

January – GENERAL THEME OVERVIEW

A Montessori lower elementary classroom is an active, prepared environment. It offers a wide range of compelling, engaging materials, and is guided by teachers who are keen observers, ready to seize teachable moments. Students go about making independent choices of work in class, and follow their interests through various research projects. They are guided when necessary in order to maintain a well-balanced and productive work period.

Throughout the school day, students are invited to lessons in groups or individually. At times, the class may also engage in thematic discussions or lessons as a whole. To help give parents an idea of what would normally be covered in the course of a month, we will be sharing general lesson themes for each month, starting with those for the month of October (please refer to following page).

It is important to note that classroom lessons are not strictly limited to or determined by these themes. Other fundamental Montessori principles are considered in the comprehensive implementation of a productive classroom:

- **We respect and seize moments of serendipitous learning initiated by the student.** These “teachable” moments are invaluable, effective opportunities to engage the child’s inquiring mind, and feed and deepen intellectual curiosity. Lessons may and will arise from these moments, and they are prioritized as crucial opportunities for optimum learning.
- **We follow the readiness of the child for any lesson.** Each individual’s pace and readiness for learning is respected. Time is allotted for students to practice and grow with the concepts which have been presented.
- **Learning is cross-curricular and cyclical.** Fundamental concepts and skills are re-visited on a regular basis throughout a child’s time in a Montessori class. Lessons are not simply given one month and then promptly forgotten. The unique structure of a Montessori classroom – with its emphasis on connective learning and its focus on individual inquiry – enables students to come across a particular concept several times and in different contexts or ways within a three-year cycle.

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GRADE 1 THEMES

Math	Language	Culture & Science
<p><u>Math Facts and Mental Math:</u> Add and subtract multiples of 10 Skip counting – 3, 6, 9 Breaking numbers down to 10s and units Continued practice adding and subtracting, with and without exchanging</p> <p><u>Math Operations:</u> Reading, writing words as numerals and vice-versa Fractions: Greater than / less than, operations Multiplication: Static and dynamic Terminology for metric base units</p> <p><u>Problem-solving and Application:</u> Use patterns to solve problems Choosing best unit of measurement Classifying, sorting and organizing data Graphing Vocabulary of measurement Time: Quarter past/quarter to Money</p> <p><u>Geometry:</u> Geometry: Review point to solid, states of solids Plane figures: Polygons Review: Line, ray, segment, types of lines Relationships of lines</p>	<p><u>Grammar:</u> Grammar: Continued work on verbs Diagramming sentences (subject/predicate)</p> <p><u>Reading Comprehension & Critical Thinking:</u> Re-telling a story or article Accelerated Reading Completion of reports or projects Comprehension: Visualization and Inference</p> <p><u>Vocabulary, Spelling and Word study:</u> Weekly Spelling Review of prefixes and suffixes Alphabetical order, Classification Synonyms, Homophones</p> <p><u>Writing Skills:</u> Research Report Writing (Focus on facts) Writing captions for images Writing stories for images (focusing on 5 Ws) Opinion Writing (Differentiating opinions from facts)</p>	<p><u>History:</u> Countries of Europe Folktales & Legends of Europe Symbols, celebrations and traditions- flag, coat of arms, national symbols of Europe Belief systems of the world - focus on Europe</p> <p><u>Physical Sciences:</u> Tectonic plates: Earthquakes and volcanoes Matter: states, changes of state, mixture Chemistry: atoms, molecules and elements Europe: Land & water forms, climate & weather, habitats</p> <p><u>Life Sciences:</u> Vertebrate study: Reptiles Invertebrate study: porifera/cnidaria Botany: Leaves, plants of Europe Human body systems: digestive Creatures of Europe</p>

Parents who wish to further engage their children in these topics are invited to contact their classroom teachers to discuss ways to effectively apply and reinforce concepts at home.

