



International Montessori School of Albania  
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## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2009

Dear Parents,

October came to an end and we are happy to share with you our days at School. In this month we celebrated Mother Theresa's Day and Halloween.

We shared (as a part of the classroom environment) with the children the picture you see below and the children listened to the history of this Albanian and International woman who helped the poorest of the poor and her pro-life attitude and actions.

We chose to celebrate a Montessori Halloween: practical life of carving a pumpkin and baking the seeds, reflecting on our ancestor's heritage (through cooking and sharing with others at our Halloween Party), dressing as real existing characters, going through the real history of Halloween by dancing around the orange tree in our garden, singing to the Light (*Mister Sun*) and to the goods we receive from our Planet (*Oh, the Earth is good to me!*).

We shared with our families the real history of Halloween to better help the children at home.

Thank you for your attention and participation!

Eva Gugu  
*Head of School*





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## Infant Community

It was a great month. Children were settled and had a much better concentration in the classroom. Most of them are very independent and are able to change work in the classroom without disturbing each—other and focusing in the work they are doing. As we know, children under age 6 have this Absorbent Mind power, through which they take in all language, culture and everything that is around their environment. As I mentioned, I see a major progress in language for children who have been in the Montessori class. They are able to express themselves and their needs in English using short or long sentences correctly, without misarticulating and are very confident and clear about their ideas. Some of these children communicate by body language and we must be very careful on how we interpret ourselves to the child. They copy everything adults do. Despite all the Montessori work that children do everyday at School, this month we had two big celebration days: Mother Theresa's Day and Halloween Day. On Mother Theresa's Day children gathered around listening curiously to the adult telling a story about Mother Theresa. Also children and the adult sang a song about her looking at a picture of Mother Theresa with the children around the world. For Halloween children made beautiful paintings using the autumn colors. We also cut a pumpkin and carved a face on it. Every child had a turn to take the seeds out of the pumpkin and to feel the shape of it. We want to say a great "Welcome!" to Eva and Kejn who joined us this month. And also to Okyanus who visited us two days in a row. Okyanus was in the toddler group last year so her friends were excited to see her again. At last, we should not forget our trip to the zoo. Children had a fantastic time looking at the animals: lama, bear, goose, ducks. In that day we had snack at the zoo and also did some singing together and with the parents who joined us too. The following week children were explaining what they saw and did at the zoo. They all looked really excited about the zoo. My next goal is to continue working well with the children so the class may be soon normalized.

Ms Nertila Hoxha  
*Infant Community Teacher*



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## Primary news – Class I

Greetings! I am happy to say that all the children in the class are progressing in their practical life skills. Though these activities appear simple, the logical sequences the children follow, the coordination of the hands that is being developed, the hand and eye coordination, the focused concentration and the desire to do a good job all contribute to their success in the other areas of the classroom. We continue to encourage the smooth functioning of the class which supports the children's exploration. All the children for whom English is a second language are coming along beautifully in their comprehension, vocabulary, pronunciation and the forming of complete sentences. The sensitive period for language acquisition is clearly at work. They enjoy the sound game, also known as "I Spy" or "I'm thinking of". This is where a category of names of things that are known to the children is established and the children listen for the first sound of the word and guess what it is. We then progress to the first and the last sound. We are enjoying one another's company. Learning comes naturally and easily. It is important to remember that there is much internal work going on before the evidence of it appears externally. Just today, the children began to sing songs spontaneously that we have been learning over these first months. They had the melody and the words. This is the power of the Absorbent Mind. Thanks to all the staff, teachers and administration for their continued work and dedication. We work well together!

Ms Annie Odean  
*Primary Teacher*

## Primary news – Class II

As October comes to an end I am thrilled with the progress we have all made! As the weather turned colder work in the classroom only heated up. Everyone is working beautifully. I have seen some fantastic changes in the children. Everyday Marsida and I hear more and more English throughout the room and see great signs of budding self discipline and concentration. Food has become a great point of interest this month especially. We have introduced squeezing fresh orange juice, cutting bananas and we all had the opportunity to carve a pumpkin, rinse and bake the pumpkin seeds in honour of approaching Halloween. Naturally the seeds were eaten, still warm, for dessert right after lunch as a special treat! Lunch time, too, has seen great improvement. Everyday two children help by setting up the kitchen for all twelve students in the class and each pair does a beautiful job.

Happy Halloween!

Ms Daniella Marie Ortega  
*Primary Teacher*



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## Montessori Readings

From *The secret of Childhood*, Orient Longman Private Ltd, Chennai, 2006, pg. 126  
"What They Showed Me"

### *Their feeling for order*

Another detail came to light for the first time as a result of a very simple incident. The children used the apparatus made for them, but it was the teacher who distributed it and put it back in its place. She told me that when she was doing this the children got up and came to stand around her. She sent them to their seats, but they always came back. This happened many times, and she had concluded that they were being disobedient. When I watched them, I understood that what they wanted was themselves to put the various objects back, and I left them to do so. Thus, a kind of new life began for them; to put things tidy, to tidy up any disorder that might have arisen, became an enthralling occupation. If a glass of water fell from a child's hands, others run to pick up the pieces and dry the floor. One day the teacher dropped a box containing sixty-three tablets of various graduated colors. I remember her confusion, for it was difficult to recognize so many shapes of color, so as to know where each belonged. But at once the children ran to her and to our amazement quickly put all the tablets in their places, correctly graduated, showing a wonderful sensibility to the colors, such as we did not possess.

*Does it happen to you telling a story to your child changing the order of the events?  
What does he/she tell to you?*

*Does it happen to you forgetting to sign at Mr Kristo's list outside School? What do children tell you?*

*Does it happen to you changing the rhythm of the day because of special events? How do your children react?*