

# Temple Montessori School Newsletter

October 2020  
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Dr. Jerry O'Donnell – Headmaster  
Mrs. Jennifer Watson – Assistant Director



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## Upcoming Events October 2020

10/12 Parent-Teacher  
Conference Day/  
Columbus Day:  
**NO CLASSES**

Thursdays Tap Tap Art  
Primary : 2:30-3:15 pm  
Elementary: 3:30-4:15 pm

## News from the Top

*I believe that this article is of such importance that I will continue it on page 5, so that you can better understand its relationship to a Montessori learning environment.*

## Letting Go

Letting go is really hard, especially when you have to let go of something you really want, whether it's a great opportunity, someone you really liked or loved, or even any expectations you had about something. I don't think anyone knows how to completely let go, or not fall back from time to time if they do, but there are definitely ways to make it easier for you to let go when you relentlessly don't want to let go. I know from personal experience of closing the Killeen Campus after 14 successful years - it was hard, but needed at this time. Let me put on my psychologist's hat for a moment and give you five (5) ways to make "letting go" a little easier.

1. Anything that feels forced or harder than it should be or causes you pain and distress is usually not meant for you. Having this mentality or faith will help you overcome the reluctance that comes with making a decision of whether or not you should let go. Things that are meant for you have a way of flowing smoothly into your life. The more you fight for something that is not meant for you, the more it will fight you. You may get what you want in the end, but it may not last and you may not feel at ease with it, commonly known as "buyer's remorse."

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## Dear Parents

Have you ever seen a temporary sign that read, "Please excuse our mess as progress?" Very soon the exterior of all three buildings will be repainted as it is long overdue. The new color scheme is beautiful with five (5) colors:

- (1) Main color – a medium blue,
- (2) Skirt and shutters – medium brown,
- (3) Trim – white
- (4) Doors – Classic yellow
- (5) Underpinnings – Sky blue

The primary classes have their conference reports completed, and I was so pleased with their progress for the Fall semester! We have amazing staff that truly enjoys teaching and watching their students learn

and succeed. It is amazing when a child begins to read, to watch their faces "light up" at their accomplishment. The "light bulb" came on!

Perhaps some new parents wonder why our school does not participate in Halloween. That is a question that is usually asked about this time each year. Here is the simple answer: MSCT is a Christian-based school that uses the Montessori Method of Instruction. As a Christian organization, we do not recognize nor participate in any activity that has its roots in paganism or what could be deemed witchcraft – the origin of Halloween does. What parents promote or do in their home is their business and we are not the judge of their decisions or activities. Have a great and wonderful October!

### Infant 1 - Mrs. Cruz

Fall is here! September has been a wonderful month full of growth! We have two students who have begun crawling, three that are pulling themselves up and standing independently, and another starting to rollover. The children have settled into an established routine and are enjoying the new curriculum that includes music, language development, fine motor skills, sensorial exploration, and practical life. For practical life, we have been focusing on learning how to self-feed and brush our hair. Also this month, the infants were very engaged in our Jello-dig, drawing in Cool Whip, painting with primary colors, and manipulating various sensory bags.

A couple of side notes...Even though the weather is starting to cool, we will still spend some time outdoors. Please keep this in mind when you dress your child or provide a coat as needed. Also, if your child is having allergies, please ensure to give them appropriate medication to slow runny noses. Please provide a personal, labeled, bulb syringe for suctioning your child's nose.

September has been a very productive month and we look forward to our new experiences during October!  
--Mrs. Amanda Cruz

### Infant 2 - Ms. Gray

During the month of September, we focused on personal care. The children learned to wipe their own nose, throw away their used tissue, and then wash their hands. Please reinforce this lesson at home. When your child sneezes, ask them to do the same and before you know it, a good habit will be formed. Our goal is to foster independence. If a child can do it for themselves, with a little patience and encouragement, your child will develop by leaps and bounds. In addition, the Infant 2 students learned about trees, apples, and fall leaves. They really enjoyed exploring the sensory bin filled with red and yellow leaves, pinecones, and a stuffed owl and fox. You might have even heard your child making owl sounds this past month. 🦉

In the month of October, we will be learning how to care for our environment by cleaning up after ourselves, wiping tables, restoring work, using a mop, broom, duster, and washing dishes and windows. If you would like to incorporate child-sized Montessori products into your home, please check out:

[www.montessoriservices.com](http://www.montessoriservices.com). Young children crave independence and being able to emulate adults. They just need the right-sized tools, patience and lessons to be successful!

