

Montessori Academy Newsletter



Volume 7, Issue 6

September 2017

Director's Corner

Say do you remember, dancing in September, ba de ya, never was a cloudy day. Well I certainly think this was a September to remember and there certainly were many cloudy days for hundreds of thousands of people. While Irma destroyed many things for many people, it certainly did not destroy the spirit here at our school. What a joy it is to be a part of a community that cares about each other. Last week a family who had lost so much in the aftermath of Irma asked me how I was doing. Despite their loss, they still saw fit to make sure others around them were doing ok. Thank you parents for helping to create such a wonderful and caring environment.

Happy Autumn. September 22 was officially the start of the fall season although much of the end of September has felt like summer. Parents please

be mindful of the change in weather that will eventually set in. The toddlers, in particular, go outside much earlier in the morning than the primary classes so they may need a light jacket to keep warm. In addition, this is a good time to check your child's cubby to make sure they have appropriate clothing for the forthcoming changing weather.



I want to thank all the parents that came out to Parent Education Night.

It was a great turnout. We hope you learned a lot about your child's day, the activities they are involved in, the various ways parents can be involved in what goes in your child's class, some of the future plans we have for the school, including the new food program for the Infant 2 class, and the plans for our playground, as well as, having your questions answered.

Just to recap a few of the things that were discussed during the

Upcoming Events

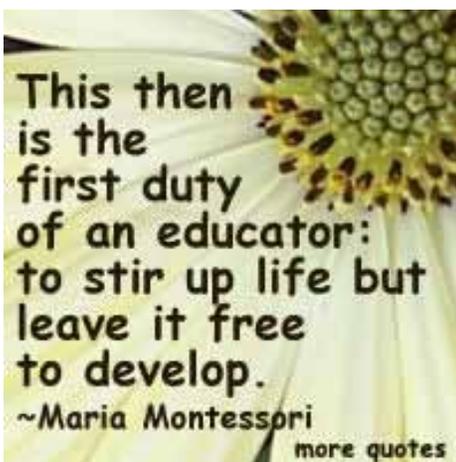
Columbus Day
School Closed
October 9th

Parent Teacher Conferences
October 10th - 19th

Scholastic Book Fair
October 16th - 20th

Picture Day
October 17th

Community Day
October 21st
9:00am - Noon



sessions:

1. Playground improvements - The primary classes will be initiating a fundraiser in partnership with the parents to raise money for playground equipment and ground improvements. They will send out options to pick from for the playground equipment. On October 6, a landscaper will be coming to visit us at the school to survey the playground and give us a plan to work from for our playground improvements. If you are interested in attending or being a part of this process, please email me.

2. Infant II meal plan option - Starting in October 2017, we will be introducing a meal plan in the Infant II classroom. Parents with infants over 12 months old may participate. The monthly cost of the program is \$65. The school will provide breakfast and lunch from our organic kitchen for your child. Parents will still need to provide their child's milk and one snack daily. If you are interested in participating in the program, please email the front office.

3. Classroom observations - All parents are strongly encouraged to come in to observe their child's class prior to parent teacher conferences. In the toddler class, the best times for classroom observation are

between 8:30 and 9:30 am Monday to Thursday. There is a signup sheet in the primary I class for parents to sign up for observations. You do not need to sign up to come and observe in the primary II class. Parents please observe the following when you come in for classroom observation:

a. There will be an adult chair in the child for you to sit in when you arrive.

b. Please don't interact with the children. They may come up to you and it's ok to say hi but please don't engage them during the observation as this will disrupt the natural flow of the work cycle.

c. Please remember, this is the children's class time. If you have a question or want to have a discussion with the teacher, during the observation is not the time to do so. Please schedule a time when the teacher is outside of the classroom and not with the children.

4. Developmental Milestones - Some of the classes have introduced developmental milestone sheets in their class. The teacher will communicate with the parents those developmental milestones your child is demonstrating in class. She will discuss with the parents what milestones you see your child demonstrating at home.

She will recommend a variety of exercises and activities that is practiced at school that you can practice at home with your child in order to help your child reach these milestones. Parents and teachers can also share about any areas of concern. If parents have activities that they want their child to work on during the time they are in school, they can also share that with the teacher.

