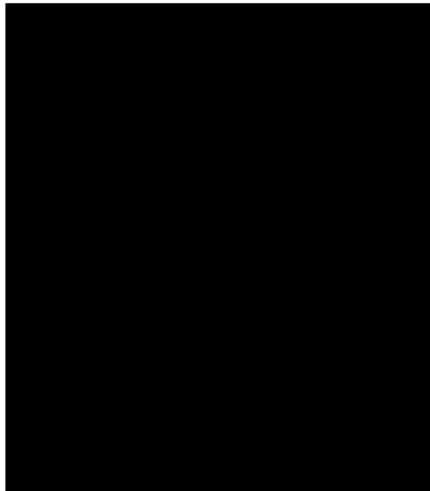


Montessori Center of Downriver - October Newsletter

In the Classroom



Mrs. Ashley's Class

Happy fall! Welcome back to our returning children and a warm welcome to our new families. During the past month, your child has become familiar with their teachers and classmates and the routines of the classroom. Within the toddler classroom, your child is given a wide range of practical life skills, such as cooking, laundry, dishwashing, care of plants and animals, care of their friends, and care of their environment as a whole. We are very excited about this new journey we will be sharing and growing together on.

As Maria Montessori said, "Free the child's potential, and you will transform him into the world."



Mrs. Stephanie and Ms Jenni's Class

In October, Ms Jenni and Mrs. Stephanie's class will be learning about and exploring leaves, pumpkins, and gourds; they'll also be learning about Halloween. They will continue with their food prep--thank so you so much for your donations! And Tex the Travelling Long Horn is ready for new adventures! He will be sent home soon with instructions.

The class is going well so far! The children are settling in and building a real community together: "We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity" (Maria Montessori).

Ms Mandi and Mrs. Dona's Class

September was a busy month in Mrs. Dona and Ms Mandi's class. The "Getting to Know You" activity was sent home; children love looking at their own pages and learning about their friends! They also learned all about apples. They read poems about apples, did apple painting, tasted a variety of apples (charting everyone's favorites), and made homemade applesauce.

In October, they will begin studying pumpkins. They will do pumpkin pounding, enjoy pumpkin pie, and read and sing pumpkin stories and songs. They will also begin their leaf study.

Mrs. Melissa's Class

In October, Mrs. Melissa's class will be exploring secondary colors in the art area. They will also continue cooking together and working on practical life skills. They will be increasing their language while learning about transportation vehicles.

Dates to Remember

MCOD Trunk or Treat: October 22nd (Wednesday)

Halloween: October 31st (Friday)

Emergency Contacts

After our power outage in September, we received some questions about emergency contacts and who can be added to your child's CIR.

Anyone you trust and who has the ability to be here quickly during an emergency can be an emergency contact. This does not have to be a family member. It can be:

1. A friend
2. A neighbor
3. A co-worker
4. The parent of one of your child's friends
5. A babysitter or someone you can pay to pick up and care for your child

We take safety very seriously here, but we also understand that parenting without a village is hard! Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Time for Dinner!

This year, we are focusing on food, nutrition, and cooking in the classrooms, and I thought I'd carry that over to the newsletter. Each month, I'll include some tried and true family dinner ideas--mine and hopefully yours! If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please email April at montessoridownriver@gmail.com.

Korean Beef Bowls

This dinner is based on [this recipe](#), some meal kits I've had, and having made it many times. It's quick and flexible, and even my picky eater enjoys the main components (served separately, no touching, please).

1. Start cooking your preferred rice (any works). The rest of dinner will come together in the time rice takes to cook.
2. Make [quick pickled cucumbers](#) and shred a couple carrots. Set aside to top the bowls. If you like cilantro and green onions, they taste great on this. If your family doesn't like these toppings, broccoli also goes well.
3. Make the beef using the recipe linked above. You can use any ground meat or meat alternative that your family likes. It all works fine. I personally like to double the sauce in the recipe.
4. Optional sauce for topping (only the adults in my house like this): Mix a few spoonfuls of mayo with some sriracha and garlic (minced or powdered, whatever you have) to taste, and add a splash of rice wine vinegar (or lime juice or a little water) to thin it slightly.
5. Make your bowls and enjoy!

Okay, but maybe it's been a really long day, and you don't have it in you to cook a whole meal, and you just want everyone fed quickly. I've got you! My kids actually beg me to make what they call "Oatmeal Bar":

1. Cut up some fruit and vegetables; whatever you have that your family likes. Leave it all on the cutting board, it's fine. We like to do strawberries, baby carrots, cucumbers, and cherry tomatoes. Now your meal has veggies! You are doing great!
2. Set out a few different toppings for oatmeal. Some ideas are nuts, peanut butter, raisins, chocolate chips, shredded coconut, apples, bananas, brown sugar, and cinnamon.
3. Make oatmeal using your preferred method. (Use milk or a milk alternative to increase the protein.)
4. Let everyone top their bowls. Everyone is fed!

Local Events and Resources

Movie in the Park: Hocus Pocus 2

October 3, 6pm

Hunter Park (20822 Roche)

Movie starts at dusk. Kids' activities start at 6pm.

