



International Montessori School of Albania  
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## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2009

Dear Parents,

November and December flid away and we are sharing with you the most important part of them: celebration of Albanian Independence and Liberation Day, Christmas Bazaar and Winter family Celebration. We raised the Albanian flag and we sang the Albanian National Hymn. Also, we have been preparing the postcards and ornaments for the Christmas Bazaar and thinking about the Winter Family Celebration as a family centered party, where all children can tell the story of their families and of their birth as a story of love and silence waiting the Child. Maria Montessori says that the Child is the Father of Man... the person who teaches us to help him build a new society and world. And they are teaching us every day more and more. Happy Holidays to all of you, from Montessori Albania!

Eva Gugu  
*Head of School*





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## Infant Community

November was a fantastic month for the toddler group. From the beginning of November toddlers started to have a great desire for work and all through the month they were very busy working. They are no more interested in having breakfast and are dropping the morning snack too as they are really focused and want to work all morning for more than 2 hours without any interruptions depending at what time they come in. Also after children finish lunch some of them will choose a book, some musical instruments and some will get changed and get ready to go home, so if we are coming downstairs late please understand us that we are little and we need time to dress ourselves and we want to do it by ourselves. This month we celebrated the Independence Day of Albania and the toddlers joined the Casa class children and we raised the flag. In the classroom, children made a big Albanian flag using their handprints and also colored the eagle. The flag is hanged on the wall in the classroom. We also had two big special days for Lucie and Shinbei. They both turned three years old so the children and adults made a birthday card for each of them. The toddler class has another member: Melodie. She joined our group in the middle of November and we want to welcome her to our school.

Now that the children are back from the long holiday weekend they have started making Christmas cards, decorations and other ornaments. They are very enthusiastic about the winter celebrations and holidays.

Ms Nertila Hoxha  
*Infant Community Teacher*



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## Primary news – Class I

It is a great opportunity following the children while they are growing in experimenting new activities and learning through them. Our days have been full of nature exploration, learning sounds and numbers (with the first reading and writing moments), bank game and silence game, preparing ourselves to give a show for the families, planting plants and seeds and thinking about the big gifts of life, exploring friendship and the holiday's spirit, preparing cookies (and thinking about all the persons who help us to be happy in the Montessori home). A new interest in the science field was reading books about the universe, the weather, the Earth, our planet, etc.

A special "Thank you!" to Ms Ardita and Ms Renee for their great contribution in all this. In November we celebrated Rei's birthday and in December Maria's, Boid's, Julia's and Kris'. It is wonderful to see all the children and the families being together in celebrating life!

Thanks to all for the constructive help we receive for the best of our children!

Ms Eva Gugu

## Primary news – Class II

As we approach the end of this term I can really see the great progress that everyone has made in the past few months. It is truly a pleasure to spend my days with such wonderful children. Everyone plays a great part in the smooth way that the classroom runs. Despite some changes made to the classroom mid-month everyone adapted so well to the changes that it is functioning better than ever in the new space. We have been eagerly preparing ourselves for this festive season with many new songs and crafts that we will get to showcase at the Bazaar on December 6<sup>th</sup> and our class party. The classroom is buzzing with holiday spirit as we happily work our way towards the winter break. Parents, it was great meeting with you this month and I truly appreciate your continued support in helping the children become as independent as possible. By working together we can create beautiful, harmonious environments for your children to grow and thrive in.

Ms Daniella Ortega  
*Primary Teacher*



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## Montessori Readings

From *The secret of Childhood*, Orient Longman Private Ltd, Chennai, 2006, pg. 128  
“What They Showed Me”

### *They Never Chose the Toys*

Though the school contained some really wonderful toys, the children never chose them. This surprised me so much that I myself intervened to show them how to use such toys, teaching them how to handle the doll’s crockery, lighting the fire in the tiny doll’s kitchen, setting a pretty doll be-side it. The children showed interest for a time, but then went away, and they never made such toys the objects of their spontaneous choice. And so I understood that in a child’s life play is perhaps something inferior, to which he has recourse for want of something better, but that there were loftier things which, in the child’s mind, seemed to take precedence over useless amusements. The same might be said of ourselves; to play chess or bridge is pleasant enough for our leisure moments, but it would no longer be so if we were forced to do nothing else all through our life. When there is a lofty and urgent task to be done, bridge is forgotten, and the child has always lofty, and indeed urgent, tasks before him.

The child is continually growing and all that has to do with the means of his development fascinates him and makes him forget idle occupations.