5. Clothing not appropriate for school - During the parent orientation in August, we discussed clothing that is appropriate and not appropriate for school. Over the past few weeks, several children are coming to school with clothing that parents are asked not to send their child to school in. This includes clothing with movie/TV characters, light up shoes, light up watches, and toy jewelry. It is becoming a great distraction in the classroom. We understand sometimes it may difficult to get out of your house in the morning because your child may insist on wearing something that is not appropriate for school. Rather than fuss with your child, please bring your child to school, for example, with another pair of shoes that are not light up. The teachers and staff are happy to encourage your child to change into the more appro-

priate clothing while you leave feeling like you haven't had to go through WWII to get out of the house.

Parents please mark your calendars as we have several important dates coming up in October. **The school will be closed on Monday October 9 for Columbus Day.**

Parent teacher conferences will begin October 10 and continue through to October 19 for the Toddler and Primary classes. Please look out for the email with the signup sheet for conferences. Each teacher will have their own schedule of days and times for conferences.

We will be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair from October 16-20.

Reading books aloud to children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps children develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word.

Even after children learn to read by themselves, it's still important for you to read aloud together. Reading aloud is the best way to help children develop word mastery and grammatical understanding, which form the basis for learning how to read. Word mastery in adulthood is correlated with early acquisition of words. Shared picture book reading offers a potentially powerful strategy to prepare children for competent literacy skills. Finding picture books with rich language like "aghost" and "grimace found in the children's book "The Pout-Pout Fish", is not

unusual, and reading those stories aloud will introduce children to an extensive vocabulary. Please come out and support our book fair. Not only do your children benefit

when you read to them or you read together, but it helps to raise money for our school that we can use to purchase additional materials particularly in the area of literacy. The book fair will be open each afternoon from 3 to 6 pm. Volunteer opportunities

are also available during the afternoons for the book fair.

Picture day will take place on Tuesday October 17. If you have an outfit you want your child to take pictures in but not stay in for the remainder of the day, please send a change of clothes for your child. Photographs will be offered in color with the option of B&W. All siblings will take individual and sibling portraits.

Community Day will take place on Saturday October 21 from 9:00 am to 12 pm. Community day is a day for our parents to come in and volunteer their time to help make school improvements. Parents, if you have trouble volunteering during the weekdays, this is a great opportunity to get your volunteer hours in.



Be sure to like our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/scott.montessori>

It's getting close to fall, the leaves are falling, and the temperature is getting cooler. It is only our second month of school and parents are already observing their child's change/growth.

Here in Infant I our newest crawlers have become masters of their environment, so please observe the door sign, "Knock knock. Who's There? Your Babies!!"

In the Infant I community, we are working diligently on our phonics. Each day we recite our alphabet, colors, days of week, and vowels in English & Spanish. In addition to communication, we are working on reaching and grabbing and tummy time to promote physical movement. Our crawlers are able to pull themselves up on cribs and chairs. Your children utilize toys to stand, walk, or push

objects. Lastly, as we prepare for the future and your child's transition, we encourage your child to be as independent as they are ready for. At school we allow your child to hold their own bottle, pick up and feed themselves finger foods, etc. to promote both little and big milestones.

Sept 9th is National Teddy Bear/ Care Bear Share Your Care Day

Infant I Growing and Learning



This month's theme is Fall. Our children worked on an apple stamp craft counting the apples. The children painted the different colors of leaves. They also went on a nature walk and made a corn craft by holding a Lego to stamp the kernels of corn.

Other activities that we did this month included creative play and story time upon morning arrival. After finishing their food and drinking milk, the children are using their words or signs to signal "all done". This helps the children learn not to throw food and cups on the floor.

Circle time/group lessons are used to practice spoken language, the alphabet, mathematics, shapes, colors, sign language, manners, singing, Spanish, greetings in different languages, parts of the body, music, musical instruments, and dance.

During outdoor play we learn about nature, flowers, trees, the vegetable garden, birds, insects, and of course, the chickens. Most importantly, the children have fun on the playground.

