

Montessori Academy Newsletter



Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2017

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome back parents and children!! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday break, got plenty of rest, had lots of fun, and ate some great and healthy food. The staff certainly had some much needed R&R. The first few days back was a challenge for some of the children who were probably enjoying staying home with parents or relatives and thought it was a permanent thing. And then there were those who seemed to be counting the days and there were others who seemed to be counting the days until we got back to school. In either case, we are back into the swing of things and off to loving learning and having fun.

At the end of this month we will have our 5th annual International day celebration. We are asking parents to lend us some of the wonderful things you may have picked up from your travels around the world. Each year we put together a display so that the children can see what some of the same things they see everyday may look like in a different country. These things, or artifacts, can include anything from books, music, jewelry, photos, currency, pottery, art, clothing, etc. Please put your name

on the items so we can be sure to return them. On January 31, parents are asked to bring in a dish to share with others. It can be home made, store bought, or made by a friend or family member. We will have drop in between 3:30 and 6:00 this day for parents and children to come out, share some good food and mix and mingle with other parents and children. We hope to see you all there.

Thank you to all of the parents who came out to our second parent education night. There were many topics discussed and information shared. One topic that came up was about children being sent home sick. In your parent handbook, there is a list of things that will exclude children from school. If you have any questions about whether your child is well enough to come to school, please consult that list. There are a few things on that list including fever, diarrhea (two or more instances), and vomiting (two or more instances), that if your child has, you are asked to keep your child out of school for 24 hours. For example, if you receive a call on Monday asking you pick up your child because he or she has a fever, your child should not return to school before Wednesday. This allows time for your child

Upcoming Events

International Day Celebration

January 31st
3:30 - 6:00

Valentine's Day Tea

February 14th
3:30 - 6:00

President's Day School Closed

Community Day March 1st

Parent/Teacher Conferences

March 7th - 17th

Pre-registration Begins for the 2017/18 School Year

March 6th

to be fever free for 24 hours. The 24 hours starts from the time your child is fever free, not from the time we call you or you pick your child up. We appreciate your cooperation in following this procedure as we are trying to limit as much as possible spreading sickness from one child to the next.

On **February 14, we will be hosting our annual Valentine's Day Tea.** This will be in a drop in event from 3:30 to 6:00 pm. You can come for as little or as long as you would like. The children will be serving hot tea and refreshments to their parents.

Just a reminder that we **will be closed on Monday, February 20 in honor of President's Day.**

Parents, please don't forget to schedule some time to come observe in your child's classroom. **Parent teacher conferences will be held from March 7 through the 17th.** Sign up sheets will be sent out as we get closer to the date.

On **Saturday, March 1, we will hold our second Community Day.** Community day is when we ask parents to volunteer some of their time on Saturday morning between 9 and noon and we do anything from deep cleaning in the classroom, to building things for the kids to play with on the playground. We will be beginning our spring planting and reviving our butterfly and sensory gardens as well. If you haven't had a chance to get your volunteer hours for the

year in, this is a great opportunity to do so. If you have a particular expertise, let us know as we can find a project to match.

Pre-registration starts March 6. If your child will be returning for the 2017-2018 school year, you can submit your paperwork and deposit to reserve your child's space in their class for next year. Summer camp applications will be available in late February. If your child will be attending school during June and July, you will need to complete a summer camp application. Keep an eye out on our new bulletin board in front of the tuition box for upcoming information.



Fact #1: Chickens make good teachers. Mother hens can show their babies what is good to eat and what is not. In tests, hens have taught their babies to stay away from color-coded grains that are bad for them.

Fact #2: Chickens have prehistoric roots. Chickens are believed to be the closest living relative of the Tyrannosaurus rex.

Fact #3: Chickens have their own "language." It's thought that chickens have about 30 distinct vocalizations that they use to communicate with each other. For instance, the warning cry for a predator that is coming on the ground is different from the cry for a predator coming from above.

Fact #4: Chickens sometimes model their behavior on other chickens.

The special way a broody hen clucks can encourage other hens to become broody, too.

Fact #5: Chickens begin communicating before they are hatched. Chicken families begin communicating with each other before the babies have even hatched. The mother hen talks to her eggs (often a purring sound), and the chicks begin peeping back to her from inside their unhatched eggs.

Fact #6: Chickens are more docile at night. Chickens go into a passive, trance-like state when they sleep at night. Consequently, if you need to catch and handle a chicken that is not very tame, do it at night after the chicken has settled down to roost.

Fact #7: Chickens learn who you are. Chickens can recognize up to 100 faces!

Fact #8: Chickens lay different colors of eggs depending on breed. Blue eggshell color comes from biliverdin; brown eggshell color comes from protoporphyrins. Pink eggs are the result of small quantities of a rosy brown pigment, while green eggs have both blue and brown pigments.

Fact #9: Chicken eggs are nutritionally about the same regardless of color. Brown eggshell colors are deposited on the outside of the shell, while blue goes throughout the shell, even on the inside.

Fact #10: Chickens signal when they are ready to lay. Before a hen begins to lay, her comb will get larger and redder, and she may begin to squat submissively when you reach down to pet her.

