

January 2022

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

### Contents

Notes from the Top	1
Upcoming Events	1
Classroom News	2-3
Birthday Celebrations	4
Contact Information	4
Notes continued	5
Service Project	5

### Upcoming Events January 2022

1/3	Staff Development Day <b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
1/4	First Day of Spring Semester
1/11	New Parent Orientation Meeting @ 5 PM
1/17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day <b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
1/26-1/28	Hearing & Vision Screens
1/28	Elementary Field Trip

## Notes from the Top

### Building Confidence

Written by Edward Fidellow

One of the great attributes of success is confidence. While success breeds confidence, confidence also breeds success. However, there are no real courses on success, no seven easy steps, no magic potions, so how do we help our children build this important component into their lives?

The first level of building confidence is the ability to finish a project. In Montessori you introduce activities that are reasonable for the child to achieve. Second, you then give the child the time to achieve. Third, the project has to have value; it has to be worthwhile. (Learning to tie your shoes for a young child meets this need.) For confidence to build the project also has to have an element of real challenge - not one that can be accomplished in a moment or a day - learning to read fills this bill. Real confidence has to take you through all kinds of situations for which you are not prepared - which is pretty much a definition of life.

A Montessori classroom offers a child the ability to work at a problem (and the one that follows that etc.) for a long time, while making mistakes (and not being devastated by them) and working your way to a satisfactory conclusion. Confidence just doesn't come from finishing but by surmounting the problems that prevent you from reaching an easy victory. Confidence comes amidst the obstacles, the problems, and the difficulties.

As parents, we don't want our children to struggle so we often short circuit the confidence process by doing the heavy lifting or rescuing our children. We often don't hear the child's inaudible cry, "Help me do it myself." Dr. Montessori heard it and developed a whole environment to make it possible for them to do it themselves.

(continued on page 5)

2021 Tax Statements available upon request. Please email  
[frontdesk@templemontessori.com](mailto:frontdesk@templemontessori.com) if interested.

## Infant 1 - Mrs. Clausen

Welcome back! I hope you and your family had a safe and blessed Christmas break. One thing I enjoy most about this age group is how fast the students grow and develop. I cannot wait to see just how much each child has evolved during our short break.

This month our social graces and courtesies will focus upon sharing with friends while we explore our new treasure basket project. Practical life lessons will emphasize dining with the use of utensils and cups during our snack and lunch times. We will continue language exposure through songs, reading, and conversations in English and Spanish.

My goal is to promote independence, order, coordination, and concentration through our activities together. We will also support social, physical, and cognitive development for each child individually as they are able to reach new milestones through observation. We use the child's sensitive period, which is when they show interest in participating in new lessons.

We love watching your children grow and learn!

-- Mrs. Tammy Clausen

## Infant 2 - Mrs. Harvey

We welcome in the New Year and our blustery winter season. For this month, the Infant 2 students will be learning to identify the colors blue and white. We will also learn about MLK, Jr., winter birds, and vocabulary associated with winter clothing, in English and Spanish.

Since the weather is unpredictable in Texas, please keep a light jacket at school for those days that suddenly turn cold. Also, please remember to label every item that is brought to school including blankets and shoes.

Sometimes at this age, children begin showing interest in using the toilet. We want to make this a positive experience for your child and you, but it must be a team effort in order to be successful. When your child is ready, please have a short conference with me so that we can plan this learning process together because consistency is key.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to teach and nurture your precious child and please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any assistance. Communication is imperative, especially at this tender age, and I welcome it so that your child is happy, healthy, and can reach their true potential.

-- Mrs. Cassie Harvey

## Toddler 1 & 2 - Mrs. Ronelus & Mrs. Armas

It's hard to believe that the New Year is already here! This month, we will be discussing the winter season, the continent of Antarctica, igloos, and Arctic animals. We will count snowflakes, further our independence by dressing ourselves, and hang up our coats when we arrive each day.

For Art, the students will create a snow painting with Q-tips, make an igloo from cotton balls, cut and glue Arctic animals, and paint a bear. For food preparation, the toddlers will wash fruits and vegetables, and squeeze their own fresh orange juice.

We are also going to practice the numbers up to ten in Spanish. While outside, we will take an exploratory nature walk and practice our coordination by walking in straight lines.

-- Mrs. LaDonna Ronelus & Ms. Yesenia Armas

## Primary 1 & 2 – Mrs. Alvarado & Mrs. Prudencio

Happy New Year and welcome back students! Our Cultural focus this month will be on the Continent of Africa. The students will learn the countries, customs, and animals that inhabit this land. We will also introduce the students to delightful dishes, African art projects, and the children will practice walking while balancing a basket on their head. Also, during January, the students will become paleontologists, studying fossils, and identifying dinosaurs by name and diet: omnivore, herbivore, or carnivore. They will also match dinosaurs with their skeletons.

For Bible, the students will learn the Ten Commandments, and hear the story about Joshua and the Twelve Spies.

