

Montessori Schools of Central Texas Newsletter

May 2024

Mrs. Jennifer Watson – Director

News from the Top



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Upcoming Events

May 2024

5/10	Mother's Day Luncheon 10:30 am
5/14	Lower and Upper Elem Field Trips
5/17	Blast-off PJ Bash (Primary & Elementary) 6-10 pm
	EOY Conference Reports Released (Primary & Elementary)
5/23	Field Day
5/24	Last Day of School Splash Day EOY Celebration @ 11:00 Early Release @ 12:30
6/3	First Day of Summer Camp

Mastery

By Edward Fidellow

While most pre-schools don't assign grades neither do Montessori elementary programs. The concept of grades is to measure accumulation of knowledge at a given point in time. Grades then become an artificial standard for excellence of teaching (and maybe learning.)

The idealism of not giving grades, however, is a very practical real-life construct. In place of grades is the concept of mastery – you work at something until you master it. In traditional education, time is the constant and learning is the variable. We teach for an hour. We then test. If you make a sixty or an eighty or a hundred we move on. In Montessori time is the variable and learning is the constant. If you can master it in an hour great, if it takes you two hours ok, if it takes you all day fine, but what you have is solid learning and understanding.

The giving of grades can also have a negative impact on character. How often does the concept of "passing" short circuit the drive for excellence? Good enough is just good enough. Whereas in Montessori good enough is only good enough when it is good enough – which is mastery. To exert ourselves to the highest level possible gives rise to great feelings of accomplishment, confidence and satisfaction. Getting by never gives you a feeling of accomplishment.

Not focusing on grades allows the student to focus on achievement and excellence. Our children's success in life will not come from mediocrity and mediocrity will never engender the happiness you want for your children. Mastery has a cost to it. Most often it is a cost of time and that is what our children have if we allow them to use it. Excellence comes from dedication and dedication takes time. Time is the great gift we give our children in Montessori but we have to be careful we don't squander that gift by focusing on grades which often is a short hand for achievement.

In real life, do you want a brain surgeon who is successful seventy percent of the time? Do you want a pilot who lands safely seventy percent of the time? Excellence is a character virtue that is fostered young and encouraged daily. That is what you get in a Montessori setting where learning is not superficial – learned for the test – but deep and long, often hard, but accompanied by great joy and satisfaction while taking all the time it takes to become excellent.

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MSCT School Newsletter

Infant 1

We are so excited that May and warmer weather are here! The children have been enjoying the Spring days and love being outside. They love seeing, listening, and talking about all the busy birds in the mornings.

This month we will begin with Bible lessons from Genesis 1, *The Beginning*. Our Bible song this month will be, "God Made the Big Round Sun."

God made the big, round sun.

God made the tall, tall trees.

God made the birds that fly.

And God made me.

We also have a special Mother's Day project that the children 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. -- Mrs. 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 throughout 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 practice 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 work on a special craft. Our Bible stories this month will teach us about David and Goliath.

I am so happy with the Infant 2 class and the success they've achieved. I'm looking forward to watching them as they continue to grow! --- Mrs. Karla Torres

Blast-Off PJ Bash

Primary and Elementary students get ready to blast-off on Friday, May 17th from 6 to 10 pm for our annual PJ Party! Parents can plan a special date night while our teachers treat your child to a fun-filled evening, discovering distant planets and far away galaxies.

Participants will come to school in their regular school clothes but bring with them pajamas and a blanket. Activities will include a spaghetti dinner with astronaut ice cream, cosmic crafts, a dance party, special movie time over popcorn, outdoor games, stargazing, and astronomy presentations.

All proceeds will fund Mrs. Abraham and Mrs. Walker's Christian Montessori workshop in New Hampshire this summer. The minimum donation is \$100 per child, but if possible, please consider adding a little more so that they can reach their goal of \$6000. All donations will receive a tax-deductible receipt. Thank you very much for your support!

Toddler

During the month of May, the toddlers are excited to celebrate Mother's Day with a special luncheon. They will also be learning about birds, butterflies, flowers, and gardening. Toddlers will spend outside time caring for their garden, bird-watching, and building their gross motor skills through throwing and catching a ball and riding the tricycles.

