

## NOVEMBER 2009 INFANT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### EVENTS TO TAKE NOTE OF IN NOVEMBER 2009

**November 6, 2009:** Diwali celebration at the San Jose campus. Chitresh Das Dancers.

**November 11, 2009:** Veterans' Day. No school, no daycare.

**November 18, 2009:** "Four Winds" Native American Dancers.

**November 25, 2009:** Thanksgiving feast. Minimum day. School ends at 12:00 noon.

**November 26 and 27, 2009:** Thanksgiving holiday. No school, no daycare.

### DIWALI



The school will be celebrating the Indian festival Diwali on **Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**. This is the first of several "Festivals of Light" which we will be

acknowledging this year. Diwali comes from the Sanskrit word Dipawali which translates as "row of lights". Festivities begin with the lighting of lamps on the night of the new moon in the month of Kartika (October-November). The celebration throughout the country continues for at least two or three days. In some areas it may last as many as ten days. It also marks the end of autumn and the beginning of the winter season in India.



The origins of Diwali are obscured in folklore and legend. Some say it commemorates the return of Rama and his bride, Sita, to his throne at Ayodhya after a fourteen-year exile.

Others believe it marks Krishna's destruction of Narakasura, the demon of filth. Still others trace its beginnings to the freeing of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, from prison in the

Nether World. In Bengal, some interpret it as a time to honor the goddess Kali.

In any case, every household marks the occasion by illuminating interiors, courtyards, outer walls, roofs, gates and gardens with lights, as if to show the way for any or all of



these mythic travelers. Traditionally, the lights were tiny lamps called dipas. Though many people continue to make dipas, candles and electric lights are also used.

Homes are cleaned from top to bottom and decorated with garlands of brightly colored flowers.



Birds and flower designs called kolams or rangoli are made with colored rice flour on the doorsteps. People dress in their finest clothes, have wonderful feasts and visit friends and relatives.

In the evening, prayers and offerings are given at the family altar and the lamps are lit.



Part of our celebration involves a special holiday meal, so it is not necessary to send lunch that

day. The San Jose campus will be collecting \$2 per child to cover the cost of the food we will be ordering. Please turn in your payment to a member of the office staff by Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

The children will enjoy performances from Chitresh Das dancers, as well as elementary student Reva Kakaria.

## VETERANS' DAY



The school will be closed on **Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**, to honor Veteran's Day. There will be no school and no daycare.

## FOUR WINDS AMERICAN INDIAN DANCE

On **Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**, we will enjoy "Dances from the American Plains" in the church's auditorium.

*Native dancing and music represent a beautiful expression of Native American heritage. It is one of the most meaningful ways in which such heritage is presented to contemporary society, Indian and non-Indian alike. Every song, dance and gesture illustrates a part of Native American heritage as a people with roots in the distant past. Through the singing, dancing, drumming, and colorful regalia, the spiritual and symbolic aspects of humanity are reenacted. Although many of the dances are social, they are also steeped in spiritual significance.*

## THANKSGIVING



We will be celebrating Thanksgiving at school on **Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**. Each year the primary and elementary students prepare all the food necessary for the feast.

Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend our feast, which will begin at

11:00 am. School will end at 12:00 pm, as it is a minimum day. There will be no daycare in the afternoon.

**School will be closed Thursday and Friday November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. No Daycare.**

## SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK



We will once again participate in the food drive sponsored by the Second Harvest Food Bank. We will collect food from **November 6<sup>th</sup> to December 17<sup>th</sup>**. All kinds of non-perishable foods are welcome (powered milk, peanut butter, canned meat, tuna, cereals, soups, meals in a can (stew or chili), canned fruits in natural juices, 100% fruit juices, canned foods with pop-top lids). Please get your children involved in helping those less fortunate. We are committed to helping our community's hungry families during this holiday season.

Second Harvest now offers a Virtual Food Drive for those who cannot go shopping or carry heavy things. To donate through the Virtual Food Drive, go to:  
<https://fooddrive.shfoodbank.com/default.aspx>

Thank you for forwarding this information to anybody you can think of who might be interested in participating in a virtual food drive.

## WINE AND CHEESE FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS!



Thank you to everyone who came to our 2009 "Taste of California" event! It was a great success, and everyone had a wonderful time, thanks to the help of our fabulous staff and parents. Congratulations go to the Feyfant family for winning the 50/50 drawing.

Despite this economy, our net earnings are close to \$50,000, which is fantastic! We are especially thrilled that we were able to add \$12,725 to our "fund a child" reserves.

## HAY FROM PUMPKIN PATCH



The Junior High class has some left over hay from the pumpkin patch they hosted for the Primary classes. If you need bedding or feed for your

animals or can use the hay for mulch or other gardening purposes, please contact Ryan, the Junior High teacher at [ryan@oneworldmontessori.org](mailto:ryan@oneworldmontessori.org). Thanks!

## ONE WORLD SUPPORTS GREEN LIVING


We are partnering with *EcoMetro Guide* to raise funds for our school and to help support our commitment to living green.

*EcoMetro Guide* is a one-of-a-kind resource — a coupon book, a directory, a source of ideas and inspiration—that promotes living a healthy, green lifestyle on any budget. EcoMetro guides are published for multiple markets and carry regional names, with companion websites at [ecometro.com](http://ecometro.com), which offer blogs, articles, local events, a green business directory, and free printable coupons. EcoMetro Guide supports economic development for local green businesses, promotes public sector sustainability initiatives, and raises money for local schools.

Book owners save hundreds of dollars while discovering the best of what's green and local with coupons for grocery stores, restaurants, bike shops, home and garden stores, theaters and museums, outdoor stores, and much more. There's also over \$90 worth of national manufacturer's coupons for companies like Clif Bar, Lundberg, Nature's Path, and method.

*EcoMetro Guide* will be available in the office starting Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. The cost for each book is \$20. If you'd like to order additional books as gifts, please contact Lisa in the office.

## REMINDERS

 When we updated our supporter list this fall, we realized that a lot of parents are still not registered for eScrip. We would like to remind you that each family is **required** to register.




If you are already registered, please note that you need to re-register your **Safeway** card every year. **ONLY** Safeway!

For those who have not registered for eScrip, this is how it works:

- go to the eScrip website at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and register any or all of your credit/payment/grocery cards. Our group I.D. number is 137612721.  
- every time you use one of the registered cards in the eScrip program (see the list on the website), a percentage of your purchase goes directly to the school!

This is the EASIEST, LEAST painful fundraiser possible and it does not cost you anything!!!!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office anytime.

 Remember that if you place an order with Amazon.com and do it through our website ([www.oneworldmontessori.org](http://www.oneworldmontessori.org) - fundraiser link), a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the school.

## A NOTE OF APPRECIATION



Thank you to all the parents who participated in our United Nations Day celebration with their food donations. Please share any feedback with us that will help make this experience even better next year. Thanks to the Cali family for the donation of hand sanitizer.

## DECEMBER PREVIEW

**December 18, 2009:** Christmas acknowledged. Holiday lunch. Minimum Day. School ends at 12:00 pm. No daycare.

**December 21, 2009 to January 1, 2010:** Winter break. No school. No daycare.