

Our World at Small World



WHAT DID WE DO THIS MONTH? STEP INTO OUR WORLD AT SMALL WORLD!

Dear Parent(s),

During October headed into November, our students were fully submerged into Autumnal Activities, and we are so excited to share all the festivities they've participated in! November's Newsletter will feature all of the Events hosted from October 15th- November 15th, 2021. At Small World Montessori School of Miramar, we ended the month of October by hosting our Fall Festival during the day, followed by our 2nd Annual Trunk-or-Treat in the evening. Our family participation was so exceptional this year, that we had to award not one- but three families for their Trunk Decorations. Please see our 1st place winners (above, right), the Cortes Family with their "101 Dalmatians" themed trunk.

Additionally, this month our school wrapped up our annual Holiday Food Drive, in collaboration with *Feeding South Florida* by donating over 1,200 pounds of canned and dry goods to those in need in our community, which is the equivalent of 1,061 meals distributed. A huge thank you to everyone who donated in order to make this such a success! Please see members of our Administration dropping off our donation at the *Feeding South Florida* Warehouse (above, center).

It is our aim to provide parents with a monthly newsletter highlighting all the activities that happened during the previous month. In this month's letter, we have also included a featured article from the American Montessori Society entitled "Throwback Parenting," by Jennifer Wheelhouse.

We hope you enjoy seeing all the activities your child took part in. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. This newsletter is for parents, and we are open to suggestions including Article Selections. Join us in December to see our Holiday Shows and our First Annual Santa Breakfast!

Sincerely,
Ms. Bonnie Lynch
Administrator of Communications and Marketing

FOLLOW US!

To see all of the classroom fun...



Small World Montessori
School of Miramar



@montessorischoolofmiramar



Small World Montessori TV

Important Dates

Thursday, October 28th:

Fall Festival & Trunk-or-Treat

Thursday, November 4th:

Toys for Tots Drive Begins

Wednesday, November 10th:

Diwali Celebration

Thursday, November 11th:

Veteran's Day (No School)

Friday, November 12th:

Teacher Planning Day (No School)

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FEATURED ARTICLE – “THROWBACK PARENTING,” BY: JENNIFER WHEELHOUSE

The parent looked at me with worry. “Is that safe?” she asked, gesturing at our school’s new playground. I turned to look at the source of her concern. The playground is made of natural materials, such as downed trees that act as balance beams. A 3-story tree house offers an aerial perspective of our 5-acre campus. A tunnel, covered by large, natural river boulders, is hard to climb over, but it can be done. Since the playground’s opening, we’ve had no injuries. Children use it in new and unexpected ways every day, and enjoy play while gaining life experience.

Elsewhere, though, playgrounds are getting “safer.” Swing sets are being re-moved, and straight slides replaced with curved ones that slow children down. The term “helicopter parent” has entered our vocabulary.

We adults probably remember playing in the vacant lot until sundown, walking through the woods with neighborhood kids, and taking a stroll to the corner store unaccompanied. A lot of people say, “Those were the days... but it’s a lot different now.” And it *is* different. Today, children have learning challenges, emotional issues, and heightened sensory awareness. Decades ago, it was rare to hear about these issues. But there is evidence to show that protecting children as we do today may be detrimental. In one study, rats were prohibited from playing freely during “a critical phase in their development.” The result was that the protected rats learned to react to new situations with fear and aggression, and “failed to adapt and explore surroundings” (Gray, 2014).

The same article notes that over the last 60 years there’s been a “continuous, gradual but dramatic increase in childhood mental disorders, especially emotional disorders.” Experts suggest that this may be a result of a gradual increase in prohibited and protected play.

In the Internet age, the continuous need to be plugged into the media also fuels parents’ fears. “If there was a kidnapping or case of child abuse or child murder in one part of the country, those at a distance would never hear about it. But in our Internet-fueled world, we hear about threats daily, however distant they are.... It’s not surprising that many parents are terrified for their children’s safety” (Taylor, 2015).

But allowing our children to engage in so-called “risky play” has its benefits. Children climb trees to “scary heights” to get a bird’s eye view of the world...and they get a thrill out of it. They ride skateboards at high speeds, swing too high, and whiz down slides just fast enough to “produce the thrill of almost, but not quite, losing control” (Gray, 2014). They discover limits and push boundaries. Their self-esteem soars when they learn to do things themselves, on their own terms.

It may not be easy to let your child walk home from school alone, or climb a tree all by herself. It’s scary— *for you*. But you will feel an absolute moment of relief when you see her come around the corner or slide safely down the trunk. And you will know that she just had a little adventure, and adventures are exciting precisely because they’re a little bit scary.



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FALL FESTIVAL




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TRUNK-OR-TREAT



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UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS



Small World Montessori Presents...


HEAL THE WORLD

HONORING GLOBAL HOLIDAY TRADITION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 2021 FROM 1:00-4:00PM
EVERGLADES HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
17100 SW 48TH CT, MIRAMAR, FL 33027

TICKETS: \$15 PER PERSON
PLEASE RESERVE TICKETS AT THE FRONT DESK

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10TH: DRESS REHEARSAL



Happy Holidays




Annual Toy Drive

November 4th - December 11th

Toys must be new, unwrapped & \$10 or more in price. Books are allowed.

Please do not donate toys that have been used, resemble weapons, or toys containing candy, food, or chemicals.

Gifts for ages 0-12.



JOIN US FOR...

Breakfast With Santa

OUR EXCLUSIVE HOLIDAY EVENT!

\$20 Per Person

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH • 9:00AM-12:00PM
LIMITED SEATING, RSVP AT THE FRONT DESK

breakfast, cookie decorating, arts & crafts, pictures with Santa

