

Bruno Blast

Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy

Reflections from Ms. Rebecca

A Season of Celebration!

Celebrations are great opportunities for children to explore culture and tradition both locally as well as across the globe. Fall and winter bring many special days where children learn the importance of traditions and respect for cultural activities. It has been a pleasure to see so many children and their parents participating in celebrations at JBMA.

This is a season to celebrate giving and Montessori children always open their hearts and show their respect for all during our annual food drive. Practicing gratitude is a beautiful gift to pass on to our children.

Holidays and celebrations bring joy and community to our school. They help our children to appreciate diversity, while at the same time focusing on what we have in common and the

connections we make as a result. Remember to share stories and memories with your children as you participate in your own celebrations and traditions. Sharing through the generations is a time honored tradition.

Enjoy!

October/November,
2016

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JBMA Strings

Four students from JBMA Strings participated in the Alabama American String Teachers' Association's Honor Strings Festival Oct. 28-30 held at Samford University. Students gathered from across the state for a weekend of rehearsals that culminated in a concert on Sunday, Oct. 30. Congrats to our students on their hard work and beautiful concert!

Participating students:

Kamilla Miles, Shahin Kooshiar
Kayla Traylor, Leilah Kooshiar



Disney's *Winnie the Pooh, Kids*

November 4th at 6:30 PM, Ms. Leila and students presented Disney's *Winnie the Pooh, Kids*. The audience joined Pooh, and Friends as Owl lead them through the Hundred Acre Woods in search of Christopher Robin.

The cast and technical crew were:

Narrators:

Red **Sophia Bacik**
 Orange **Nivedha Goli**
 Yellow **Alena Ajani**
 Green **Sara Elizabeth Denny**
 Blue **Kiana Ascarzadeh**
 Indigo **Sophie Patat**
 Violet **Marley CowanBrown**

Winnie the Pooh **Elijah Stallworth**
 Tigger **Shahin Kooshiar**
 Rabbit **Surabhi Nevrekar**
 Kanga **Aleah Ward**
 Roo **Suhanna Jan**
 Piglet **Olivia Iradji**
 Owl **Ethan Lee**
 Eeyore **Clemente Brannon**
 Bees **Gauri Gupta, Joelle Cruz, Leilah Kooshiar**
 Christopher Robin **Aarush Chavar**
 Animal Chorus/Word Chorus **Divya Ramani, Christof Dippenaar, Dylan Dunn, Jaden Shrestha, Siddhartha Nevrekar**

Technical:

Director's Assistant **Gaby Poczatek**
 Sound **Caleb Phillips, Nick Hohnstein**
 Stage Manager **Max Mefford**
 Makeup **Ariana Ascarzadeh**
 Curtains **Cameron Khleif**
 Backstage **Charley Richards, Pooja Soni, Margaux Richards, Priya Soni**

Congratulations to all on a great performance.

Proactive Planning: One Parent's Approach

By *Jana Morgan Herman*

The holiday season is upon us. This very busy time of year affects children, who depend on us for consistency, in so many ways. Although the increased activity of the holidays is fun, it can also be stressful, for adults and children alike. Here are some tips that may help to make this holiday season calmer.

1. Plan. Make a plan for your family that details guidelines for visiting others or hosting company. Changes in schedule are unavoidable; however, you can prepare your child with statements like, "Grandma and Grandpa are going to be spending the weekend with us. Some things will be different, but these ground rules will be the same." Practicing grace and courtesy throughout the year will prove helpful during holidays. Not interrupting when others are engaged in conversation, saying "please" and "thank you"—these manners act as social lubricants that help reduce stress and friction. But remember: Teach through modeling and *loving redirection*, not humiliation. Redirect children in private so they can focus on what you're saying instead of focusing on their embarrassment at being scolded in public. As Montessori says, "Of all things, Love is the most potent" (1995, p. 295).

2. Respect your child. It is unreasonable to believe children can "shop until you drop." If children must

go shopping or socializing with you, make the outings short. If your child demonstrates that he or she is tired (i.e., throwing him-/herself on the floor, rubbing eyes, crying—you know the signs), calmly end your trip and go home. Children do not have an adult's endurance. Speaking loudly to children—especially in public—embarrasses them and makes the situation much worse. Instead, say something like, "It's been a long day, hasn't it? It's hard to sit in the cart while I do this. Let's get these last two items and go home for a bath (or nap or walk) and a book." An even better option is having a friend or relative take the children to a park, or go on a walk, while you run a few errands. If you are visiting someone, first go over expectations with your child before you visit and on the way there. "We are going to be at Aimee's for 1 hour. We can take your rug and the blocks or Legos to play with while we talk, or you can play in the yard." Then, only stay an hour—no longer! An even better idea is inviting Aimee to your house.

