

Montessori Schools of Central Texas Newsletter

May 2023

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



News from the Top

Home – The Montessori Frontier

There are many parts to a Montessori education. There certainly are the beautiful materials that add so much to the enjoyment of learning. There is the educational philosophy that goes along with the materials. There is also the part that looks at your child's gifts and abilities, but the most crucial part of a Montessori education is the part that nurtures and helps transform your child into a successful adult. Ultimately, Montessori is a philosophy of life, of a way to approach the challenges and blessings.

If you love what Montessori does for your child at school begin to implement at home those actions that will continue the transformation. We are not talking about red rods, alphabets, or math but about the core value that makes Montessori dynamic and transformational. It is all about making wise choices.

It is a simple formula – learn to make wise choices – but it is a complex process made up of multiple simple actions that combined, create this outstanding outcome for your child. Montessori succeeds because it gives children the opportunity to make choices (and deal with the consequences). If you have made a bad choice, to be able to make another choice until you come to a positive outcome.

You begin the implementation of Montessori at home by creating opportunities for choice. When my son was two, we began choice making with something as simple as breakfast. We would offer him the choice of two cereals. I would ask, "Do you want this or that?" And he would make a choice. (However, since I didn't use the proper names of the cereals, cereal became known as "dis and dat".)

Choice making has to be real. Don't offer a choice and then negate their choice. "Do you want carrots?" "No." "Well, here you are anyway." Real choice would ask, "Do you want one spoonful or two?" Other examples of empowering choice might be "Do you want to wear blue pants or black"; "Do you want to brush your teeth first or a take a bath first?" There are endless choices to make each day.

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Upcoming Events

May 2023

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| 5/6 | Carn-A-Palooza at Whistle Stop |
| 5/12 | Mother's Day Luncheon at 11 am |
| 5/12 | EOY Conference Reports Released (Primary & Elementary) |
| 5/18 | E-O-Y Field Day |
| 5/19 | Last Day of School E-O-Y Celebration at 11 am Early Release @12:30 PM |
| 6/5 | First Day of Summer Camp 1 |

Infant 1

We are so excited that May and warmer weather are here! The children have been enjoying the Spring days and being outside. They love seeing, listening, and talking about all the busy birds in the mornings. This month we will begin learning about turtles and exploring with sand. And we have a special Mother's Day project that the babies have been working hard on during our arts and crafts time.

Please keep in mind that since it will be much sunnier this month we will spend more time outside. We ask that you send a bottle of sunscreen and bug spray labeled with your child's name to protect them from sunburn and insect bites.

I would like to personally thank all of you for such a successful Lunch-A-Palooza fundraiser. Your love and support have gone above and beyond! I hope to see you at the Carn-A-Palooza on May 6th 😊

- Mrs. Terri Wallace

Infant 2

This month we reflect on the year and all the progress our students have made. We started with an environment prepared for babies and over the year, it's transformed into an environment for soon-to-be toddlers. We are so proud of our students for all that they've accomplished and the milestones they've hit! To finish this year, we will continue adding practical life activities outside, learning how to keep a clean, peaceful, and ordered environment inside, as well as practicing using our inside and outside voices accordingly. In large group lessons we will match objects and pictures and continue working on language development by singing songs and adding basic words about the weather, vegetables, and days of the week. We will also be talking about Mother's Day and working on a special craft.

As their teacher, I am so happy with this class and the success they've achieved. I'm looking forward to watching them as they continue to grow!

-- Mrs. Karla Torres

Toddler 1 & 2

During the month of May, the toddlers will celebrate Mother's Day with a special luncheon. We will also learn about Cinco de Mayo and make some special art projects, and learn about the stages of the butterfly lifecycle, starting with the egg, to larva, next pupa, and then adult. Our small group lessons will focus on using tweezers to transfer items which will develop each child's pincher grasp and get them ready for handwriting. We'll also practice color matching, flower arranging, and basic grooming skills like washing our faces and hands and brushing our hair. Another main topic of discussion will be birds. The children will love taking this lesson outside to practice bird watching! While outside, we'll also work on kicking and catching a ball, play some group games, and continue our spring gardening.

-- Ms. Janice Gonzalez & Mrs. Tammy Clausen

Primary 1 & 2

It's hard to believe that our school year is coming to a close. For Geography this month, the students will learn about Texas and their place in the universe while also studying the definition of neighborhoods, and individual homes. In Spanish, the primary students will learn about food, or *la comida*. We will study the vocabulary for various items that we eat. We will also devote time to teach the importance of self-care, discussing nutrition, hydration, fresh air, the importance of exercise, and practicing safety, and for social graces and courtesies we will focus on implementing good sportsmanship, especially as the children are gearing up for a fun-filled Field Day on May 18th. As we near summer we will create and decorate Memory books that will give us something we can use to look back on and remember this wonderful school year.