Excerpted from My Pet Chicken Handbook.

Infant Room 1 News with Ms. Latrice

Infant I would like to welcome everyone back from winter break. Some of us got so comfortable at home that returning in January was a bit of a shock. Fortunately, after the first few days had passed we are able to get back into swing of things by going over roles & routines. We are learning identification among family members & friends. Thank you for all of the beautiful family pictures which we are able to use as a tool while talking about our families. We are also learning letters, numbers, and phonics in addition to our nonverbal cues such as sign language

and body gestures for communication. Lastly, we want to thank all of our new and returning families for entrusting your little ones in our care.

We have five new additions to our classroom. Please help us welcome Connor, Toby, Henry, William and Olawatobi to our class.

Congratulations to Archer who has transitioned to infant II and to Henry and Toby, our newest rollers.

Reminders:

- Labeling - Please label all bottles and caps with your child's first and last name, the date, and contents of the bottle, (BM or F), and food (peas, corn, etc.).
- Please bring jackets for cooler days when children venture outside.
- Each child should have four complete outfits in over flow bins. (shirt & pants)



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

Infant II welcomes Brooks, Adelaide, Mila, and Archer who have just transitioned to our class. Each of our friends is greeted upon arrival and introduced to the daily routine in the Infant II classroom. Our new friends are also learning that the clean up song signals children, it's time to clean up. At pick up, we love to share with parents what their child has learned or enjoyed doing that day. Young children learn best through hands-on experiences and repetition. We introduce a variety of materials and share new things with the children through exploration and play.

This month we've been working on things such as stacking blocks, finger painting, and drawing. During snacks and meals we discuss the different foods the children are eating. We count different parts of our

food and look at colors, shapes, and even the textures such as crunchy or creamy. It's amazing how much the children enjoy hearing the same stories over and over and over. Repetition is helpful to build reading skills. During story time, the children love to show us the signs for the animals in the story. Sometimes they will also mimic the sounds the animals make. Some of our favorite books include, My Friends, My Favorite Colors, My Favorite Foods, and Animals.

We try to go outside each day, weather permitting, to play on

the playground, explore nature by counting the leaves and trees, talking about the colors we see in nature, and watching the chickens in the coop.



In music & movement the children enjoy using the tambourine, maracas, and props. They also love singing, clapping, marching, and dancing which helps the children

to develop and use creativity, coordination and rhythm. Our favorite songs are "Good Morning Mr. Yellow Bird," "Who Came To School Today," and "Days Of The Week."

Famous Montessori Graduates...



JEFF BEZOS
Founder of Amazon

He is analytical and intuitive, careful and audacious, playful and determined. He also is known to learn from others, a trait he learnt in Montessori education.



GEORGE CLOONEY
Actor

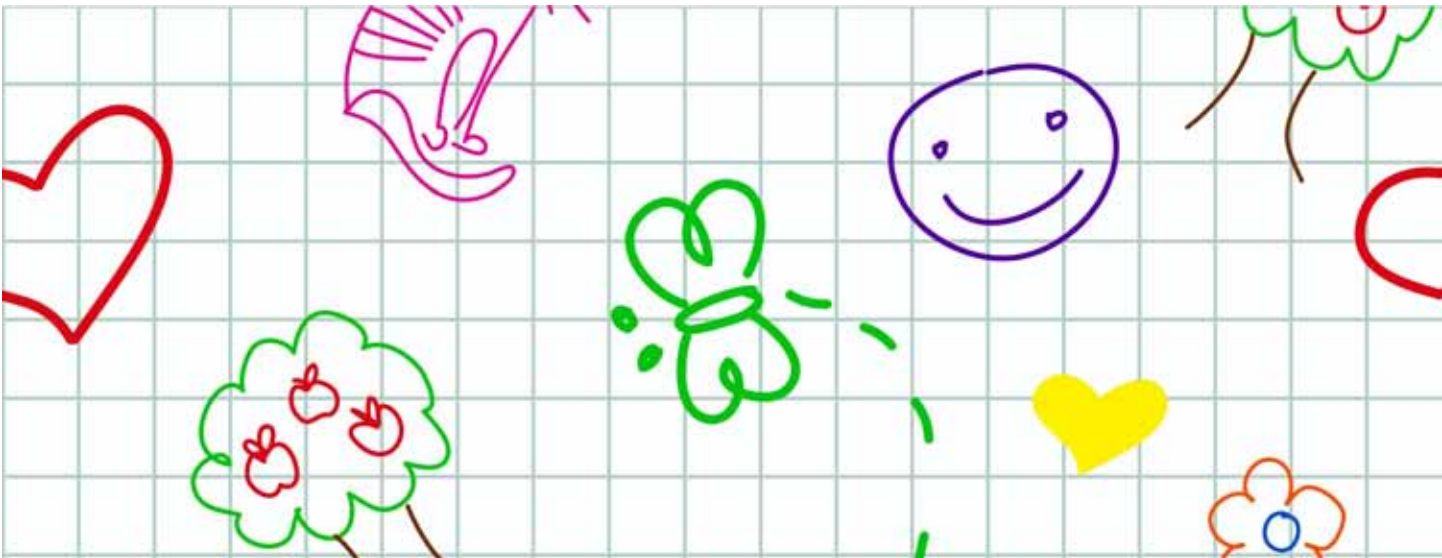
One would think it is his handsomeness that made George such a famous and award winning actor. He actually credits his Montessori education for his success.