3. Semper paratus (always prepared). Not everyone is used to having children around. Remind your child that some things may be for "eyes only." Books, coloring books, and a small set of Lincoln Logs, along with a rug (a portable, defined workspace) will help your child remain occupied while you converse. Never underestimate the attraction of other people's

possessions, so have realistic expectations for how long a child can restrain him-/herself. Going for a walk or to a park while you visit adults allows children to move and enjoy themselves.

4. Wash, rinse, repeat. One time through is not enough. If situations arise while you are out shopping or visiting, quietly (as not to elevate the situation) have a private conversation with your child about what the ground rules are. For example, if Jess is too loud, have a short private conversation: "Jess, remember the rules. If you need to, stay with me awhile, then you may try again in a few minutes. We will be leaving/eating/going to bed soon. Thank you. I know it's not easy for you when things are so different." Hugs are recommended to help kids (and adults) settle.

5. Sleep on it. Maintaining a consistent bedtime routine will do wonders for your family, no matter what state you are in (literally and figuratively). Bring your bedtime books and favorite pillow and blanket. Following the same timeline (dinner, bath, books in bed, goodnight kiss) every evening will lessen the stress your child will feel over going to sleep in a different environment. Finally, remember to be patient with yourself and your child. This too shall pass. The stress is short-lived, and if you manage everything carefully, you won't need a vacation from your vacation.

November Peace Ceremony and Food Drive

As part of Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy's Community Service Program and observance of our "I Am Thankful" Peace Ceremony, we will be collecting food supplies to help aid the pantry at Catholic Center of Concern. The Center helps those less fortunate, regardless of their religion. The center was very near and dear to the founders of JBMA. Each classroom has chosen a specific item to donate. Please send in the requested supplies beginning Monday, November 7th through Thursday, November 17th. In addition, on November 17th we are asking everyone to bring fresh

apples, sweet potatoes or celery to the Peace Ceremony.

We will be delivering the food supplies that afternoon following the peace ceremony. Below is the classroom list for requested food supplies:

Toddler – Macaroni & Cheese
 Kim & Julia – Rice & Beans
 Sarita & Kathy – Pasta
 Shweta & Rachel – Pasta Sauce
 Jennifer & Citlalli – Canned Vegetables & Fruit
 Lower Elementary (Catherine) – Cereal
 Lower Elementary (Rachel) – Peanut Butter & Jelly

Lower Elementary (Genie) – Peanut Butter & Jelly
 Upper Elementary – Cereal
 Middle School – Boxed Dinners, Canned Stews & Chili

Please join us November 17th at 9:00 AM in the gym for our "I Am Thankful" Peace Ceremony.

U8 & U10 Soccer Teams



Left to Right:

Siddhartha Nevrekar
 Neel Patki
 Akhil Batchu
 Tessa Tremblay-Cox
 Irfan Porbanderwala
 Collin McLean
 Sam Gibler
 Aarush Chavar
 Maddie Bacik



Left to Right:

Gerardo Rodriguez
 Thad Peacock
 Elijah Stallworth
 Rayaan Rasool
 Alex Mixon
 Kaamil Meghani
 Juan Martinez
 Sebastian Bermudez
 Nacho Giner

Joseph S. Bruno Montessori Academy

Mission Statement

The community of the Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy provides the opportunity for all students to grow to their fullest potential:

- Cognitively
- Socially
- Emotionally
- Spiritually
- Physically
- Aesthetically

Vision Statement

The vision of Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy is to provide children and families with an education according to the Montessori philosophy and curriculum. Our focus is not only to provide cognitive education for our students, but to also model a commitment to creating peace and care for the environment for years to come. In theory and practice, we will explore how the traditional Montessori curriculum can be combined with current best practices in education as well as technological advances in order to develop a successful group of 21st century learners. At JBMA we treat each child as an individual, building on their strengths and abilities to become life-long global learners.

The Joseph S. Bruno Montessori Academy's Core Values Statement:

Respect- We embrace with respect all students regardless of racial, cultural or religious background, gender or the physically or mentally challenged.

Peace- We create an atmosphere that will promote the development of peaceful individuals. All students will become committed to creating peace, and taking care of the environment in their homes, school, and communities.

Collaboration- We provide each child a foundation for a lifetime of learning by having multi-age classrooms and multi-level collaboration.

Independent Thinker- We foster students' development of positive self-esteem; so they will become independent thinkers and accept leadership roles in the world of tomorrow.

Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy

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We're on the Web!
www.jbma.education

Upcoming Events in November & December

November

- 11 Veterans Day – No School
- 17 Peace Ceremony/Founder's Day 9:00
- 18 Dismiss at 1:00 – NO Aftercare
- 21-25 Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 6 PTO Meeting 6-7 PM
- 8 Toddler & Preschool Holiday Program 6:30 PM
- 9 PTO Parents Night Out 6:00 – 9:30 PM
- 13 1st – 8th Holiday Program 7:00 PM
- 16 Dismiss at 1:00 PM NO AFTERCARE
- 19 – Jan 2 Winter Break