There will be many creative moments this month. The students will be working with paint, markers, crayons and glue. Please dress your child in play clothes that allow your child to explore these art items freely. Sometimes creativity can get messy and we want your child to be unrestricted and ready to create. Each time we finish an art lesson, the children will be taught how to clean our environment. Our older children will have an opportunity to assist our younger children, which will teach helping and mentoring skills.

--Ms. Rosa Gray

### Toddler 1 & 2: Mrs. Ronelus & Ms. Armas

Our October large group lessons will be about autumn weather, Christopher Columbus, and pumpkin life cycles. The students will sort fall leaves by color and participate in small group lessons to wash and hammer pumpkins. For practical life, we will be washing windows and folding towels. Our food preparation lessons will be peeling and cutting carrots and making pumpkin bread and cupcakes. For art, the toddlers will make their own Columbus hats and boats using their own handprints. The students will practice social grace and courtesy when serving snack to one another, as well as have etiquette lessons on proper place settings. Later this month, the children will go on a fun nature walk which will provide opportunities for group discussions about our outdoor discoveries.  
--Mrs. LaDonna Ronelus & Ms. Yesenia Armas



## Primary 1 & 2

### Mrs. Alvarado, Ms. Prudencio & Mrs. Prudencio

The Primary students will reach for the stars this month as we study constellations, the sun, moon phases, and the first five planets in our solar system. In Spanish, we will recite the days of the week, months of the year, and introduce fall vocabulary. For science, the students will participate in experiments to show oxidation of an apple.

Our featured musical composer this month will be Ludwig Van Beethoven and we will also study rhythm with percussion instruments. We are half-way through the book of Genesis and our Bible stories will be Isaac's blessings and bride, as well as, Jacob's dream. The Primary classes will research the continent of North America, studying indigenous animals, flags, the puzzle map, and make new discoveries with the cultural cards. We will also learn about the landforms: peninsula, gulf, lakes, capes and bays. There will be two empanada recipes that the students will be cooking in October, pumpkin and ground beef. Last month, the primary students learned the differences in land, air, and water but this month we will be able to classify the different states of matter into liquid, solid or gas. For Practical Life lessons, we will practice sweeping, folding laundry, and cleaning our tables after eating.

--Mrs. Carmen Alvarado, Ms. Katherine Prudencio, & Mrs. Veronica Prudencio

### Elementary – Mrs. Abraham

October will be filled with many interesting units of study. For History, the students will create their own timeline of life and we will also be able to define decades, centuries, and millenniums. In Civics, we will research the statue of Liberty. Our Physical Science lessons will center around Newton's Law of Motion and simple machines. North America will be the continent of focus for Geography and the students will be identifying countries, capitals, and flags. We are looking forward to the Master Gardener coming to our campus to help build a worm box and plant fall vegetables. The students will take their Botany lessons indoors to classify various plants, learn the parts of a plant, and the life cycle of a plant. In Music, we will study string instruments. In Language Arts, the students will practice articles, adjectives, and interjections. Our Math lessons will be on the addition, subtraction and multiplication facts, as well as, geometric shapes and the relationship of lines. Later this month, the children will make puppet animals and sing songs with Biblical verses.

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will be touring Salado Glassworks for an inside look at glassblowing and the art pieces on display.

--Mrs. Doline Abraham

## Notes from Mrs. Watson:

On Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, the Primary and Elementary teachers will be hosting Parent-Teacher Conferences to review your child's progress thus far and to answer any questions that you may have. Conferences are held by appointment and a sign-up list will be posted on the classroom clipboard, one week prior. Please make other childcare arrangements for the conference time so that we may speak confidentially.