The children assist in cleaning up in the classroom by placing toys

in the toy bin and books on the shelf. They also assist with laundry by folding washcloths and hand towels and place it on the counter.

We're glad that all our families were safe during hurricane Irma. Thanks for all you do!

Reminders:

- Sign up for the food program
- Remember to label your child's items
- Update your feeding plans
- Bring fall clothes for your child

Look at the smiles in Infant 2...



Hello from Toddlerville! In our class, we are continuing with our lessons in grace and courtesy. We are learning that manners are important and why they're important. In addition to those lessons, we are learning how to line up when it's time to transition to different areas throughout the day. I must say, these toddlers learn QUICK!

The students are also learning how to take care of things in their environment. They are doing so by helping to

feed the chickens outside, helping take care of our garden, watering our plants in the classroom, and feeding our class pets. They are all so helpful!



Parents, please remember that labeling your child's belongings is IMPORTANT. If ever anything is missing, I'll know who it belongs to if it's labeled with a first AND last name (no initials or nicknames, please). Also, please

remember our classroom wish list on Amazon as well as our PRIVATE Facebook page. Please contact me if you're having trouble finding either one. Parent Education Night is scheduled for September 21 from 4:45-6:00. Please join us as I will be discussing topics like transitions, toilet training, arrival, sick policy, etc.

As always, it is my pleasure to teach each and every one of your children!

Toddlers Enjoying Their Day





Greetings parents. September is just flying by. A lot of new and exciting things happened during this month.

This month we have focused more on grace and courtesy exercises like walking on the line, setting up the tables, and sharing with friends. We have also been working on care of environment like

watering plants and caring for our materials.

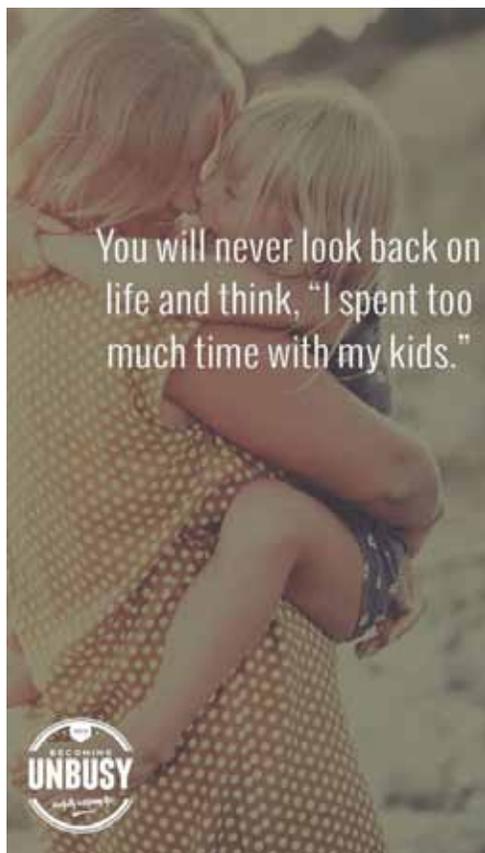
We have been placing a lot of emphasis on practical life exercises this month things like pouring, sponging, spooning, stringing and many others which help children in further advanced exercises.

Our extracurricular activities have

also started this month so we have yoga classes and Jemima's play-house coming in and the children have been having a wonderful time.

Thank you so much for all your help and support, it is always appreciated.

Primary 1 Hard at Work



Aahhhhh, the Montessori work cycle. The age of the children in Primary 2 cannot compare to their wonderful abilities when it comes to their “natural tendency” for work. We are up to a solid three hours for our morning work cycle. They are full of academic lessons, sensorial explorations and practical life activities. And for the extended day children who have another two hour work cycle, the world

is full of endless possibilities. That wicker chair that sits in the primary classroom each and every day is there for all to come and see how the children work together to achieve goals which gives them a wonderful sense of pride and accomplishment.

We have begun our visual journey in geography. We are in need of any KID friendly maga-

zines work the topic of animals or various locations in the world. If you’d like to donate these to the classroom the kids would love them.

We look forward to see everyone at parent education night. Both classrooms will join together to share the benefits of the Montessori three hour work cycle.

Primary 2 Kids Growing And Learning

