



# HAPPENINGS

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**Thank you to our parents who came to the parents' appreciation night.** The atmosphere was great and parents joined in the snacks and got a chance to meet other parents. The Math presentation was very informative.

## Quote from Maria Montessori on Peace:

"To help children become aware of love that rests inside each of them, is I feel one of the most important aspects of nurturing spirituality and teaching peace. "

Both classes have been learning about peace in the class. Teachers have a peace dove in the basket by the window; children go to make peace if they are having confrontation with anyone in the class. The dove in the class symbolizes peace and the children are taught how to resolve problems by making peace and recognizing the love light in their hearts.

## Some Children's view on the Peace dove:

Melina: "I love you" Haeden says: "Pretty and white, Conner: "It's beautiful", Kolbi: "Give it pretend eggs, Charlotte: "You are fuzzy and white & I love you," Alizah: "I like her," Sydney: "I will give you flowers."

Peace is more than the absence of war. It is state of being in balance and harmony. Peace is about how we handle problems and how we get along with others. Peace is about community, encouragement, and helping each other to live better, more fulfilling lives. Most of all, peace is about respect for ourselves, each other, and the planet we share.

## Pre- Primary Class I & II:

The older students visited Europe, learning about the Queen and the Royal family (a big thank you to Charlotte for sharing her wonderful book), were amazed at the Double Decker bus, the Palace's guard who has to stand still for hours, etc. They also made the tower of Pisa and made pasta necklaces. With Halloween around the corner, students will learn facts about bats, spiders, pumpkins and a very important aspect of Halloween safety- the candies!

**Toddler's Class...** Toddlers are learning about bottom of the sea. Deep down in the ocean many kind of creatures live. Some look like a fish, but not fish. Some look like flowers, but are animals. Some go on land part of the time. Some have very soft bodies, and others have outside shell. The vocabulary for this month is dolphin, seal, whale, shark, octopus, crab, jellyfish, starfish, and shells.

**Cavity Ranger...**our very own Ms. Kimberly was a cavity ranger (Picture on the school window) helping the dental hygienist who came to school. Teaching children how to brush and floss. Children loved and enjoyed the whole presentation.

**For a taste of the fun for Halloween, here is pirate snack idea: By Karen**

**Pirate Ship:** Take an orange and cut in half. Hollow out the insides of the orange and eat. Make orange Jello 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 pirate ship!

## A Montessori classroom is where children learn order: From: the Folios Magazine

This provides the sense of security and comfort they need to become self-directed. The order of a Montessori classroom is also present in the routines that exist. The children enter the classroom greeting their children and sit in the circle, and then get straight to work. And every aspect of this routine has been patiently presented to them. There is also order within the materials themselves: every tray or piece of material on a shelf is always in its proper place and ready to be used. While at work, disruptions are kept to a minimum so children can focus on the task at hand. All of this is why anyone observing a Montessori classroom sees a well ordered, calm and functional environment that is perfectly set up for learning.

The classroom and the materials are designed and displayed in a way that helps your child learn how to cooperate with others in their use and have respect of the needs of others as well as the use of the materials. The social goals of helping children learn how to get along with each other, respect each other and cooperate are an important component of the Montessori approach to learning. There is only one Pink Tower in the classroom, for example. Having to share materials helps promote cooperation and patience. Having to walk carefully around each child's mat (on which the work is done) teaches respect for others all day long. In addition, Montessori also includes structured lessons on grace and courtesy so that the child learns important social skills such as how to greet and introduce people; how to ask for something properly; and even mundane graces such as how to sneeze, cough, and yawn politely.

### Why doesn't Montessori grade students?

Grades (letters or percentages) focus strictly on results and are a measure of what a student knows at that particular moment in time. Grades become the end itself. Instead of grades, Montessori provides informative and descriptive reports on what your child's focus of interest has been and how he or she is progressing. Montessori children repeat activities or

correct mistakes until they gain competency. When students make the transition to other schools that do testing, they usually test well and perform a grade level or two above their peers.

### What does polishing a mirror and washing a table have to do with education?

One unique aspect of a Montessori classroom is the Practical Life area. Through repetitive, hands-on and very purposeful activities, the child learns to do things for her. At the same time, indirect learning beyond polishing a mirror, using tweezers, folding laundry or opening and closing bottles is occurring. The children learn concentration, coordination, manual dexterity, order and independence. Far from being trivial, these skills form the necessary foundation for all future learning as they stir important areas of the brain. In addition, children are interested in learning real things in the real world, which accounts for the tremendous popularity of these exercises. As Maria Montessori once said: "Children don't play, they work."

### Why does Montessori have mixed-age groups in each class?

Maria Montessori discovered that putting older and younger children together helps them learn from and teach each other. This is good for the older children because they can be useful and helpful to the younger ones, which not only reinforces what they have learned but enhances their self-esteem as well. The younger children in turn have role models to follow and are integrated into the classroom by these helpful older children. If you think about it, every normal community has a mixed grouping of ages.

### A Personal note from the Director:

I would like to remind you all of a 10% discount in your tuition when you recommend someone to the school. Please talk to your neighbors, friends and family. A big Thank you to all those who have referred other parents to the school in the past. Your referrals will help the school continue to grow! Peace: Mrs. Nasser