



SAINT NICHOLAS SCHOOL, II

MARCH AND APRIL 2013



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH

- 04 PARENT ADVISORY MEETING, 4:00-4:45
- 11-15 SPRING BREAK. PLAY DAY ACTIVITIES
- 29 GOOD FRIDAY. SCHOOL CLOSED

APRIL

- 01 EASTER MONDAY EGG HUNT AND PARTY. NO ACADEMIC CLASSES.
- 02-19 SPRING CLASS OBSERVATIONS TO BE FOLLOWED BY TEACHER CONFERENCES
- 18 SPRING CONCERT FOR PRIMARY, ELEMENTARY, AND MIDDLE SCHOOL
- 22-26 ITBS TESTING FOR PRIMARY III THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL
- 30 SPRING CLASS PICTURE DAY

PARENT ADVISORY MEETING

Our next monthly parent advisory group will meet with administrators, some faculty, and parents on Monday, March 4th at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. The meeting will close at 4:45 p.m. The topic will be Summer Camp. Parents will have been sent a Parent Questionnaire and we hope you will guide us in directing the school.

EASTER CLASS PARTY AND EGG HUNT

Our Easter Class party and egg hunt will be held on April 1st, Monday. Class party schedule as follows:

Infants and Orientation	2:00 p.m.
Primary	2:30 p.m.
Level R through Middle school	3:00 p.m.

Parents are asked to send Easter baskets and plastic eggs for the egg hunt. Please

send candies that are non-choking hazards.

Sign up sheets for the class party will be available at the front desk.

Parents are welcome to join us for all ages.

SPRING CLASS OBSERVATION AND TEACHER CONFERENCES

Spring class observation and teacher conferences are scheduled between April 2nd and 19th. Sign up sheets will be available at the Front Desk. The conference follows the observation, and parents will go over the achievement records for their child. For conference schedules, please contact Melissa.

SPRING CONCERT

Our spring concert is scheduled on April 18th for Primary through Middle School classes. Our theme is Water & Sky, Adventure & Exploration. Program starts at 2:30P.M in the Primary room.

MONTESSORI THROUGH AGE SIX

Lee Havis, Executive Director at International Montessori Society recently said the following which was part of an on-line discussion on **Linkedin** of Montessori educators concerning the importance of the Kindergarten year.

"Tell parents about the idea of the "absorbent mind" -- which means that children before six are able to absorb their environment directly into their being.

After age six, it disappears. Whatever gains in normal being that the young child acquires through Montessori teaching before age five, is therefore LOST if before the age of six they are returned to a conventional setting, because they absorb instead that conventional conditioning that is deviated from true normal development. Keep children in the normalizing condition until six, and the qualities of normal being will remain. Otherwise, they will not.”

Our comment:

This is related to other **sensitive periods** such as **Language** which explains the very high success rate in reading for children who remain in Montessori school through Grade 1. The sensitive period for **Writing is 3-4**, and for **Reading is 3-5**. The sensitive period for **Mathematics is 4-6**. The foundations for these areas are laid during these ages and should not be interrupted.

The ***Absorbent Mind*** is a key writing of **Maria Montessori** and is recommended for parents and teachers to understand the philosophy and benefits of Montessori school.