Indoors, the students will develop their sensorimotor skills by matching bird and butterfly objects to picture cards, exploring sensory bins, and practicing color matching. Practical life skills we'll focus on this month are flower arranging and basic grooming skills like washing our faces and hands and brushing our hair. Spanish words we'll learn are, *aves* (birds), *jardinera* (gardening), *mariposa* (butterfly), and *flores* (flowers). Finally, our Bible lessons for May will come from Luke 1:37, "with God, nothing shall be impossible."

--- Mrs. Clausen & Mrs. Gonzalez

Primary

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It's hard to believe that our school year is already coming to a close. To finish out 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 *la comida* (food), and we will study the vocabulary for various items that we eat. We will also devote time to learning about the importance of self-care. We'll discuss nutrition, hydration, fresh air, the importance of exercise, and practicing safety. As Field Day nears, we will focus on learning and implementing good sportsmanship. We are looking forward to that fun-filled day on May 23rd! And, finally, 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 all of the fun activities and good times we had with friends throughout this wonderful school year.

--- Mrs. Prudencio, Mrs. Alvarado, & Ms. Copeland

Elementary

Our Elementary students have worked very hard this year and we are proud of each child's progress! For our last month of school, the students will be discussing the imaginary lines on the globe, the 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. Finally, the students are excited to put on a special performance and luncheon in honor of their mothers this month!

--- Mrs. Dolline Abraham & Mrs. Walker



Happy
Birthday



Declan Beltran	Infant 2	May 1 st	2 Years
Sienna Dudley	Infant 1	May 2 nd	1 Year <small>Serving snack</small>
Ellie Nguyen	Primary 1	May 5 th	4 Years
Malachi Dudley	Primary 1	May 8 th	4 Years
Atlin Conley	Primary 2	May 8 th	5 Years
Jaeda Smith	Upper Elem	May 14 th	9 Years
Everyn Rosenau	Primary 2	May 16 th	6 Years
Charlotte McGinn	Toddler	May 17 th	3 Years
Aiden Isbell	Primary 1	May 17 th	4 Years
Colette Lindblad	Infant 1	May 19 th	1 Year
Shepherd Mighell	Infant 2	May 19 th	2 Years
Liam Prince	Toddler	May 21 st	3 Years
Canyon Golder	Primary 1	May 21 st	4 Years
Faith Judy	Primary 1	May 21 st	5 Years
Christian Preciado	Upper Elem	May 27 th	8 Years
Kristynn Miller	Upper Elem	May 28 th	7 Years
Owen Fett	Upper Elem	May 30 th	7 Years

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

Friday, May 10th at 10:30 am: Mothers of Toddler, Primary, and Elementary students are invited to a special performance and 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 17th 6-10 pm: We will be hosting the annual PJ Party for Primary & Elementary. Plan a special date night for your spouse and let us entertain your child as they blast off for a night to remember!

Also, End of Year Conference Reports will be distributed for Primary & Elementary.

Thursday, May 23rd: All students, except Infant 1, will be participating in Field Day which is a day filled with games. Students should wear their school t-shirt! If you need a school shirt, please come by the office. The first one is complimentary.

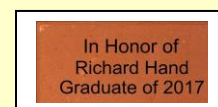
Friday, May 24th: School-Wide End-of-Year Celebration! In the morning, children will play on the splash pad so please bring your child to school in a bathing suit with cover-up on. Please provide a LABELED change of clothes and a LABELED towel. Infant 2 students will have water play on their playground. Please provide a swim diaper, for the teacher to put on your child, 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! MSCT will be closed between the end of the school year and the beginning of summer camp (May 27nd - 31st).

June Summer Camp starts on Monday, June 3rd.

BRICK-BY-BRICK PLAYGROUND RENOVATION



Soon, the Infant 2 and Toddler playground will have a dynamic music center installed. Even better, the Primary playground will undergo a complete transformation with astroturf, funnel ball, four swings, multiple music pieces, and an eight foot carousel!

This amazing transformation is projected to cost at minimum 127k. So far, half has been paid towards the deposit.

On May 7th, we will launch our Brick-by-Brick fundraiser, where families can recognize their child or family with a 4 X 8 or 8 X 8 engraved brick to be placed around the flagpoles or on the new, up-coming walkway on the Primary playground. Company sponsorship will also be welcome!

Your engraved brick will be a legacy for many, many years. Thank you very much for your support of our School of Excellence!