

Montessori Schools of Central Texas Newsletter

February 2023

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Upcoming Events

February 2023

2/7	Temple Fire & Rescue
2/9	Elementary Field Trip
2/14	Valentine's Day Party: Lunch Provided (Toddler -Elem)
2/20	School Closed Parent/Teacher Conf. (Primary & Elementary)
2/21	Pre-Registration Opens for SY 2023-2024 (Currently Enrolled Students)
2/28	Deadline to Pre-register
3/1	Registration Opens to the Waitlist

News from the Top

An Expression of Love

(Excerpt from Monti Kids 2022)

As parents, our interest in Montessori comes from a place of love—expressed as a desire to provide the best environment possible for our child's learning! Montessori is sometimes known as "education for peace," which intimately connects it with love. Maria Montessori, the founder of the Montessori curriculum and an expert on early childhood development, talked a lot about love, and Valentine's Day is a perfect occasion to honor all the ways in which we show it to our children.

"What really makes a teacher is love for the human child; for it is love that transforms the social duty of the educator into the higher consciousness of a mission."

-Maria Montessori



It is empowering to realize that you are your child's first teacher. Many parents assume this role by trying to fill their little one with as much information as possible, as quickly as possible. But children are independent spirits who will learn through their own exploration and experience. In Montessori, supporting your child's learning means being respectful of their unique and self-motivated development process, and observing the ways in which you can help that process happen.

The ability to observe your child's needs and provide for them, without hindering their freedom of movement, expression, and thought, is the ultimate demonstration of love.



Infant 1

As February begins, our class focus shifts to friendship. We are working hard on making connections and building friendships within the classroom. In our English, Spanish, and ASL studies we will add the word “gentle” and continue using the words “please” and “thank you.” In our animal classification studies we will read books and look at pictures of groundhogs and coyotes. For our sensory play we will explore ice cubes and the concepts of slippery and cold. Finally, we will continue to work on sitting at the table and using utensils to further our independent eating skills.

-- Mrs. Terri Wallace

Infant 2

This month in Infant 2 we are going to be talking about farm animals and the sounds they make, construction and transportation vehicles, and Valentine’s Day. We’ll spend time reading books and doing matching activities as well as making craft projects featuring these topics. In Spanish we’ll continue counting numbers 1 to 5 and talking about primary colors red, blue, and yellow. For practical life skills this month, we are teaching the children how to bring their lunch box to the table and open the containers by themselves. They are also learning how to wash, hang dry, and fold small cloths. In addition, practicing toilet training is important. Now, with the new playground project nearly complete, we plan to do more gardening and outdoor activities.

The children are really enjoying their new outdoor space!

-- Mrs. Karla Torres

Toddler 1 & 2

February will be a fun-filled month for the toddler classes! Our large group lessons will focus on the Spanish words for Valentine’s Day, farm animals, transportation, and construction vehicles. We’ll reinforce these topics with activities including matching mother to baby animals, dot painting, transferring heart-shaped stones, and practice cutting, sorting and spooning to develop fine motor skills. Outside, the children will practice throwing and catching, and prepare for spring gardening. Finally, leading up to Valentine’s Day the children will decorate their Valentine bags, explore a Valentine sensory bin, and prepare delicious treats. On February 14th, the students will celebrate friendship with a party where they’ll enjoy the sweets they’ve made as well as pass out Valentine’s cards. The children love this opportunity to celebrate love and friendship!

-- Mrs. Clausen & Ms. Gonzalez

Primary 1 & 2

This month, the primary students will be studying the anatomical parts of multiple species including horses, birds, insects, and arachnids. We will also learn the life cycle and metamorphosis of butterflies and spiders. In Spanish, the students will learn vocabulary relating to Valentine’s Day. Our Bible stories will be *Jesus and Bartimaeus*, *The Mustard Seed*, *The Good Samaritan*, and *The Great Pearl*.

