

Montessori Academy Newsletter



Upcoming Events

Spring Break
April 3rd - 7th

School Reopens
April 10th

Book Fair
April 17th - 21st

Zoo Atlanta Field Trip
April 19th

School Re-registration
Deadline April 21st

Last Day of School
May 26th
Early Dismissal at 4:00 PM

Summer Camp
May 31st - July 26th

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March 2017

Spring is officially here. Along with the spring comes the pollen, mold, runny noses and red itchy eyes. "Achoo!" It's your child's third sneezing fit of the morning, and as you hand him/her another tissue you wonder if these cold-like symptoms — the sneezing, congestion, and runny nose — have something to do with the recent weather change. If your child gets similar symptoms at the same time every year, you're likely right: seasonal allergies, sometimes called hay fever, are at work. Even kids who have never had seasonal allergies in years past can develop them. Seasonal allergies can start at almost any age, though they usually develop by the time someone is 10 years old and reach their peak in the early twenties, with symptoms often disappearing later in adulthood.

Talk with your child's doctor if you think your child might have allergies. The doctor will ask about symptoms and when they appear and, based on the answers and a physical exam, should be able to make a diagnosis. If not, the doctor may refer you to an allergist for blood tests or allergy skin tests.

So what can you do? There are many ways to treat seasonal allergies, depending on how severe the

symptoms are. The most important part of treatment is knowing what allergens are at work. Some kids can get relief by reducing or eliminating exposure to allergens that bother them.

If certain seasons cause symptoms, keep the windows closed, use air conditioning if possible, and stay indoors when pollen/mold/weed counts are high. It's also a good idea for kids with seasonal allergies to wash their hands or shower and change clothing after playing outside. There are also websites such as <https://www.pollen.com/forecast/current/pollen/30030>, where you can get the current allergy report by zip code. It may not keep the allergies away but at least you will know how bad it's going to be so you can prepare. That may mean an early dose of decongestants, antihistamines, nasal spray, or eyedrops, etc. to help make your child's day more bearable.

Spring break is almost here. **We will be closed April 3 to April 7 for spring break.** Some of the parents are taking advantage of your children's time off and have planned some fantastic vacations. Whatever you do, we wish you all a safe and relaxing and enjoyable break. **School reopens on Monday April 10.**

Pre-registration forms were sent out via email a few weeks ago. Guarantee your child's space in their class for the 2017-2018 school year early. After April 21, applications from outside of the school's current enrollment will be accepted. **The deadline to return your form is April 21. If you pay the annual activity fee by April 21, the fee is \$175. If you pay after April 21, the fee will be \$225.** Please let us know if you have any questions regarding pre-registration or class placement.

Summer camp applications are out. Summer camp is open to children in the toddler and primary classes. **The last day of the school year is May 26. Summer camp begins May 31 and runs through July 26.** If your child is in the toddler or primary class and will be attending school during this time period, please be sure to enroll them for summer camp before the spaces fill up. Although the infant classes do not officially attend summer camp,

the open and closure dates for the school will still apply to the infant program.

To all of the primary class parents and grandparents that attended our field trip to the Georgia Aquarium, I would like to say a huge thank you. We couldn't have done it without you. This month's field trip was the first trip for the Primary 1 class. We had a total of 19 chaperons. The children didn't stand a chance if they tried to get lost. We had a great time and learned a lot of what worked and didn't work for this group. The primary 1 class is doing an excellent job using their walking rope to stay together and they certainly showed off their skills during our aquarium trip. **Our last field trip for the school year will be on April 19.** We will be going to the Atlanta Zoo. Permission slips will be out shortly.

The book fair is coming, the book

fair is coming. **Our scholastic book fair will take place April 17 to 21.** This year's theme is Happy Camper. **You are all invited to join us for our book fair opening event which will take place on Monday April 17.** Weather permitting, we will be camping out on the breezeway in the morning. We will have our camper breakfast with toasted marshmallow hot chocolate while we enjoy story time. Parents, please let us know if you are interested in volunteering to read a story that morning or volunteering on any other day during the bookfair. Some of you signed up through the parent volunteer forms and we will be contacting you shortly.

An early reminder... the last day of school is Friday May 26. We will have early dismissal on this day at 4:00 pm.

How To Entertain Chickens

A chicken that is not provided with adequate enrichment and mental stimulation will be more inclined towards problem behaviors. Feather pecking, bullying, egg eating and even cannibalism are almost always a result of chickens that are confined without proper enrichment. The winter months that necessitate closer quarters and less foraging opportunities is when chicken toys become even more necessary. This is where the expression "feeling cooped up" comes from after all.

