



HAPPENINGS

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It is not enough for the teacher to restrict herself to loving and understanding the child; she must first love and understand the universe." Maria Montessori

Montessori Kindergarten or Public???

An important decision come 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 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 enables 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, his parents, best understand the needs. As parents you 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-Recylce 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

Infants Crying is Communication: Cultures vary widely in their response to a crying infant. From a belief that crying strenghtens the lungs: to absolute incredulity that anyone would let a baby cry for an instant. We recommend spending time and effort to learn what your child is crying about. There is no recipe and each is different.

Happening in Pre Primary:

It has been an amazing month for Pre-Primary I class with so many friends joining us. Welcome to Hannah, Cierra, Solomon, Brady and Daphne in our class and Robert Bailey in Pre-Primary II class. We had a visit from Fire Marshals who showed us the heavy suit that they have to wear when they go to fight fire. It certainly seemed too heavy for Ms. Myra, but she looked great in that suit. Alexis got to stand next to the fire truck wheel to demonstrate how large they are. The fire engine was huge and we had to close our ears when it started and guess what it had a magic ladder which came down when we all shouted "Magic ladder Come down."



Primary II children have been planting dandelion seeds in the garden and around the school grounds. The flowers are beautiful and children love to play with the seed heads by blowing them. It's a great way to learn about the stages of the plant life cycle.

Assistant Administrators: We welcome Ms. Jonnie for the mornings and Ms. Nimira for the afternoons as assistants. They are both enthusiastic and are here to help you and your children.

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 lots of fun. We thank Peter's mom for bringing finger paint and paper. Children really enjoyed painting.



Cierra overjoyed with her bag of eggs.

Progress Reports will be out the first week in May.

Parent/ Teacher Conferences

Week of May 11 for Toddlers II and Pre-Pr II.

Week of May 18 for Toddlers I and Pre-Pr I.

The "Conference" 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 for Pre-Primary classes only. Conferences are not mandatory.

Muffins for Mothers: Appreciating our hard working mothers on Friday, May 8th **for Mother's Day** .Please stop by in the morning and enjoy the **Muffins !!!**

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week:

May 3-9 - **Three** Cheers for our great teachers and Staff!!!

Memorial Day Holiday, May 25th: School will be closed

Graduation Day - Wednesday, May 27th 2009