Our continental focus is Europe. The students will work with the puzzle map, explore this culture with the European folder, and cook a tasty dish from this region. In math, we will learn how to take measurements. Finally, for social graces, we will focus on are using kind words, restoring materials, and covering our mouths when we sneeze.

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

Elementary

We will have many Physical Science lessons during the month of February. The elementary students will learn how volcanoes are formed and their parts. We will also identify block and fold mountains. Rock cycles, classification of rocks, and the effects of wind, water, and glacial erosion will also be explored. The students will study sound and participate in a crystallization experiment using Epsom salt.

In Bible, we will research *Jesus and Bartimaeus*. The parables will feature *The Mustard Seed*, *Leaven*, and *The Great Pearl*. In history, we will learn to categorize the parts of a year and the clock of eras. In Zoology, we will take an in-depth look at the bird life cycle and name each part anatomically. We will continue our weekly gardening lessons and be able to differentiate between monocot and eudicot flowers. In addition, the students will label the parts of a flower and learn about the importance of pollination.

Europe will be our continental focus in which the children will identify the countries, capitals, flags, and research European culture, and cook a few special treats.

On February 9th, we will be traveling to the Cultural Activities Center to see the Singing Zoologist. We are excited that new buses are on their way and hope they will arrive in time for this field trip.

This year for Valentine's Day the children will be decorating a gift bag to use as their "mailbox" for their valentines. The school will be providing the bags for each student, so no shoebox is necessary. Please see below for additional information about our Valentine's Day party.

-- Mrs. Dolline Abraham & Mrs. Monica Walker

Notes from Mrs. Watson:

February is such a busy month for us, and I want to elaborate on some of the details to make your planning easier. Feel free to reach out to your child's teacher for further explanation of the many up-coming events.

Valentine's Day Party for Toddler, Primary, & Elementary Classes: Tuesday, February 14th

No lunch is needed on this celebratory day! The students of these classes will have sandwiches, various fruits and vegetables, and sugary treats that the students made themselves. Each child should bring a Valentine card (with or without a treat) for the number of students enrolled in their class. Please do not address the cards to anyone in particular, as it is time consuming to sort, which takes away from party time. However, your child may write their name in the "from" section, which is a great way to practice their signature!

Number of students in each class including your child:

Toddler 1: 12 Toddler 2: 17 Primary 1: 31 Primary 2: 25 Elementary: 28

Parent-Teacher Conferences for Primary & Elementary on Monday, February 20th:

Make plans to meet with your child's teacher to track your child's academic success and goals for the future. Sign-up sheets will be made available one week prior. Please find alternate childcare during your child's conference so that teacher's may speak freely and confidentially.

(School will be closed for all classes on this day in observance of President's Day)

Pre-registration for current students begins:

Pre-registration for returning students (New Toddler - Upper Elementary) for the upcoming school year will begin on Tuesday, February 21st. Registration will open to the waiting list on March 1st. Please return your packets promptly if you would like to save a space for your child for next school year.



**Happy
Birthday**



Barron Ellis	Primary 1	February 2nd	5 Years
Everett Tisdale	Primary 1	February 5th	5 Years
Jaacob Smith	Primary 2	February 5th	4 Years
Erin Joyner	Elementary	February 13th	10 Years
Grace Samfield	Infant 1	February 15th	1 Year
Dakota Jones	Primary 2	February 16th	5 Years
Quinn Pomeranke	Primary 2	February 17th	5 Years
Jed Glaske	Toddler 1	February 22nd	3 Years
Breland Parish	Elementary	February 26th	9 Years
Vamika Pachipulusu	Infant 2	February 27th	2 Year

**Mark your calendars for our annual Open House on
Sunday, March 5th, 2 -4 pm**

Currently enrolled families as well as the public are welcome to stop in for information and tour the school. If your child is transitioning to another class, this would be a great time to meet your child's new teacher!