Southgate Harvest Fest

October 4, 10am-3pm

Market center Park

A lot of exciting events: Touch a Truck, pumpkin patch, kids' activities, meet and greet with Jack Skellington and Maleficent, live DJ, Artisan vendors, food trucks, and more

Campus Kids Days: Lil' Boo Bash

October 5, 1-5pm

Campus Martius Park

Kick off spooky season with a fang-tastic Lil' Boo Bash at Campus Martius Park! This family-friendly Halloween celebration will feature a "Spooky Start-Up Lab: Brew Your Own Brand" station courtesy of Detroit CHEMpreneurIST. Get ready to mix up something spook-tacular in the lab! Participants will become Formulation Chemists and brew their own unique body scrub, learning how real entrepreneurs use chemistry and creativity to bring personal care items to life. This frightfully fun activity stirs together chemistry, creativity, and business skills in one wickedly cool experience. Perfect for brewing up confidence, curiosity, and community spirit!

1. Spooktacular Costume contest (starting at 3:00 p.m.) with a variety of prizes and categories
2. DJ Invisible spinning your favorite Halloween-themed family-friendly tracks
3. Take in the Halloween Harvest Magic Show taking place from 1:30-2:30 p.m. and 3:30-4:30 p.m.
4. A Bounce house
5. Explore the Michigan Science Center station
6. Craft stations courtesy of Metro Parent
7. Face painting, lawn games, and giveaways from Birdie's Books
8. Tigers baseball on the big screen
9. Ticket giveaways courtesy of 313 presents, including the chance to score tickets to Sesame Street Live, Gabby's Dollhouse Live and Master Chef Live.

Halloween Costume Swap

October 8th and 10th

Downriver YMCA

The Downriver Family YMCA is hosting a free Halloween Costume Swap for the community! Bring in new or gently used children's costumes to the Welcome Center Desk by October 8th, 2025. Then, on October 10th, 2025, from 5-7 PM, parents can come pick out a costume for their little ones perfect for getting ready for a spooktacular Halloween! Swap, save, and celebrate the season with us!

Ballet Folklorico de Detroit

October 11, 2-3pm

Detroit Film Theatre at the DIA

Travel across the varied and beautiful regions of Mexico with Ballet Folklórico de Detroit—a Detroit-based community group of passionate dancers dedicated to preserving Mexican culture and traditions through dance. With each unique style of dress, music, and footwork, their performances aim to delight audiences and spark appreciation and respect for Mexican heritage. For families of all ages.

This program is free with museum admission (museum admission free for Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb county residents). Capacity is limited—seating begins 30 minutes before the performance.

Fall Into Dearborn Family Fun Fest

October 11, 12-4pm

Dearborn Historical Museum

Join the Dearborn Historical Museum on Saturday October 11, 2025 from 12-4pm for our Family Fall Fest! Children will have the opportunity to trick-or-treat at various stations, play yard games and mini golf, jump in the bouncy house, and much more. The Commandant's Quarters will also be open for families to learn about Dearborn History. Please come dressed in your favorite costumes with your own bags for treats! While entry to the event is free, donations are appreciated!

Rockwood Halloween Craft Market

October 11, 10am-3pm

Rockwood Community Center

Bring the kids to Trick or Treat at the Vendor tables! There is an activity table for kids to color and do crafts! Take pictures using your phone at the photo prop station. See 8 foot tall Jack Skellington, Alien Attraction and a special guest.

Paint-a-Pumpkin Craft Event

October 11, 12-2pm

Brownstown Community Center

This event will take place at the Outdoor Shelter adjacent to the Community Center at King and Telegraph Roads. If you plan to come, please mark "Going" on the Facebook event page so we can have an idea of how many pumpkins we will need!

Come and paint/decorate a pumpkin to take home with you!

All materials will be provided including the pumpkins! We'll have paint, brushes, stickers, googly eyes, pipe cleaners, and other decorations to create a smiley OR scary pumpkin!! There is no cost for this event, however, donations will be accepted which will go towards our community service projects that serve the children of the Downriver area.

Brownstown Sensory Friendly Halloween Party

October 11, 1-3pm

Brownstown Event Center (23345 King Rd)

Costumes welcome but not required at this sensory friendly Halloween party.

Halloween Festival

October 11, 1-3pm

Nankin Mills Park

Costume parade starts at 1pm. Enjoy hayrides, a candy giveaway, obstacle course, games and inflatables, and children's entertainment.

Cider in the City

October 11-12, 1-5pm

October 18-19, 1-5pm

Beacon Park

Autumn's calling—and Beacon Park is answering with the return of Cider in the City! On select Saturdays and Sundays in October, enjoy festive fall fun in the heart of downtown Detroit. This free event is perfect for families, couples and all fall lovers.

Event Highlights: Delicious cider & donuts from Blake's; pumpkin picking & painting; horse-drawn hayrides; make-and-take crafts; face painting (Sundays only); live DJs & local entertainment; food trucks & local vendors; seasonal drinks including cider, craft cocktails, and mocktails

Brownstown Trick-or-Treat Trail

October 12, 1-3pm

Brownstown Event Center

Please arrive by 2:30 p.m. to walk the trail.

