

Weekly News

Jade Class



OCTOBER 13, 2011

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Homework

In response to several parent requests for more guidance in holding Jade students accountable for school work, we have decided to implement a new procedure for checking off work. As students turn in work, the teacher will initial the student's study guide to verify that work has been completed. In some subjects, there will be suggested daily work. This is work that should be completed during the class period. If it is not finished at the end of the class, these items will be highlighted on the student's study guide. Highlighted work can then become homework for that evening. Most work is due on Friday, so any items left unsigned on Friday can be completed and turned in on Monday for 75% credit, per our late policy.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about this new policy, do not hesitate to send us a message.

Continent Party

The Continent Party is quickly approaching (**Monday, October 31st**). This year, the Jade class is celebrating the diversity that makes up the North American continent by exploring our own cultural heritages. This week many of you have probably been probed for information to help students begin research into the cultures of your family's origin. You can find more information about this project and all that it will entail on our class website by clicking on the [2011 Continent Party](#) Project link under Events. This project is part of the Social World curriculum, so if you have any questions, please contact Ms. Melissa.

Volunteers Wanted

We are looking for parents to volunteer on Thursday afternoons to help our students bake goods for the Jade Café. If you're are interested please contact the teachers.

Quote of the Week

Affection, honest, harmony and non-violence are qualities that yield happiness for individuals, families and society at large.

- a tweet from the
Dalai Lama



Recycling Drop Off

Every Friday

We accept all CRV recyclables.

Go the extra mile...

Check to see if you can set up a recycling receptacle at work!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Red Ribbon Week

October 17-October 21

School Picture Day

Wednesday, October 19

Staff In-service—No School

Friday, October 28th

WISH LIST

- ◆ 3x5 Index Cards (white)
- ◆ Large Area Rugs (see teacher for details)
- ◆ Paper Towels
- ◆ 2 Staplers
- ◆ Handheld pencil sharpeners (with covers)

Jade Café - NOW OPEN!

Fridays Before and After School

October Special: Pumpkin Muffins



ON PAGE 2

- ◆ FYI: Jade Class Blog
- ◆ Thank You
- ◆ Curriculum Highlight


Thank You!

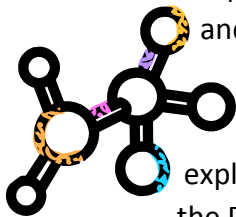
Matt Niklas from Aramark
Uniform Services for donating
over \$300 worth of recyclables!

To all the families who have
signed up for Parent Teacher
Conferences.

Sincerely,
The Jade Community

Curriculum Highlight: **Cycle 2-Structures**

October 10th marked the first day of Cycle 2 for our class. The Montessori Middle School year is broken into cycles, which are chunks of time (usually 6-9 weeks in length) during which students focus all of their studies on a particular theme. Cycle 2 will carry us to winter break, and our theme for this cycle is "Structures."



The idea of structure will permeate the curriculum over the next few months. In science, students will explore the structure of the earth's make-up by examining the Periodic Table of Elements. We will break down and rebuild the structure of language on macro (story elements) and micro (grammatical elements) levels. And in Social World, students will be exploring the structure of America's political system.

Other things to look forward to during this Cycle:

- ◆ Continent Party in October
- ◆ College Exploration field trip to Consumes River and Sac State in November
- ◆ Three-day business internships in December

Please Read: Jade Class Blog

I'm excited to announce that the powers that be within the California Montessori Project (our awesome Round Table of principals and Meredith Jolly, the CMP tech guru) have authorized the use of a blogging program for our class.

Kidblog.org (the approved application) is a blogging website designed specifically for educational purposes. Students will be assigned login information to personal blogs. All blogs will be contained within a closed-circuit blog community designated for Jade class students only. Only students and teachers from our class will be able to read the contents of the posts. Occasionally, we may have Ms. Kathleen or another special guest post, but the site will

remain secure to members outside of our community. Privacy and security is of utmost importance to us as we embark on this new journey into social media.

How will this work?

Beginning next week, our students will be publishing blog posts in lieu of response journals. This new method of published journaling will allow students to take their writing to a higher level, as well as learn safe posting practices in a secure environment. All posts will go through a multi-step writing process before



finally being reviewed by the teacher prior to posting. Students will then be able to read and respond to their peers' posts.

I invite all parents to go to Kidblog.org and explore the website. In fact, I encourage it. Check out the safety features. If you have any further questions, please contact Ms. Melissa at mlangley@cacmp.org.