



# Newsletter



October, 2013

## Spring Bilingual Montessori Academy

### SBMA has a new Head of School, a new look, and exciting changes in progress!

What a wonderful start to the school year! Thank you all for your warm welcome and for your continued patience as we work toward making your SBMA experience even more amazing.

The students seem to be enjoying our freshly updated space and have been an absolute pleasure to see each morning. We are all fortunate to be surrounded by so many wonderful families that make what we do here at SBMA so worthwhile.

As a community, we have enjoyed a number of activities together, such as:

- Kensington Labor Day Parade
- Fall After-School Soccer Enrichment through Brit-Am
- Annual Back-to-School Picnic
- Parent Social
- Chicken Visit
- Pumpkin Celebration

To further enrich our SBMA community, the staff and I look forward to sharing even more experiences with you and your family throughout the school year, and in the years ahead.

A big thanks to all our parents for your ongoing help and support. A number of parents in our community have stepped up to assist with everything from recycling to revamping our Website, hosting our families for an evening out to planning fundraising opportunities for the school. We could not do what we do without your dedication to our school community.

I am truly honored to play a small part in your child's experience here at SBMA and I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you as the year progresses.

- Ms. Diann

### Open Houses - "Spring" into Action!

Our amazing families serve as our greatest marketing tool. We appreciate all that you do for our children, our school, and our community. Please help spread the word about our school by sharing your SBMA experience online (through any school review site) and with family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

A few spaces remain for this current academic year, and we are preparing for Fall 2014 recruitment as well. If you are interested in joining our staff and teachers to speak with prospective families at our Open House (on Saturday, November 9th, from 10am - 12pm. And Saturday, January 11th, from 10am - 12pm), please email [SBMA\\_Office@yahoo.com](mailto:SBMA_Office@yahoo.com).

### Upcoming Events:

Thursday, October 31st  
Halloween Party for Children

Tuesday, November 5th - Wednesday,  
May 1st (by appointment)  
Class Observations & Teacher Conferences

Thursday, November 7th (4pm-9pm)  
Family Night Out Fundraiser

Saturday, November 9th (10am-12pm)  
SBMA Open House

Wednesday, November 13th (7pm-8pm)  
Parent Education Night (PEN)

Tuesday, November 19th (morning)  
School Picture Day

Tuesday, November 26th  
Thanksgiving Feast for Families  
3pm Dismissal, No After-Care

Wednesday, Nov. 27 - Friday, Nov 29th  
No School - Thanksgiving Holiday

Wednesday, December 18th  
Holiday Party for Children

## A message from Ms. Bela, Montessori Director & Lead Teacher (Spanish Program)

September went quickly and we navigated well through those few weeks. We are settling down, but we still have to remember to use our indoor voice, to walk in the classroom (some of us cannot resist the urge to run or skip), to take turns and also respect others.

The younger children are working with the Practical Life and Sensorial

Exercises. The older children are busy with the Language and Math Exercises.



In October, we learned about Christopher Columbus. Who was he? Where was he born? How was

America discovered?

It was great seeing so many of you at the Annual Back-to-School Picnic and at our Montessori PEN.

Thank you for your support, Ms. Bela, Ms. Yolandae & Ms. Martha, with warm greetings!

## Hola padres! A message from Ms. Nubia, Spanish Teacher

A warm welcome to all our families. The year has started very smoothly and the children have really settled in. Everyone was thrilled to share summers memories and rekindle friendships. You will notice a new and improved classroom design, plus some great enhancements and updates to the Spanish materials.

During the month of September the children learned all about school, our materials, and activities we do in school. They enjoyed learning various songs including "Estoy en la Es-

cuela", "Amigos" and "Las Ruedas del Autobus".

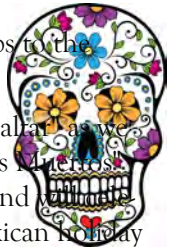
October brings with it, lots of wonderful colors, changes in weather, and delicious fruits. We use these opportunities to explore new vocabulary and games. We have had a few outdoor lessons that were a big hit with the children. Playing games such as "Veó, Veó" "Pato, Pato Ganso" and "Luz Roja, Luz Verde" are frequently requested by the children. We also learned about Cristóbal Colón and what he brought and

took with him on his trips to the Americas.

We will be making our "alta" as we learn about "El Día de los Muertos" (The Day of the Dead), and celebrate this important Mexican holiday by drinking some delicious Mexican chocolate.

I hope all of the father's enjoyed the performance of, "Chumba la Cachumba" during our Pumpkin Celebration. A few parents requested a copy of the song which can be found on YouTube by searching "Luis Pescetti, Chumba la Chumba".

Ms. Nubia



## A message from Ms. Andrea, NEST Teacher

Spring is generally considered to be the symbolic time of new beginnings and fresh starts. However, for young children and their parents and teachers, no season can compare with fall and the excitement of starting school!

Even if children have been in summer childcare, a new school year can be a time of some stress and anxiety for all concerned. Parents experience emotions about their child's increasing independence. Of course child-

-ren are likely to be the most anxious about this adventure: new teachers, a new daily schedule, new friends and the broadened expectations that are placed.

In our classroom, circle time is when our kids come together as a community of learners. We have a routine that gives students order; however, within that routine, the books, materials, tools, games and other experiences change daily.

