

The Montessori Schools of Central Texas

School Newsletter

September 2022

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



News from the Top

Montessori children, can they really do anything they want?

by Edward Fidellow

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Upcoming Events

September 2022

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| 9/5 | Labor Day School Closed |
| 9/9 | Elementary Field Trip |
| 9/27 | Toddler & Elementary Picture Day |
| 9/28 | Primary Picture Day |
| 9/30 | Temple Fire Department Visit |

“Children can do anything they want” is one of the first things people often hear about Montessori - and they get it wrong! However, it does appear in the daily life of the classroom that children seem to be able to do anything they like. So how do we resolve the conflict? Dr. Montessori said, “Children should have unlimited freedom to do right.” That, obviously, is far different than doing anything you want.

A Montessori environment is often misconstrued as a place where there is no discipline - people mistaking the absence of external discipline as a sign that there is no discipline at all. Montessori education operates on a higher plane than just rules and regulations. It operates on the basis of principles to be learned and applied. Having unlimited freedom brings with it great responsibility which children are willing to shoulder because they see and enjoy the benefits (even if they can't articulate them.)

There are three principles that make this freedom work in a Montessori school. First, you are not allowed to do anything that will harm yourself. Second, you are not allowed to harm others. Third, you are to respect the materials and the environment. You don't need pages of rules to memorize to order your behavior. You are taught to think and to apply that thinking to your relationships and your surroundings. The child is not burdened with the minutia of rules and regulations but can operate this new freedom secure, also, in the fact that others are operating accordingly.

The difference between rules and principles lies always in the gray areas between the rules. If you have a rule about not writing on the walls some smart child (teenagers are especially good at this) will realize that there is no rule about writing on the ceiling (or floor, or window or door post.) Do you really want to write rules for every eventuality?

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Infant I – Mrs. Wallace

We are so excited to continue our new school year with your amazing children. We have many fun activities planned for the month of September. Your little ones have done a great job separating from you and are beginning to attach to their teachers. Although there is some initial crying at arrival, all the children are exploring their classroom and internalizing their new schedule and routines.

During the month of September, we will continue to bond, build trust, and acceptance. Our language discussions will center around the Fall Season, apples, and autumn leaves. We will concentrate on the color red and square shapes. Our priority will be to continue to focus on our signs for more, eat, and milk.

Parents, thank you so much for helping make the first month of school a smooth one! We have been truly blessed with an amazing group of children and parents, and for that the Infant 1 teachers thank you.

-- Mrs. Terri Wallace

Infant II – Mrs. Torres

The students of the Infant 2 class have settled into their routine and have been enjoying exploring their environment. This month we will start building each child's independence by learning how and when to wash our hands, drinking from an open-faced cup, and self-feeding with a fork and spoon. Children who are showing interest in toilet learning will also begin practicing with a child-sized toilet. For Spanish, English and ASL vocabulary studies, we will learn the words: water, please, and thank you.

Once temperatures cool, please remember to switch out your child's clothes for warmer options. You may also want to send a lightweight jacket to be left at school. Please remember the importance of labeling items so that they can be returned to you.

I am looking forward to a fantastic school year ahead! --Mrs. Karla Torres

Toddler I & II – Ms. Gonzalez & Mrs. Clausen

The students are ready for cooler temperatures and so are we! Our September large group lessons will focus on apples, trees, and fruits in English and Spanish.

Children at this age love practical life lessons as they want to imitate adult activities. Giving children the appropriate-sized tools to do these activities builds hand-eye coordination, gives them purpose and a sense of worth, builds fine and gross motor skills, and develops the pincher grasp, concentration, and coordination. Therefore, we will practice putting on our shoes, taking care of ourselves, and cutting apples for our snack.

Once your child has settled into the class and has started showing signs of readiness for potty training, please schedule a time to meet with us to discuss consistent routines to be practiced at home and at school.

-- Ms. Janice Gonzalez & Mrs. Tammy Clausen

Parent Association Meeting on Thursday, September 15th at 5 pm

Taylor Jackson and Kelli Beason are heading up a Parent Association to establish parent communication and support our classrooms through sharing contact information for playdates, school functions, and fundraising. If you are interested or would like more information, please join us on September 15th at 5 pm in the Primary 2 classroom of the main building.

Primary I & II – Mrs. Alvarado, Ms. Copeland, & Mrs. Prudencio

September will be full of many new learning experiences for our Primary students. We will start the month learning the days of the week, reciting numbers 1-10 in Spanish, and listening to the story from Genesis 1 on “Creation.” Also from Genesis, the students will hear the story of “Noah” and “The Ten Commandments.”