You're probably already giving your chickens "toys" without real-

izing it. Any activity that encourages natural chicken behaviors can be considered playing. And any item that encourages that activity is a "toy".

Some enrichment activities you are probably already providing include:

- Cleaning out the coop and run and other daily tasks such as egg collecting. This changes their environment and chickens are intrigued by anything new.
- Inspecting the health of your flock and any other direct human contact.

- Providing table scraps, weeds, dirt clods, fodder, flats of sod etc.
- Letting them out to roam the run or free range.

Toys for adult birds can include the following:

Compost piles are excellent sources of enrichment and food. Simply create your pile of compostable material and let the chickens work it at will. The chickens will enjoy digging up the bugs and worms and will be warmed by the heat that is created from the decomposing material.

Hanging cabbage, squash, lettuce, kale, spinach etc. from a string or bungee cord is a popular toy with a nutritional boost. If you can stick a skewer through it or tie a string around it then it is fair game to be hung either on the fence of the run, from the ceiling in the coop or anywhere else they might be able to play tetherball with it.

Interactive Treat dispensers. Anything from an empty beverage bottle with holes drilled in it to cat and dog toys designed with treat dispensing holes in them. If you can fill it with some form of treat and poke holes in it so that the chickens can kick it around and peck at it to make the food come out then you have yourself a toy.

Dust Bathing Area. Provide an area where they can dust bathe freely. Any bucket, bin, old tire or any other device filled with dirt for them to bathe in is perfect. It will encourage them to do their dust bathing in one approved location and limit the amount of holes they dig elsewhere for the purpose. You can mix in some Diatomaceous earth or wood ash as well to help deter mites etc.

Climbing/Perching places. The animal kingdom at large takes the

term "top dog" pretty literally. Any spot that allows the head of the flock to perch above everyone else will be prized. Roosters especially prefer a spot where they can perch above the flock and crow their ownership of it to the rest of the world. Even an old tree that fell down on your property (or you cut down) can be erected in the run for this purpose.

Other great toy ideas that are inexpensive or free to buy or make:

- Old stump or branch full of bugs, grubs and other creepy crawlies. This works for any piece of wood. Just leave it in one place for a few days to a week or so and let the bugs seek refuge under it – then just flip it over and let the flock go to town.
- Newspaper to shred
- Cricket tubes (or just let crickets loose in the coop when they will be confined for an extended period of time). You can find these at most pet stores or tackle shops.
- Sunflower heads complete with seeds
- A post Halloween jack-o-lantern or any large squash or melon. Just drop it on the ground from high enough that it splits and let them do the rest.

- Suet cage or fruit basket stuffed with table scraps
- Old cd's that are scratched beyond repair are great hung from a string along the fence of the run at or just above pecking height. If you are REALLY adventurous you can blow up a balloon, smash the cd's and then glue them on to the balloon in a mosaic pattern and hang in the run/coop to catch the light.
- Boiled spaghetti is a special hit. Dye the noodles different colors for added fun.
- DIY bird feeders. Just do a Google search and you'll come up with thousands of ideas. Just use scratch grains or BOSS or whatever else you have on hand. Molasses is a great tool for creating enough structure to hold it together enough for them to peck it to death.

Use your imagination and have fun. If it encourages their natural behaviors of eating, scratching, pecking, bathing, flying, perching or flock socialization then it is a good toy. They don't have to be pretty and they don't have to cost anything. If they don't like it you can always take it away and try again another time, or move on to the next item. Enjoy your flock!



Our class is growing tremendously since we have been here in size and milestones. Yet, the lessons never stop. In the month of March we will be taking periodic nature walks discussing flowers, colors, numbers, as well as, visual shapes (cars, sun, signs, etc.). Parents please provide a jacket, hats, or sunscreen for your children.

We have some new additions in our classroom. Please welcome Andrew, Emily, and Amari, as we get ready to bid adio to Ezra and

Alice who will be transitioning to Infant II shortly. Please welcome Ms. Peyton Williams who joined the Montessori Academy staff. Ms. Peyton was an awesome sub in the infant class for the past several months and has decided to join our team permanently. If you haven't had a chance to meet her, please stop by and say hi.

Reminders:
As feeding habits of our little ones change. please be mindful update

their feeding plans. Feeding plans should be updated every three months.

Please check your child bins as our little ones have grown and we are entering warmer weather. Please make sure your child has at least (3) sets of clothing that fit and is weather appropriate at all times.