In Zoology, we will learn the anatomy of an elephant, frog, and turtle. Ropa de invierno (winter clothing) and el clima (the weather) will be our Spanish focus this month. This month, Mozart will be our featured musician.

-- Mrs. Carmen Alvarado & Mrs. Veronica Prudencio

## Elementary – Mrs. Abraham

For this first month of the New Year, the elementary students will be participating in a study of light for Physical Science. We will research sources of light, how light travels in a straight line, reflection, and refraction. In Geography, we will learn about the landforms, capes, and bays, identify the layers of the earth, tectonic plates, and the continental drift. Our continental focus will be Africa, learning the countries, flags, capitals, and culture.

In Language, the students will do sentence construction, reading analysis, and verb analysis. For Math, we will subtract fractions and with equivalency. The parts of the American flag and the significance of the thirteen folds will be our Civics study for the month. For our Bible lessons, we will study stories of Jesus in the Temple, Jesus being baptized, and Jesus with Zacchaeus.

Lastly, the students will be creating a family tree for history. On Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, the Elementary students will be going to Temple Fire Station. More information will be sent to you as the date draws near.

## Notes from Mrs. Watson

January 26th-28th, children age 4 by September 1, 2021, will undergo required hearing and vision screens. As a parent, you do not need to do anything other than have your child present for those three days. These tests are important to help determine if your child's vision and hearing falls within the normal range for their age and if further diagnostic testing is needed by a physician. You will receive notification once these tests have been completed.

The most common misconception is that young children see at the desired 20/20 range; however eyes are not fully developed until the age of eight, typically. At age 4, children pass with 20/40 vision, unless there is a two-line difference between each eye. At age 5 and above, the state considers passing at the 20/30 line.

Also, I have found in the past that the few children who have failed the initial hearing test, will pass with a re-screen a couple weeks later because they were congested which affected their ability to hear during the first screen.

In my experience, these tests have proven beneficial because children will often over-compensate to see, which can mask vision problems. Catching hearing and vision problems early can have a positive impact on your child's health and general ability to thrive.

-- Mrs. Jennifer Watson



# Happy Birthday



Kohen Castilleja	Infant 2	January 1 <sup>st</sup>	2 Years
Penelope Greco	Elementary	January 9 <sup>th</sup>	7 Years
Dylan Cooper	Primary 1	January 12 <sup>th</sup>	4 Years
Saylor Isdale	Elementary	January 12 <sup>th</sup>	7 Years
Evelyn Tisdale	Primary 2	January 13 <sup>th</sup>	6 Years
Millie Betik	Infant 2	January 15 <sup>th</sup>	2 Years
Oona Carlin	Primary 2	January 19 <sup>th</sup>	4 Years
Marit Alvey	Primary 1	January 21 <sup>st</sup>	5 Years
Sasha McMahan	Primary 2	January 25 <sup>th</sup>	5 Years

## Contact Us:



Montessori Schools of Central Texas  
 Temple Campus  
 1302 S. 27<sup>th</sup> St  
 Temple, TX 76504



254-771-1116  
[frontdesk@templemontessori.com](mailto:frontdesk@templemontessori.com)  
[www.montessorischoolsofcentraltexas.com](http://www.montessorischoolsofcentraltexas.com)

(continued from page 1)

Confidence also comes and is aided by people who tell you that you can, instead of telling you that you can't. The seeds of confidence are tiny and are watered by small words, small deeds and small accomplishments. A Montessori environment opens to your child not only the realm of the possible but the realm of the impossible. When you are three or four years old so many things seem impossible - math, riding a two wheeler, jumping rope. Ironically, as you grow the list of the impossible grows along with you because now there are so many more things you never even know about that seem to go on the impossible list.

This is where real confidence begins its ascent of the mountains of impossibility. Everyday in a Montessori classroom where your child has a plan of activity, works through mistakes, takes one bite at a time of the problems, is being encouraged and works at the challenge again and again is laying the bedrock for a lifetime of confidence.

Confidence is like the ancient story of the shepherd boy David who said, "I killed the bear and the lion, this Goliath (of a problem, a challenge an impossibility) will be no different. Confidence - been there, done that - bring it on!

## Updates from the Elementary Christmas Service Project:

Thank you everyone for supporting the Elementary class Christmas service project. Four boxes of stockings were successfully sent to soldiers who are overseas serving our country this Christmas. Here is a note of thanks from the HHC Commander.

*Thank you so much from the Soldiers of HHC/2-227 Aviation Regiment currently stationed in Germany!!! To all the children of Montessori Schools of Central Texas for the stockings and goodies. Just in time for Christmas! Big shout out to the Staff for teaching great skills like sewing and to the Parents for donating things we need out here. Thank you for this special idea! To the founders of the school, Dr & Mrs. O'Donnell, we are very grateful for the school they chartered to allow children to do amazing things like this for Soldiers around the world. The impact was felt!*