Master Gardeners will host teaching events throughout each month for our Primary and Elementary students. Please dress your child in clothes that may become soiled and keep at school a child-sized, labeled pair of gardening gloves and labeled rain boots. --Mrs. Jennifer Watson

Follow us on  to watch your child in action!

# Student Activities in September





- |                     |            |                          |         |
|---------------------|------------|--------------------------|---------|
| ▪ Daisy Weir        | Toddler 2  | October 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 3 Years |
| ▪ Eli Kai           | Primary 1  | October 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 4 Years |
| ▪ Matthew McMahon   | Toddler 2  | October 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 3 Years |
| ▪ Henry Weir        | Primary 2  | October 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 8 Years |
| ▪ Lily Martin       | Primary 1  | October 17 <sup>th</sup> | 5 Years |
| ▪ Emberlynn Shelton | Elementary | October 19 <sup>th</sup> | 8 Years |
| ▪ Audrey Sisco      | Primary 1  | October 20 <sup>th</sup> | 4 Years |
| ▪ Peyton Fuchs      | Infant 1   | October 20 <sup>th</sup> | 1 Year  |
| ▪ Raymond Hacker    | Toddler 1  | October 21 <sup>st</sup> | 3 Years |
| ▪ Liam Cruz         | Infant 2   | October 27 <sup>th</sup> | 2 Years |

## Contact Us:



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2. Letting go is really painful when you feel “stuck” and it can sometimes seem impossible to do, but the truth is if you reach this point, it means that you’ve been trying so hard to make this thing work in your favor, or reach your goal, and it sometimes feel like you’ve tried so hard or come a long way that if you let go now, it will feel like a waste of time given the effort you’ve invested in it. But nothing is ever a waste of time, even if it feels like it. We are here to make mistakes and learn lessons to grow as individuals. If we keep holding on to toxic situations or toxic people because we’ve already done too much or it’s too late to change things, we are only setting ourselves up for a miserable life. There is power in letting go, a power that brings more peace and serenity than being stuck in situations or with people that make your heart a bit heavier each and every day.

3. “If you’re brave enough to say goodbye, life will reward you with a new hello.” —Paulo Coelho

This outlook really helps you move on and let go faster. Same notion that when one door closes another opens. Life opens new doors for you all the time; imagine you are a key to multiple doors and you just think you can only open one door. We have so much potential, so many talents, and so many kind things to give back to the world. We have so many keys to open so many doors. When you leave one door behind and lock that door, you will be surprised by the number of doors that were waiting to be opened by you and only you. Some endings are not bad; sometimes they are not even endings — just *bridges* to new beginnings.

4. Here’s another reason why we hold on to things or people longer than we should. We convince ourselves that good things won’t happen twice; we will not be able to find someone who is that great again or who makes us feel this way again. Or, we won’t be able to find a job like that again, or something we are that passionate about again. The truth is, you will always find something or someone that makes you feel this way again, new passions will emerge and good things will happen twice and as many times as you want, and will probably be a better and more convenient fit for you. If you look back on your life, you will find yourself laughing at certain situations when you thought you would never move on from someone, or how you held on to something so tightly only to realize later that it was better to have “let go.” Great things happen to us all the time in different shapes or forms; we just like to focus on the things that are not so great. Holding on to something out of fear that it will never happen again is the definition of fear. We have to be *fearless* in letting go.

5. The truth is if you reach a point where letting go is the only option, it usually means that this thing or someone has already let you go. You are trying to stay in a place where you are not welcome anymore. The mind has a funny way of tricking us into believing certain things to make it less painful for us, or put it in a way that doesn’t really hurt our pride or break our heart, but we have to look at it the way it is, the way it is being portrayed to us, not the way we want to see it. This is not an optical illusion, this is reality, and in reality what you see is what you get. If an opportunity passed you by, it didn’t really want to stop at your house; if someone let you go, you didn’t need them to stay; if someone else got what you were praying for, this blessing was not written for you to begin with and you will be blessed in another way. As you keep learning the skill of letting go, let go of your fear, of your past, of your mistakes, of your insecurities, of your failures, of your self-doubt. Forgive yourself enough to let go of the parts of you that dim your light. You are a wonderful person and God has great plans for you, plans to bring you success and not failure, a future of hope and success.