We encourage the children to solve movement problems on their own but often provide demonstrations. We invite the children to actively participate in their experience and not just be passive observers.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to have your child in our class!

Ms. Andrea & Ms. Bitá

## A message from Ms. Kamala, Lead Teacher (French & Italian Program)

Welcome to our returning and new parents. We are about to complete our second month for the academic year 2013-2014. The children have adapted well to the class routine and are slowly getting to know their classmates.

Our focus for this period was to have the children become independent. They are now able to change into slippers, put away their lunch boxes and start the day without any tears. The

older children were busy getting to know the unique features of each continent in addition to knowing why the leaves change color in the fall.



We enjoyed caring and decorating our pumpkins with Dads, and are looking forward to celebrating Halloween with the children.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's care and don't forget to schedule your classroom observations starting in November.

Ms. Kamala & Ms. Tutu

## A message from Mme. Drabo, French Teacher

It is another year and we got off to a great start. We had a smooth transition with all our new students and within about two weeks, all the children were familiar with the daily routine.



Our class has been learning about "La France" - where it is located in Europe and on the globe, what the flag

looks like (colors bleu, blanc & rouge), and the beautiful places to visit such as "La Tour Eiffel," "Les Champs Elysees"

etc. The children have learned how to introduce themselves to one another through lively and fun French songs. They have learned the days of the week, the weather, as well as numbers through songs and poems.

The Fall brings a lot of changes, falling leaves, naked trees, and Halloween. Our class has been learning different colors (fall colors, changing leaves, different fall fruits/veggies). We have learned some fun Halloween symbols and songs including:

La Citrouille, La Sorciere, Les Fantomes, Les Costumes, et Le Chat Noire. We also have some fun Halloween activities planned. Although it is still the beginning of the year, the children have learned a great deal so far and are having a lot of fun.

Thank you to all the parents.

MERCI!

Mme. Drabo

## A message from Ms. Vanda, Italian Teacher

The first two months of school have gone by very quickly! It has been nice seeing the children adjust well to the classroom environment and has been a real pleasure seeing them enjoy singing many new songs such as the welcome song, "Il Piccolo Ragnetto" and the weather song, "I Mesi Dell' Anno".

The children have been learning our classroom routine while singing and participating in our circle time. The past few weeks, we have been

we have been discussing the adventures of the Italian explorer, Cristoforo Colombo, and we will continue to take about "La vigilia di Ognissanti".

In the upcoming weeks, we will talk about "Il Giorno del Ringraziamento" how we celebrate it, l' Abbigliamento, "l'Autunno" - Fall season and its changes reflected in nature. We will learn new songs related to these topics such as: "l'Autunno e' arrivato!", "Grazie signore!", and "L' abbigliamento".

Last Friday, it was a great pleasure seeing the dads at our Pumpkin Celebration helping their children work on decorating and carving their pumpkins with so much excitement and dedication!

I look forward to continuing to work with your children in the next few months filled with holiday celebrations and festivities!



Ms. Vanda

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## Spring Bilingual Montessori Academy

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Phone: 301-962-7262  
Fax: 301-962-7263  
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We plant the seeds that  
"Spring" to life!

### PLEASE NOTE:

SBMA can no longer accept cash payments. All tuition/fees must be paid by check or money order. Please call the office should you have any concerns.

## Halloween Party

On Thursday, October 31st, we will be having our Halloween Celebration for **children only**. Children are encouraged to bring some piece of their costume such as a hat, wig, face paint or makeup, a magic wand, or something that goes with their costume. **NOTHING THAT REQUIRES A CHANGE OF CLOTHES**. Special snacks and activities will be provided.



## Class Observation & Teacher Conference

BY APPOINTMENT on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from Novem

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## Reminders

**INFORMATION CHANGES:** Please notify the school office at 301-962-7262 or MargaritaSBMA@yahoo.com if there are phone number, address, appointment and/or pickup changes.

**CARPPOOL LINE:** For the safety for all involved, **please remember to stay in your vehicle during carpool**. Our teachers will assist your children from your car to our doors and vice versa. When possible, please have your child seated on the passenger side of your vehicle.

**LATE ARRIVAL:** Please do your best to bring your child to school on time. Late arrivals throw off your child's day and interrupt the classroom. **Students in the first Foreign Language class must arrive by 9am** to join their class; otherwise, they will go directly to the Montessori class and miss foreign language for that day.

**OUTDOOR PLAY:** The Maryland Department of Education requires that we provide "full-day" students with outdoor activities on a daily basis. We believe that children need time outdoors except when it rains or the temperature falls below 35 degrees. Please dress your children appropriately for the weather.

**LUNCH TIME:** Remember to pack 2 napkins and utensils (if needed) with your child's healthy lunch.

**RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER ILLNESS:** Children may not return to school until their temperature has been normal for at least 24 hrs following an illness. **A doctor's note is required if your child has been absent or sent home due to:** Any Communicable Disease, Unexplained Rash, Discharge from the Eye or Other Signs of Pink Eye (24 hrs after initial dose of antibiotics).

**PAYMENT REMINDER:** Payments are due by the first of the month. A 3% late fee will be assessed to accounts 30-days past due, and will accrue monthly until **all** payments are made.

**BIRTHDAY PARTIES:** We love honoring each child's birthday with a song and special snack (no party favors or gifts, please). **Call the office to schedule your child's celebration** & let us know if you can attend.

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