

John XXIII Montessori Children's Center

CGS Atrium Newsletter ~ Lent, February 2005

This week we Enter a New Liturgical Season in the Church and in Atrium. Lent and Easter provide a wealth of liturgical activities and mysteries for the child and adult to ponder. We look forward to sharing, among others, lessons about the city of Jerusalem, the Last Supper, and Psalm 23 with the children. This season leads us not only to Easter but to First Communion Meditations. Please note the calendar below and some of our new procedures and policies.

Safety First!! New Drop off and Pickup Procedure For the children's safety, we feel it unwise to continue to allow them to run or walk unattended to and from their cars and in the parking lot. Your children must be escorted to and from their cars by either an Atrium representative or a Parent/responsible caregiver. Also, please do not bring children into the building until Maria or an Atrium Assistant is at the doorway.

Mark your calendar:

- Feb. 16th – March 10th** - Parent Observations. This is a departure from the master calendar. A signup sheet will be provided at the entry door for ½ hour observation slots. We ask that the observing parent comes without siblings in order to keep the Atrium environment with as few distractions as possible.
- March 2nd** – Parent's Gathering: "Lent and Easter in the Atrium" 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the CGS Atrium.
- March 23rd – 24th, 29th – 30th** – Easter Break: No Atrium
- April 6th -7th** - Atrium Resumes
- April 6th** - Parent's Gathering: "First Communion Preparation in the Atrium." (For parents of Spring 2005 1st Communicants.)
- April 13th, 20th, 27th** - First Communion Meditations, 7:00 – 7:45 pm.
- April 30th** - First Communion retreat with Confession.
- May 4th** – Final First Communion Meditation, 7:00 -7:45 p.m.

Welcome to our new children and their families. Occasionally we have openings during the year, and this semester we are pleased to welcome Anna Pierce, Marcel Grundman, Brinnaria Schmiedicke and Declan O'Donnell. Anna, Marcel and Brinnaria join the children in the Wednesday 3-6 Atrium. The Thursday 3-6 Atrium has welcomed Declan.

Please see the attached addendum to your 2005 Atrium Roster of families.

Do you need to speak to Maria?

We now have a direct line available that you may use to leave a message if you have an emergency, or would like to notify us if your child is sick and cannot attend. *Please call before or after our Atrium times to preserve Maria's time with the children.* The number at HLI for Maria is (540) 622 – 5288.

The Child in the Church by Maria Montessori - we have three copies left! They are in the Atrium and you may pick one up for \$17.00 after your child's Atrium session. They will also be available at the next Parent's Gathering. Please make checks out to John XXIII Montessori Children's Center.

Lending Library: We hope to establish a small lending library for our families centering on Montessori principles and our children's faith life. If anyone is interested in donating books or helping to establish the library collection please call Lisa Delmare @ 635 – 2161.

Moral Formation in Young Children Attached to this newsletter you will find another article in a series written by Rebekah Rojcewicz. Rebekah has spent the last 23 years working in the Atrium with children 2 ½ to 12 years, and as a trainer of CGS Catechists.