JIMMY WALES
Founder of Wikipedia

Wikipedia has made redundant something we took for granted - the Encyclopaedia. Jimmy's single handed focus to make Wikipedia a success and an icon can be credited to the Montessori education system.





Happy New Year!! We've had several changes in the toddler community since the start of the new year. Since returning to school, we've welcomed new students, transitioned three students, and welcomed back our returning students. We've also had to say goodbye to one student. Of course to our students that have transitioned, we get to say, "see you on the playground" and not good-bye. All-in-all, our visits from transitioning students are complete and went smoothly. We are enjoying all of the new faces and personalities in the classroom.

As everyone is still getting acclimated to change and their surroundings, we have continued with our classroom lessons. These lessons include manners, grace and courtesy, learning how to use the classroom materials the correct manner, and sitting nicely at group time (just to name a few). In our group lessons, we continue learning our alphabet, our basic manners in sign language, our numbers, days of

the week, and months of the year. We do this all in Spanish as well!

Remember to check your child's green bins outside of the classroom each day.



For those of you not familiar, ask me how to gain access to our PRIVATE toddler Facebook page as well as our classroom wishlist on Amazon.

Toddler Class Adventures in Learning







Primary 1 Class News with Ms. Afshan

Hello and Happy New Year. New Years is like a new beginning and we have lots of new and exciting things to do.

We have two major events coming up. The first one is Parents Education Night in which we will have a great opportunity to meet with each other and have a discussion about the children's progress and what's coming up next.

The other event coming up is the International night, our favorite celebration of the diverse cultures that make up The Montessori Academy. This is a perfect opportunity to introduce the children to some of the differences we see between people, clothes, language and culture in different

parts of the world.

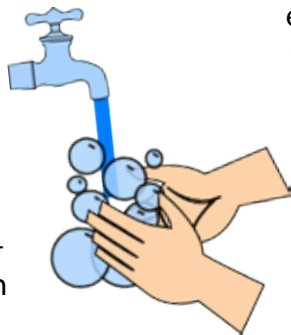
We have been doing a lot in class as well. It seems like the children have all suddenly grown up so much after the holidays. Stay tuned...





We would like to welcome all of our new friends to the Primary 2 classroom. It has been a pleasure meeting all of the new students and parents.

All of the children are off to a wonderful journey in the area of academics. Please check your child's cubbies which are located inside of the classroom for a view of what your children are working on. As you may have noticed, school begins promptly at 8:30. We appreciate you allowing your child to enter the classroom quietly in an effort not to disturb



those who have begun their day. It is routine that each child head straight for the sink to wash their hands before they start their day. As we strive to maintain the highest of health standards, upon entering, please encourage your child to do this each day.

Blankets and sheets are still being sent home each Friday to be laundered. Please take a moment each Friday to check your child's supply drawer in the classroom for two complete changes of clothes. Even though mother nature has issues when it comes to reminding us that it is still winter, please leave at least

one pair of warm clothing.

Please be sure to label all clothing, including coats, jackets, rain boots, hats and mittens. Scarves may NOT be worn on the playground and will remain in your child's red bin outside of the classroom.

Parent Education night is coming soon. In light of the many new families in the Primary 2 classroom; we would like to give a "grand" tour beginning at 5:00 January 25th. I encourage all parents to attend this informational meeting about your child's daily environment. In fact, bring a notebook so you can write down the many exercises which you can carry into your home.

Primary 2 Kids Growing And Learning





Vegetable Wonton Recipe

Several of you have asked for the recipe for those wonderful vegetable wontons that we had on Parent Education night so here it is.

Ingredients:

- 1 bag frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 tbsp. soy sauce
- 3 green onions
- 1/4 of a jalapeno
- 1/2 c. bell peppers (green, yellow, red)
- 2 tbsp. red onion (chopped)
- ground cumin
- ground coriander
- black pepper
- white pepper
- black salt
- wonton wrappers

Method:

Chop mixed vegetable coarsely.

Begin sauteing mixed vegetables in a little olive oil. Add soy sauce.

Chop green onions and add to saute vegetables after about 2 to 3 min.

Next add jalapeno pepper to pan.

Finely chop about 1/2 cup of green, yellow and red bell peppers. Add to saute mixture. Add red onion. Add spices to taste.

Remove saute mixture from the stove.

Add about 1 tbsp. of mixture to center of wonton wrapper. Use your finger to wet the edges of the wrapper and fold in half. Use a fork to seal edges of folded wonton together.

Heat oil in a frying pan and when hot, add the filled wonton to the pan. Cook lightly on each side so it's just crisp.

Enjoy!