE2's Thanksgiving Tea; Middle School's Grace created a colorful horse print; Lower El 2 observes chemical reactions.

Upper Elementary

November and December find the Upper Elementary students excited about many activities. The 5th graders held meetings to plan and organize our Thanksgiving brunch to which our families were invited. They were in charge of everything from invitation designs and table coverings to food quantities and the actual hosting of the event on that day.

Serious practice for the Christmas concert has the students humming tunes and discussing the challenges of new songs. And now to share some of the variety of studies being pursued in our classroom (it varies by grade): plant studies with ongoing experiments and observations, respiratory adaptations of animals, the skeletal structure of humans, adjectives, verbs, sentence diagramming, decimal work, advanced fractions, and ratio/proportions, just to name a few!

Overall, the classroom has settled into a smooth pace each week and you can see the ownership that many students take in their learning. Blessings to all—we are truly thankful for the opportunity to learn with our students and their families.



Above: Gabe serves guests at the Upper Elementary Thanksgiving brunch.

Happy Birthday!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
Michael	1
Artin	1
Lukas	2
Alyssa	5
Mimi	5
Maximo	5
Dries	5
Kaylyn	5
Sophia	5
Isabella	6
Kei	6
Abhinav	6
Katarina	8
Douglas	8
Akshay	9
Supriya	9
Rhiannon	10
Davis	12
Taylor	13

Mark Your Calendar:

Dec. 13	8:30 a.m. PTSA Meeting
Dec. 15	1:00 p.m. Christmas Concert: All Are Invited to Attend
Dec. 16	7:00 p.m. Christmas Concert Evening Program: All Are Invited
Dec. 23	11:00 a.m. Christmas Sing
Dec. 23	Half-Day to Start Christmas Break (11:45 a.m. dismissal) (Educare available with advanced sign-up)
Dec. 26	School Closed in Observance of Christmas: NO Educare/Childcare at any level
Dec. 27-30	Christmas Break: School Closed NO Educare/Childcare at any level
Jan. 2	School Closed in Observance of New Years Day: NO Educare/Childcare at any level
Jan 3-6	Christmas Break Continues: No School Educare available with advanced sign-up.)
Jan. 9	School Closed for Staff In-service NO Educare/Childcare at any level
Jan. 9	5:30-6:30 p.m. Potluck for Families 6:30-7:30 p.m. Montessori Language Journey (Complimentary Educare for Preprimary and older beginning at 6:30 p.m.)

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