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

Elementary

Our Elementary students have worked very hard this year and I am proud of each child's progress! For our last month of school, the students will be discussing the imaginary lines on the globe, winter and summer solstice, and the spring and autumn equinox in Geography. In Bible, we will concentrate on Psalm 23, and we will discuss the beauty of God's promise for each of us. For language, we will be combining all the parts of speech and labeling each for a better understanding of sentence analysis. In Math, we will work with the golden beads to solve long division problems with remainders. In Science, the elementary students will identify the bones comprising the human skeleton and we will also be introduced to electricity. The students will participate in experiments to further our study.

-- Mrs. Dolline Abraham and Mrs. Walker

Notes from Mrs. Watson:

May is jammed packed with activities! Please refer to your calendar. Here are some important details:

Saturday, May 6th: Carn-A-Palooza! Wear your ticket and join us at Whistle Stop Park from 10 am - 1 pm for a day of fun! All proceeds will support our intern teachers for their certification.

Friday, May 12th: Mothers of toddler, primary, and elementary students are invited to a special performance starting at 11 am and then a luncheon. Food and drinks will be provided by the school. You may use a picnic table or bring a blanket to eat picnic style. (For the younger group, if you think your child may have a difficult time transitioning back into care, it may be best to take them home for the remainder of the day.)

Friday, May 12th: End of Year Conference Reports will be distributed for Primary & Elementary.

Thursday, May 18th: Students will be participating in Field Day which is a day filled with games. Students should wear their school t-shirt! Infant 2, Toddler, Primary, & Elementary will participate.

Friday, May 19th: School-Wide End-of-Year Celebration! In the morning, children will play on the splash pad so please bring your child to school in a bathing suit with cover-up on. Please provide a change of clothes and a towel. [Infant 2 students will have water play on their playground. Please provide a swim diaper (but do not put it on) at drop off.]

Starting at 11 am: All parents of students enrolled are invited to join our celebration. We will have Rudy's Bar-B-Q, and as a special treat, Fleetwood Sno Cones will be dishing out snow cones, starting at 11:30 a.m. (Notice you have time to feed your child nutritious food, prior to the sugar arrival.) There will be some seating on picnic tables, or you can bring a blanket to eat picnic style. Please pick up your child by 11 am so that the teachers can be present to serve food and for all of the events. **Early dismissal at 12:30 pm for all classes! MITS & MSCT will be closed between the end of the school year and the beginning of summer camp (May 22nd - June 2nd).**

June Summer Camp starts on Monday, June 5th.

I know that is a lot of information to ingest. Please feel free to ask your child's teacher if you have any questions. Thank you very much for allowing us to educate and nurture your child this past school year!



Happy
Birthday



| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------|
| Declan Beltran | Infant 1 | May 1 st | 1 Year |
| Hazel Regier | Infant 2 | May 3 rd | 2 Years |
| Ellie Nguyen | Toddler 2 | May 5 th | 3 Years |
| Malachi Dudley | Toddler 2 | May 8 th | 3 Years |
| Atlin Conley | Primary 2 | May 8 th | 4 Years |
| Jaeda Smith | Elementary | May 14 th | 8 Years |
| Brooks Glaske | Infant 2 | May 16 th | 2 Years |
| Everyn Rosenau | Primary 2 | May 16 th | 5 Years |
| Aiden Isbell | Toddler 2 | May 17 th | 3 Years |
| Shepherd Mighell | Infant 1 | May 19 th | 1 Year |
| Liam Prince | Infant 2 | May 21 st | 2 Years |
| Canyon Golder | Toddler 2 | May 21 st | 3 Years |
| Faith Judy | Primary 1 | May 21 st | 4 Years |
| Christian Preciado | Elementary | May 27 th | 7 Years |
| Owen Fett | Primary 1 | May 30 th | 6 Years |

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Along with choice goes responsibility. When you make a choice you own the choice because with choice goes the responsibility of fulfilling it. However, a great lesson to learn is that not all responsibilities are our choice but once given to us it is a wise choice to fulfill them.

Chores at home become part of this process of wise choice making. How do I choose to fulfill my responsibilities? Doing my work well, finishing on time and finishing thoroughly are key ingredients of lifetime success. In life we are often faced with situations that offer no real choice – paying taxes, stopping at red lights, etc. Teaching your child to make wise choices (even when there is no choice) is to teach them to choose their attitude when faced with less than desirable choices. They can learn this if you let them practice at home.

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Fundraiser Update

Thank you so much for supporting our Intern Teachers in their worthy goal of becoming Certified Montessorians. This is a win-win for our school, our students, our teachers, and you, because they come back from training with a wealth of knowledge that they invest back into their students!

We cannot wait for the Carn-A-Palooza! We intend to give your child many amazing memories of an extraordinary day, filled with so many fun activities! Please make plans to meet us at Whistle Stop on Saturday, May 6th from 10 am - 1 pm. Friends and family are welcome!

Your child will be able to choose from multiple games and activities, such as: water balloon toss, bouncy house, face painting, hair wraps, three ring toss, a buffet of cheeseburgers and hot dogs with all the fixings, dunk tank, and so much more!

The last hour will be a blast!!! A foam party will bust out starting at 12 noon. You will not want your child to miss out on so much fun!

**** Last Day to Buy Tickets: Tuesday, May 2nd ****

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