Later during September and as Fall approaches, we will learn *los estaciones*, or the Spanish vocabulary associated with our annual seasons. We will have directional lessons to chart North, South, East, and West. The children will use their senses to differentiate between tastes, sounds, and smells.

Our geography focus will be on an introduction to our expansive universe, naming the continents, and a study on land, air, and water. Cooking lessons are always a favorite activity for the students, and we plan to end the month making delicious applesauce.

-- Mrs. Carmen Alvarado, Ms. Gwen Copeland, & Mrs. Veronica Prudencio

Elementary – Mrs. Abraham & Mrs. Walker

The school year is off to a great start! The students are settling in and getting right to work. This month for Physical Science, we will study the laws of the universe, how gravity and air affects falling objects, and perform experiments to see if objects of differing weights fall at different rates of speed. In Geography, the students will research North America, learning the countries, capitals, and landforms. For History, we will learn about pictographic stones, the histories of number and written language, and create our own alphabet. We proudly teach civics and will start our study by defining good citizenship and the significance of the pledge of allegiance to our glorious flag. For Botany and Zoology, we will classify vertebrae and invertebrates, as well as, living and non-living. Lastly, our Geometry lessons will be on constructive triangles, and the study of lines and figures.

-- Mrs. Doline Abraham & Mrs. Monica Walker

Notes from Mrs. Watson

It's that time of year again for our annual inspections! Our school passed all inspections, Health, Childcare Regulation, and Fire Marshal without a single deficiency. We take pride in being recognized as an exemplary school.

The trainer, Christine Munn, from Grace Montessori Teacher Education in Georgia visited our school last week and said that Mrs. Clausen and Mrs. Torres are off to a great start, ready to begin their practicum phase.

Lifetouch Preschool Portraits will be here on campus to take pictures of the toddler, primary and elementary students on September 27th (Elementary & Toddler) & 28th (Primary). **Please send your child to school in the outfit that you would like them to wear for their picture!** (You may send a change of clothes if you would like them to change afterwards.) We will offer sibling pictures. If the siblings are scheduled on different days, just tell your child's teacher which day is preferred to be photographed. Once the pictures are complete, Lifetouch will send proofs home with the ordering details. There is no obligation to purchase any pictures.



Happy
Birthday



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|---|-----------------|------------|----------------------------|---------|
| 📍 | Cori Batten | Infant I | September 4 th | 1 Year |
| 📍 | George Knaus | Primary II | September 5 th | 4 Years |
| 📍 | Wyatt Jackson | Primary II | September 5 th | 5 Years |
| 📍 | Jadd Rawdah | Elementary | September 5 th | 9 Years |
| 📍 | Titus Jiang | Toddler I | September 6 th | 3 Years |
| 📍 | Levi Newberry | Toddler II | September 6 th | 2 Years |
| 📍 | Killian Evans | Primary I | September 9 th | 5 Years |
| 📍 | Sofie Larraga | Elementary | September 10 th | 7 Years |
| 📍 | Triniti Harper | Toddler II | September 11 th | 3 Years |
| 📍 | Braden Easley | Primary II | September 11 th | 5 Years |
| 📍 | Aniyah Jones | Primary II | September 15 th | 6 Years |
| 📍 | Elsa Schoenborn | Primary I | September 17 th | 4 Years |
| 📍 | Madelyn Jiang | Primary I | September 19 th | 5 Years |
| 📍 | Ayana Malik | Toddler I | September 21 st | 3 Years |

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Principles cover the gray areas. Being a man or woman of principle used to stand for great integrity and the ability to count on them to do right. It still does! Montessori children learn early how to apply principles - not only of social and moral relevance but of educational value as well.

The reason Montessori children seem to do anything they want is that they are applying these educational principles they have already learned to new areas of discovery and learning. By giving students the keys to learning, they are able to unlock the door to knowledge for themselves. They are able to move forward and to achieve great gains.

Guided by these principles they gain real freedom and with that freedom they take the responsibility for their own learning.

by Edward Fidellow, Montessorian

“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.”
Psalm 127:3

“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’ ”
Mathew 19:14

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”
3 John 1:4

We are going digital with  **Smartcare** software!!!

We are very excited to move to a digital platform with SmartCare. Some of you may have already received a registration email from SmartCare. It is very important that you complete your registration and download the parent app from the Apple Store or Google Play Store.

From the app, you will be able to sign your child in and out, update family information, update emergency contacts and pick up list, view pictures and updates, sign forms, and more.

We will share more updates and training videos soon!

School Website: www.montessorischoolsofcentraltexas.com

SmartCare Website: www.smartcare.com/parents-chrome