January – GENERAL THEME OVERVIEW

GRADE 2 THEMES

Math	Language	Culture & Science
<p><u>Math Facts and Mental Math:</u> Analyzing numbers as separate numerical quantities Dynamic addition and subtraction in word problems Multiples of 3, 6 and 9 Relationships between operations (addition and multiplication, multiplication and division) Reflexive property in multiplication</p> <p><u>Math Operations:</u> Identifying place value Rounding numbers to nearest 100s Dynamic / long multiplication Division Fractions: Operations and Fractions of Numbers Ordinal numbers</p> <p><u>Problem-solving and Application:</u> Metric units and measurement Line plots for graphing Reading thermometers and negative numbers Time: Minutes Roman numerals Money</p> <p><u>Geometry:</u> Adjacent, complementary, supplementary Intersecting lines Measurement of angles</p>	<p><u>Grammar:</u> Continued work on parts of speech Editing Sentences Continued work on diagramming sentences Review of adverbial modifiers</p> <p><u>Reading Comprehension & Critical Thinking:</u> Re-telling a news article (Finding main ideas and supporting details) Completion of book reports or projects Comprehension: Visualization and Inference Accelerated Reading</p> <p><u>Vocabulary, Spelling and Word study:</u> Contractions, Commas Weekly Spelling Thesaurus, Dictionary Usage</p> <p><u>Writing Skills:</u> Investigative Writing (Focus on answering the 5 Ws) Creative writing: Mystery Box (using the 5 Ws) Re-telling a story from a Different Perspective Research Writing for Europe “Brochure”</p>	<p><u>History:</u> Focus on Europe: -land & water forms, climate & weather, habitats -folktales & Legends- Europe -symbols, celebrations and traditions- flag, coat of arms, national symbols -belief systems of the world</p> <p><u>Physical Sciences:</u> Earth Forces: Tectonic Movement, Mountain-Building Matter- states, changes of state, mixture Chemistry- atoms, molecules, elements and periodic table</p> <p><u>Life Sciences:</u> Vertebrate study- Reptiles Invertebrate study- porifera/cnidaria Botany focus- leaves, plants of Europe Human body systems- digestive Creatures of Europe</p>

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January – GENERAL THEME OVERVIEW

GRADE 3 THEMES

Math	Language	Culture & Science
<p><u>Math Facts and Mental Math:</u> Speed of math fact recall Use properties of (x) Multiplication and division facts from 6-9 Relationships between multiplication and division</p> <p><u>Math Operations:</u> Integers and negative numbers Rounding numbers Abstraction of multiplication, division Reading and forming decimals Greatest common factor Fractions: Division</p> <p><u>Problem-solving and Application:</u> Read thermometers Metric units and measurement Number patterns Classify, sort, organize data Money</p> <p><u>Geometry:</u> Compass work: bisecting lines, bisecting angles, hexagon/triangle Area of triangle, polygons Algebra: Find missing addend/multiplier Convex and concave</p>	<p><u>Grammar:</u> Continued work on parts of speech Continued work on diagramming sentences Review adverbial and adjectival modifiers Class newspaper: Sections of a newspaper</p> <p><u>Reading Comprehension & Critical Thinking:</u> Completion of book reports or projects Accelerated Reading Comprehension: Visualization and Inference</p> <p><u>Vocabulary, Spelling and Word study:</u> Weekly Spelling Thesaurus, Guide Words, Dictionary Usage, Homophones, homonyms, homographs</p> <p><u>Writing Skills:</u> Investigative Writing (Focus on answering the 5 Ws, finding and organizing relevant information) Writing in paragraphs Research writing Summarizing (Finding main ideas and supporting details) Perspectives in Story-telling Editing articles for spelling, grammar, style Editing and enriching sentences</p>	<p><u>History:</u> Focus on Europe: -land & water forms, climate & weather, habitats -folktales & Legends- Europe -symbols, celebrations and traditions- flag, coat of arms, national symbols -belief systems of the world</p> <p><u>Physical Sciences:</u> Earth Forces: Tectonic Movement, Mountain-Building Matter- states, changes of state, mixture Chemistry- atoms, molecules, elements and periodic table</p> <p><u>Life Sciences:</u> Vertebrate study- Reptiles Invertebrate study- porifera/cnidaria Botany focus- leaves, plants of Europe Human body systems- digestive Biomes of Europe Creatures of Europe</p>

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