We here in Infant I wish you a hot and safe Spring Break.

Infant I Growing and Learning



Our lessons this month were on colors. We're going green and eating clean in Infant II. We have been identifying colors by sight in books, objects, paint, and food groups. The children used recycled small plastic water bottles during art. We are all doing our part for the environment. Earth Day is coming!! We made shamrocks for St. Patrick's Day. During our meals with the children, we talked about the green vegetables many of us were eating. The chil-

dren have also been assisting with laundry by folding the green hand towels.

The children enjoy running and jumping during outdoor play. The children also have fun in the indoor playroom on cold or rainy days.

Milestones: Congratulations to Mila and Adelaide who are walking. Way to go! We are sad to see

Mila leave us this month but we wish her family the best of luck with their out of state move. Attention Parents: Continue to work with your children at home using words and sign language. Please send a variety of nutritious meals for your child to eat. Have your children practice using utensils and drinking from an open cup.

Thanks for all you do!

Look at the smiles in Infant 2...





The Collards are Ready! Yay!



Starting off, we'd like to introduce everyone to our new class pet Francesca. Francesca is a red-eared slider turtle. If you have not already done so, stop by Toddlerville and check her out! The students really enjoy watching her everyday.

Facts about slider turtles:

- Males are slightly smaller than females and have longer claws on their front feet
- Feed mainly on plants and small animals
- Turtles don't have teeth, but sharp grooves on their upper



- and lower jaws
- The sex of turtles depend on the temperature within the nest
- Pond sliders communicate with touch and vibrations

In our class, we continue learning about hygiene. We often talk about WHEN to wash our hands (upon entering the class, after toileting, before and after meals, returning from the playground/studio) and HOW to wash our hands. The students get lots of practice in this area.

Also, we talk about the things we eat for lunch. We speak about what we see (vegetables, colors, size, etc.), the textures of the food, and how it tastes.

Parents, as I'm sure you all have realized by now that Georgia weather is funny. Unless the temperature falls below 30 degrees, the children will be spending time outside. Please dress them accordingly or send a light jacket or sweater with them to school. As the weather gets warmer, I'm sure we'll be spending more time outside. Ensure that your child's supplies (bug spray, sunscreen, cool clothing) are available. Thanks, in advance!

Toddler Class Adventures in Learning





Greetings, I would like to thank all the parents for attending the parent teacher conferences and discussing the progress of your children.

We are all so excited about the first field trip for the Primary 1 class to the Georgia Aquarium. We have been discussing the different sea animals that we will be seeing there. This will be a great experience for the children and we are

all looking forward to it.

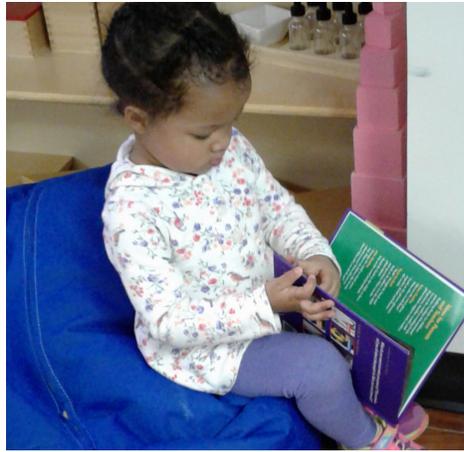
We have been doing a lot in class. We have been learning about the different things at the grocery store, things at the library, things at the swimming pool and also the things at the farm. Along with naming the things that we see at these places the children are also learning the purpose of these places and what can be done in these places.

Just a small reminder to register your child for the field trip and please do not forget to leave your child's car seat in the front office on the field trip day. Thank you so much for always supporting and encouraging us.

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

Primary 1 Hard at Work





The primary two classroom would like to extend our thanks to all who came out for the trip to the Georgia Aquarium. We will continue our study on the oceans and all of the wonderful plant and animal life within them.

I enjoyed getting to know all of the parents who came out for the conferences earlier this month. There are now 16 children in the primary classroom. The children who began the school year have been very hospitable and are

proving to be wonderful leaders for the new and younger children.

For the older, extended day, children; we have begun our phonics workbook series. Please retrieve the items in your child's cubby and review these booklets with them. Did you know that the state of Georgia FINALLY realized that pre-school children get a huge, lifetime advantage when children learn to read at this age? Montessori educators have known this for years.

Thank you to the parents who remind their children to wash hands upon entering the classroom. Did you notice at home that your child attempts to use a cloth or towel to turn off the water???? Good job guys!!!

Primary 2 Kids Growing And Learning