Halloween Spooktakular!

October 18, 10am

Southgate Library

Crafts, games, treats, and more at the Southgate library! Costumes are encouraged for young and old.

Nightmare on Fort St.

Lincoln Park Bandshell (3240 Ferris Ave)

October 18, 1-4pm

Our popular Halloween event Nightmare on Fort St is back on Saturday, October 18th from 1:00pm-4:00pm! Join us for trunk or treat, game, free pumpkins and the kid's costume contest! Cars can begin signing up today for trunk or treat at the link below.

11th Annual Spooktacular Downtown Flat Rock

October 18, 3-5pm

This year's Spooktacular event will be located in downtown Flat Rock (E. Huron River Dr. between Telegraph Rd. and Garden Blvd.). Free event with games, costume contests, inflatable bounce house, music, food, balloon blown, and more! Children costume contest is at 4:30pm. Trunk or treat from 3-5pm or while supplies last.

Riverview Fall Festival!

October 18, 4-7pm

Join the City of Riverview for our Fall Festival! Enjoy an afternoon filled with seasonal activities, family fun, and community spirit! From the trunk or treat, pumpkin decorating, and hayrides, to a mobile zoo, face painting, and balloon animals, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

Bring your friends and family for a cozy afternoon of fall fun!

Festival will include:

1. Trunk or Treat at the Riverview Fire Department (FREE)
2. Mobile Petting Zoo (FREE)
3. Pumpkin Coloring (FREE)
4. Hayrides (\$)
5. Face Painting & Balloon Animals by Carey Ann's Clown Caravan (\$)
6. Celly's Food Truck (\$)
7. Doughmads Leige Waffle Food Truck (\$)
8. Movie in the Park at 7pm (FREE) - "Nightmare Before Christmas"

Great Lakes Steamers Halloween Train

October 18, 5-8pm

Southgate Train Park

Dress up in your Halloween costume, ride the trains, and get a special goodie bag filled with candy!

Melvindale Trunk or Treat

October 18, 6-8pm

John K Kessey Fieldhouse

Bring your little goblins and ghouls for a fun-filled evening of candy, costumes, and community spirit!

2nd Annual Wyandotte Police Department Trunk or Treat

October 24, 7-9pm (Line opens at 6:30pm)

Wyandotte City Hall Parking Lot

Get ready for a spooky good time at the 2nd Annual Wyandotte Police Department Trunk or Treat! Dress up in your favorite costume, grab your candy bags, and celebrate Halloween with the Wyandotte Police Department and our community. Bring the whole family for a safe and fun night of Halloween festivities featuring: Decorated trunks filled with candy, live music, delicious food trucks, family activities, and more spooky surprises!

Allen Park Trunk or Treat 2025

October 24, 5-7pm

Park Avenue (closed between Harrison and White Avenues)

Join us for a festive evening of costumes, candy, and community at our Annual Trunk or Treat! This free, family-friendly event offers a safe, welcoming space for children and families to enjoy Halloween fun in the heart of Allen Park.

Trick or Treat on Macomb

October 25, 11am-1pm

Trick or treat at the businesses on Macomb St. on Grosse Ile!

Wyandotte Halloween Walk

Wyandotte Community Garden

October 25, 4-6:30pm

Get ready for a magical Halloween walk through the Wyandotte Community Garden! Kids can wind their way along our Trick-or-Treat Trail, collecting candy as they explore the garden—transformed with festive Halloween decorations. When the trail ends, the fun keeps going! Bake sale and family-friendly activities (games and crafts for all ages), costumes encouraged (kids and grown-ups too!). Bring the whole family for a safe, festive, and unforgettable evening in the garden

Fall 2025 Children's Product Safety Commission Recalls

Please see the [list](#) of children's items that have been recently recalled.

Gleaners

Open to anyone in need of food, drive-ups provide each family with over 35 pounds of food, including milk, fresh fruits and vegetables, lean protein, and shelf-stable items.

You do not need to bring identification or proof of eligibility to receive food. You simply need to provide your full name, address, number of people living in the household, and number of children in the household.

[Sign up for a free Link2Feed card](#) that stores your household information making pick-up quick and easy! Sign up online here or ask a Gleaners staff member for a card when you visit a Community Mobile.

City of Woodhaven (Drive-Up Only)

23101 Hall Rd

10/14/2025 9:00am - 10:00am

10/28/2025 9:00am - 10:00am

Ford Community and Performing Arts Center (Drive-Up Only)

15801 Michigan Ave

10/07/2025 9:00am - 11:00am

10/21/2025 9:00am - 10:00am

NEW WYANDOTTE LOCATION (Replacing Yack Arena): Christ The King Church

16700 Pennsylvania Road

10/03/2025 9:00am - 10:30am

10/17/2025 9:00am - 10:00am

10/31/2025 9:00am - 10:00am

Kennedy Building - Ecorse Public Schools (Drive-Up Only)

27225 West Outer Drive

10/07/2025 2:00pm - 4:00pm

10/21/2025 1:30pm - 2:30pm