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Company Matching—A Great Way to Maximize your Gift

Does your company have a charitable gift program?

-- If so, your Élan Vital monetary donation or volunteer hours could be matched by your employer! Many corporations and foundations will match, double, or even triple your personal donation!

Check with your company or visit www.matchinggift.com to find out if your company

will match your contribution to Élan Vital. If you have questions about your company's charitable gift program, please contact your personnel office.

Once you have determined that your company matches donations made to 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, make your donation to Élan Vital and obtain the appropriate form from your personnel/ human resources office.

We will gladly provide you with a receipt for your donation or volunteer hours worked, as well as, documentation that we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Our Tax Identification Number (also known as Employee Identification Number or EIN) is **20-5098093**.

EVM's First Annual Yard Sale
Donations and volunteers are still needed. Please contact Heather Wyatt for more information.

Candlelight Ceremony—June 4, 2010

A candlelight ceremony is held each year to commemorate the closure of the school year.

Traditionally, the children light a candle that represents themselves at the beginning of the school year. During this ceremony, the candles are extinguished to represent the completion of the year.

The children will sing songs and the kindergartners will graduate up to Elementary. The students will also share some of their favorite memories and stories.

This year's Candlelight Ceremony will be held on June 4th at Juban's.

More details will follow, but please mark the date and plan on joining us. The children's meals, and everyone's tax, and gratuity will be covered by Élan Vital. Adult lunches will be \$15 per person.

As the details are finalized, invitations and more information will be sent home.

SCHOOL PICTURES
Individual and class pictures will be taken on **Wednesday, May 12.**





Pirate Themed Snacks



Healthy Snack Recipe for Kids

Pirate Themed Snacks

Kids love stories about Pirates. Find a good book and prepare these treats to taste the fun!

Treasure Chests:

Take a large tootsie roll (not the midgets!) and cut in lengths of about an inch. Slice lengthwise leaving a bit for a 'hinge.'

Use tiny candies such as mini-M&Ms, Nerds, sprinkles, etc. and frosting to 'fill' the treasure chest! Kids love these treats.

Pirate Ships:

Take an orange and cut in half. Hollow out the insides of the orange and eat. (Yum!). Make orange Jell-O using a little less water than usually called for, and fill into the orange half peels.

Refrigerate according to the directions. When firm, use a toothpick and paper flags (kids can design them!) to insert into your pirate ship!

Cannonballs:

For about 20 cannon balls, you will need 1/4 pound of soft cheese, 1/4 cup of chopped walnuts, 1/2 cup

confectioners' sugar, 1/8 cup of cocoa powder, and some chocolate milk powder.

Stir the cheese, nuts, cocoa, and sugar together until well mixed. Roll the mixture into small balls, each the size of a walnut. Roll each ball into the chocolate milk powder, chill, and serve!

Primary Snacks for the week of:

- 5/3 — Sasha G.
- 5/10 — Ralston G
- 5/17 — Michael H.
- 5/24 — Django H.
- 6/1 — Amelia J.



Here, Elizabeth works with the Red Rods.

Montessori Concepts and Terminology

The **Red Rods** help the child to recognize differences in size in one dimension – length. The child must place the rods in the proper sequence from the shortest, which is 10 centimeters in length to the longest, which is one meter in length.

The exercise is similar to other lessons in that a mistake in the order is very evi-

dent to the child and can be corrected easily.

It also offers the teacher the opportunity of introducing to the child the terms, **short, shorter, shortest** and **long, longer, longest**. This equipment gives the child a sensorial basis for learning to count when he or she begins mathematics.



Primary News

May is here! The school year is coming to a close and Catherine and I are so excited to be planning for next year. April was a busy month! We celebrated Earth Day, planted sunflower seeds, and saw a play. May will be busy also, but most of our plans will involve the last week of school. We will be sending information about all of that in the coming weeks.

Please sign up for our Summer sessions if you haven't already! It is going to be such a fun time!

Peace,
Katie and Catherine

Elementary News

The elementary class has had a special guest this month. Miss Erin, a certified Montessori teacher, has been volunteering in our classroom during the morning work period. She has been giving many lessons! In geometry, we have been concentrating on angles. The class has learned how to classify angles as acute, right, obtuse, and reflexive. Then the protractors were introduced last week so that the angle's degrees could be measured. The class has really enjoyed working on this almost every day.

We began the month discovering the desert environment. Although the students agreed that deserts are dry, they were surprised to learn that not all deserts are hot. We took a closer look at the desert habitat to see what types of plants and animals live there and how

they have had to adapt. In order to test out how light energy is converted to heat, we compared how shiny and light colored objects reflect and dark or dull colored objects become warmer when set out in the sun.

