



John XXIII Montessori Children's Center

Newsletter ~ Eastertide ~ May 2010

Message from the Director:

Dear Parents,

What an amazing year of growth in Spirit and mind for the children of John XXIII MCC! The children have met the challenges of this special and particular environment, each one, challenging themselves to learn and know more through this community-oriented collaboration. They have risen to the occasion and each independently has grown in ways they could not have imagined at the start of this Center year, both intellectually and spiritually. There has been the amazing outcome, the unpredictable result and joy-filled consequence, but always their desire to go further, try harder and succeed more. Essentially, the children have engaged and therefore realized their deepened desire to move further into the work for its own sake and to answer the call it has evoked within them. It is our continued prayer that the children will be drawn ever more into the heart of the Good Shepherd and to live the abundance of the life found there.

As the year draws to a close, we would like to announce that Mrs. Dian Schmiedicke has decided to step down as Directress in the Primary Three Morning Academic program. Despite the fact that we at John XXIII are saddened by her departure, we support Dian in her decision. The children in the Primary classroom have had a terrific year and have greatly benefitted from Mrs. Schmiedicke's talented and enthusiastic work; she will certainly be missed. We know that you join us in wishing Dian all the best and many blessing as she looks ahead to what will surely be many other successful endeavors.

The position of Three Morning Primary Directress for the 2010-2011 year has been filled by Mrs. Elizabeth (Rice) Wallace. Many of you may already know Mrs. Wallace who is the daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Robert Rice and a 2005 graduate of Christendom College. Mrs. Wallace was captured with a love for CGS and the Montessori method when assisting at a John XXIII Level I Atrium as an undergraduate at Christendom

in 2003-5. She also was the Lead Catechist of a Level I 3-6 Atrium here in 2006-7. Mrs. Wallace's qualifications additionally include a graduate A.M.I Primary degree, Level I CGS certification, several years experience as Primary Directress at Renaissance Montessori School in Manassas., and two additional years of work with homeschooling families helping them incorporate Montessori philosophy, methodology and tools in their home education programs. Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Wallace as part of the John XXIII community; she is eager to meet more families next week as interviews begin for several new Three Morning Primary children.

May your summers be filled with sunshine and laughter and continued joy in learning and receiving all that God has for each of you. We will be in touch in mid-August with updates and look forward to coming back together in our work next September. Please email me as needed.

In His Love,

Diane Quinn

John XXIII Calendar at-a-glance:

May 12th – Parent-Child Open House at John XXIII
– 6:30–7:30 p.m. Join your children in the Atrium as they share some of their favorite lessons.

May 13-14th – Pentecost Celebrations for all children; **final sessions for the year. Remember to pick up your child's spare set of clothing and/or slippers after all sessions. Return all clear Communication envelopes and Lending Library books/media.**

May 20th – Interviews for new Three Morning Primary children are currently being scheduled for this morning. (Emailing: dianeruth@john23mcc.org)

Late August – TBA: Three Morning Parent Meetings and continued **Interviews** for all new children as well as Atrium children shifting to the Three Morning Program.

Parent-Child Open House at John XXIII– May 12th.

6:30-7:30 p.m. This unique evening will be a time to attend John XXIII with your children, who will enjoy touring you around their well-loved room and sharing their favorite work or lesson with you.

Catechists will be in attendance to assist the children and their parents, and to answer any questions. We highly recommend a baby-sitter for your very mobile 1 - 2 ½ year old. This will greatly assist your ability focus on your John XXIII child in their classroom. It will also help preserve the Atrium environment – it is really too fascinating for toddlers to resist rearranging! Hope to see you there!

A Visit from Father Fasano –

Last week several John XXIII Thursday sessions benefitted from a visit from our Pastor. Fr. Fasano brought his amice, alb, cincture, stole and white Easter chasuble, putting them on one at a time while explaining the history and meaning of each vestment. Did you know that *chasuble* means “little tent?” Many of the children were familiar with this quaint meaning of the vestment which is rich in historical significance. Father Fasano explained that the customary cross which came to decorate the chasuble by the 13th century symbolizes that the priest, by virtue of his office, carries Jesus’ cross. Father also displayed his travelling Mass kit and described the use of the articles and linens. The children enjoyed commenting about what they knew about each item. During a question and answer period, the children enthusiastically kept Father answering such questions as: “Why does a priest always wear black?” Father explained that actually in hot, tropical places priests often wear white like the Holy Father, but that black means that the priest is “dead to the world.” We all very much appreciated our Pastor sharing some of his time with us in the Atrium, and we hope he will visit again next year!

The Slow Food Vast Wine Fundraiser was again a great success!

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many volunteers, both from among our John XXIII families and the St. John’s community, the Slow Food Vast Wine fundraiser was both fun and profitable. All who attended commented on what a great time they had, and asked to be included next year.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our main sponsors, *The Winery at La Grange*, *Rappahannock Cellars*, and *The Pastoral Guild*, as well as to all who helped and/or participated by attending. Because of the success of the event, we are able to set aside a generous percentage to maintain the Joshua Schmiedicke Atrium Scholarship, and the Blessed John XXIII Fund for need-based scholarships. Both of these scholarships will help make participation in our programs possible for those families with financial challenges. Families seeking financial assistance through these funds are strongly encouraged to participate in *Slow Food Vast Wine* each year by volunteering their time in some capacity. Involvement in the fundraiser is now one of the factors considered by our independent committee when making financial aid distribution decisions.

Farm to Fork Raffle - Results of the prize drawing held at the fundraiser:

First Prize: Side of Briarhead Beef & ½ case Rappahannock Meritage: *Barbara Garst*

Second Prize: Side of Polyface Farm Pork & ½ case Rappahannock Claret: *Maria Klassen*

Third Prize: Whole Lamb from Notting Hill & ½ case Rappahannock Cabernet Franc: *Connie Marshner*

Many thanks to all the families who sold/ bought their tickets. The raffle netted John XXIIIMCC about \$3,000. We hope that even more families will participate next year in this important part of the fundraiser’s total revenue.

Three Morning Academic Parent Meeting:

In late August-early September we will schedule parent conferences to help orient parents to our Three Morning Program. Because our program is unique in its support of your role as primary educator of your children, there are many details about how to best interface and merge the work of the child at home and at the Center. We will be in touch in mid to late August to schedule necessary group or individual parent meetings to address new aspects and details of the program for the coming year, to answer your questions and to disseminate further pertinent information about the program. Our goal is to continue to enhance the collaborative efforts of parents, children and the Center in the educative process.

*Have a great summer
~ see you in September!*