



HAPPENINGS

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By giving a large part of the educative work to nature itself...it is necessary to have the child exposed to the vivifying forces of nature..."

—Maria Montessori, *The Montessori Method*

Montessori or Public Kindergarten?

An important decision comes as your child approaches five years old. When your child is 5 on Sept, 1, you have the option of moving your child into a conventional public school kindergarten. Consider these suggestions from Aline Wolf, a long-time Montessorian, as you face this decision:

"It will be helpful to begin by observing your own child in the Montessori classroom during the spring months. Does she choose her own activities? How long can she concentrate? What math exercises can she do? What reading or language activities has she begun?"

Next you should visit the kindergarten which your child could attend. How long do the children concentrate? What math and reading exercises are available as the next step to what your child is doing now? What art, music, and nature activities are in the class? Are there opportunities for independent work and for leadership?

The next step in the sequence is to re-visit the Montessori school. This time, rather than watching your own child, look at the classroom as a whole and particularly at what the oldest children are doing? What are they doing in math and reading? Are the leaders? Are the self-confident?

Imitating an older child is only one aspect of learning in a mixed-age group. The book **Children Teach Children** gives many statistics which show that when an older child helps a younger child, it is actually the older child who benefits most from the experience. Besides reinforcing their academic knowledge, the experience of helping a younger child enhances self-esteem and develops self-confidence; two qualities which enable the child to try new things in later learning.

The Montessori materials are so open-ended that it is almost impossible to imagine any of our children finishing or tiring of the academic materials. The golden beads, which illustrate the decimal system can, for example be used for such difficult concepts. Long before a child is faced with such abstract terms as peninsula, fraction, or planet, he meets them in simple concrete materials which are fun to manipulate.

When selecting a school for your child, the important thing to remember is that you and your spouse, as parents, are the only people who should make this decision. You, as parents, best understand the needs. Parents have the wisdom to choose the school which offers the best opportunities for your family. Choose with confidence.

Earth Day

Recycle-Refill-Reuse-Rebirth-Revamp-Return-Renew-Recap-Repair-Repeat-Refresh-Revive-Rebuild-Reclaim-Redeem-Recharge-Recoup-Recover-Rethink-Recreate-Reform-Recycle-Recycle ONCE IS NOT ENOUGH!

"Treat the Earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children." -Ancient Indian Proverb

Happening in Our classrooms:

Pre- Primary class

For the President curriculum, our kinder group had a classroom election. Iliyaan Hemrani was elected as President, and Samuel Hollier was elected Vice President by her classmates. Their statements as new President: Iliyaan; "I would help people get better if they were sick." Samuel; "I would help to get the bad guys."

April is the month we are celebrating Earth day. The children will have a wonderful time with the Earth day curriculum theme. They will be learning about animals, and endangered animals of the rainforest. The classroom will become a tropical rainforest with red flower monkeys, three-toed sloth, dumeril's ground boas, poison arrow frogs, and other creatures. The child learns how to do something to help take care of the animals and keep our world safe and beautiful. Go and see the classroom. It is going to be remarkable!

Infant Class: Welcoming Kate Murray and Aubrey Maudlin!

Toddlers Class

Welcome to two returning students - Teagen Obrosky and Nicholas Reyes.

In both toddlers' classes, the request is to donate some plants and bring in family pictures. Fresh flowers are always a lovely thought.

Importance of taking children outdoors:

There are so many good reasons why young children should spend time outdoors as much as possible! Not only is the outdoors the best place for children to practice and master emerging physical skills, but it is also the place where children are likely to burn the most calories, which helps prevent obesity (a problem of escalating proportions in our society). Also, the outside light stimulates the pineal gland, which is the part of the brain that helps regulate our "biological clock," is vital to the immune system, and makes us feel happier. Outside light also triggers the

Cont'd from outdoor play:

demonstrated that it increases academic learning and productivity. These are just some of the reasons why outdoor activity is so important!!

Parent/ Teacher Conferences

Week of May 12 2008 for Pre-Pr I & Tods 1

Week of May 19 2008 for Pre-Pr II & Tods 2

Graduation Day- Wednesday, May 28th 2008.

The sign in sheet will be posted up on the front door of each classroom beginning of May. Please look out for it and sign in the date and time that suits you best. Phone conferences are an option too.

Progress Reports will be out the week before the conferences.

Thank you to our parents:

Big thanks to all the parents who brought eggs for the egg hunt. The event was successful; the kids loved it and had lot of fun.

Also thanks to Krista Bosco, Shanon Luther and others for donating cereal boxes and bottles for Earth projects. Thanks to Nasreen Hemrani for the wonderful clear plastic containers with lids. They have really helped organize items in the classroom cabinets.

A BIG thank you to Austin's grand dad who made the children a whole boxful of handmade wooden blocks!! It made his day to see the excitement in the children's eyes!

Home lunches- we need your help!

Parents: Please, we would like to request that if you send a **frozen** "lunch able", please thaw it in the fridge the night before. It is taking too long to warm up frozen foods thoroughly. Also, every lunch box should have an ice pack included, especially now with the warm weather.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week:

May 4-10 - Three Cheers for our great teachers!!!