Naturally then, we realized that water is our greatest natural resource since all living things need it. It was at this time that the oilrig in the gulf began leaking oil. This brought up the topic of water pollution. We made our own oil spill using cooking oil and tried to come up with ways to remove the oil that was floating on the surface and clean the extra fish tank plants that we had included in our experiment. Of course, you cannot always see water pollution so we had to test this out as well. Aquatic plants were placed in 5 clear glasses that each contained

clear substances that could be harmful to the plants such as soap, oil, bug spray, and dirt. Our third water pollution experiment, putting stalks of celery in vases containing blue and red dyed water, allowed us to see how contaminated ground water is absorbed into the plants we eat.

On April 22nd, we celebrated a special birthday. It was the Earth's Birthday. A day we remember to appreciate nature and learn ways to protect our environment. In honor of this special day, all of the students at Élan Vital planted sunflower seeds and remembered why our Earth is such a special place.

Heather

Student Reporter

Each Month we will be featuring a different student reporter to give us a child's perspective of Élan Vital.

Heather: What is your favorite part of the school day?

Ralston: Playing outside at recess.

H: What are some of your new works?

R: Golden Bead Addition

H: What do you want to work on before the end of the school year?

R: Multiplication

H: What are you going to do over the summer?

R: Going to my grandma's house in Washington State. I get to play with my cousins and go camping. We can see a big volcano named Mt. Baker across the sea front their house.



This Month's Student Reporter is **Ralston Graves** in the Primary class

Follow the Child

It is challenging to provide sufficient levels of parent education that make a real impact. Moreover, many parents are either too busy or are otherwise unable to attend parent education events when they are offered. Emily Geizer, a Montessori preschool teacher, often found herself confronted with this parent education conundrum. She proceeded to develop a practical, crash course in Mindful Parenting, which aligns seamlessly with the Montessori philosophy.

Over the next several months, I will dedicate this column to sharing her lessons with you. Last month's newsletter contained her first lesson, "Zebras Are Black and White, Parenting is Not". This month's topic is, "The Family Envelope". I hope these lessons will provide you with a comprehensive "follow the child" angle to some of the difficult parenting choices that we all have to make.

- Laura

#3 — What Kind of Parent Are You?

Most parents strive to be better parents. Often this goal seems lofty and too ambiguous to achieve. Understanding your parenting style will help you more specifically identify areas where you can improve.

Promoting self-discipline and self-esteem in your children is often a difficult juggling act for the parent. It traps many on the edges, either too strict and demanding or too permissive.

The four parenting styles outlined below look at the combination of responsiveness and directiveness. Ideally, both are present at appropriate ratios for the particular child and situation. This is where understanding your child's unique traits in relation to your own parenting style will be most illuminating.

Indulgent Parent

This parent is also referred to as the permissive parent. These parents are more responsive than directive. They generally overemphasize the self-esteem part of the equation. They may be warm and supportive, but are not good disciplinarians.

Authoritarian Parent

This parent is highly demanding and direc-

tive, but not at all responsive. They are often status-oriented and rule bound. They provide well-ordered, clearly structured environments with clearly stated rules. They often require obedience and respect above all else.

Authoritative Parent

This parent is both demanding and responsive. They are assertive, but not intrusive and restrictive. The discipline is supportive, not punitive, simultaneously providing disciplinary and self-esteem needs for their children. They are supportive of a child's individuality and growing need for independence.

Negligent Parent

This parent is unresponsiveness and undirected. Children of these parents perform poorly academically, socially, and emotionally.

Research shows that children with authoritative parents tend to be more competent overall. They are more self-reliant, self-controlled, content, and happy. They are usually accepted and well liked by their peers and perform better in school. Their self-esteem is good and they report hav-

ing a happier childhood experience overall.

Given this, where do you think you could improve your parenting?

If after reading the parenting styles above you found that you lean too much toward the responsive side of parenting, then you need to work on setting limits, establishing clear rules, and being consistent.

If, on the other hand, you realized that you lean too heavily toward the demanding, authoritarian style, then you need to work on the warm, supportive side of your parenting. Have more fun, listen more, and encourage more often.

Take care,
Emily

Real Parenting Solutions

Upcoming Events:

Mothers Day Tea – May 7 (Elementary only)

Parent Teacher Conferences – May 21 and 28

EVM Yard Sale – May 22

Last Day of School and Candlelight Ceremony – June 4



élan vital

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