

Montessori Schools of Central Texas Newsletter

March 2020
Volume 10, Issue 8

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



Contents

News from the Top	1
Dear Parents	1
Upcoming Events	1
Classroom News	2-3
New Students	4
Student in Action	4
Birthday Celebrations	5
Contact Information	5
News, Continued	6

News from the Top

Why is Order Important?

Dr. Montessori wrote extensively about a young child's need for order based on her observations of children. She concluded that children have a natural tendency to favor order in their environment, likely because order supports their natural drive to learn. Patterns and routines are more easily learned and understood than inconsistencies. Dr. Montessori also observed a sensitive period for order during the first years of life, a time when children are particularly inclined to organize and classify their environment. If we seize the opportunity to help children develop order early on when they are most interested, we can help them to form lasting habits that will serve them well throughout life.

An orderly environment helps your child to thrive. When you meet her needs for external order (in her physical space and routines), you help to build up her internal sense of order (a calm and organized mind).

How to Meet Your Child's Need for Order

Points of Reference

While in the womb, your baby grows accustomed to the sound of his mother's voice and heartbeat, to the flavors of certain foods as they permeate the amniotic fluid, and to the sight and feel of his own hands. These become points of reference and will be a comfort to him after he is born. For example, if he is swaddled and upset, he may calm down if you loosen the blankets and allow him to access his hands. As your child grows, he will create associations within his environment which will become new points of reference.

(Continue on page 6)

Upcoming Events

March 2020

3/2	2020-2021 Registration Open to Public
3/9-13	Spring Break SCHOOL CLOSED ALL WEEK
3/20	Elementary Field Trip
3/23-25	Hearing & Vision Screens

Dear Parents

First, let me thank the parents that attended our OPEN HOUSE. We had a great turnout from the public as well as a number of current parents. We are always thrilled to show off our school as most parents initially know little about the Montessori Method of Instruction, but they always leave amazed.

In March, we either celebrate Easter or prepare for it in early April, the latter of which will occur this year. Please know that the school does not observe Easter through bunny rabbits, egg hunts, baskets, or other means. We simply explain the true meaning of Easter, or Resurrection Sunday, from the Christian faith perspective.

The Toddler 1 class will be thrilled when they return from spring break as the new classroom furniture is scheduled to be delivered and set up. This plan has been in the making for a while, but now it has finally come to fruition. Your tuition at work, as always.

Lastly, the preregistration for summer camps and the new school is underway. The infant and toddler programs are full with a waitlist and the primary and lower elementary classes are receiving enrollments. We expect these classes to reach maximum capacity very quickly, so please don't wait until it's too late. It is always grievous to turn away parents/students due to their procrastination. See Mrs. Watson for more information about preregistration. Just do it today!



Primary 1 & 2 --Mrs. Alvarado & Mrs. Prudencio

February was filled with lots of fun activities. The students truly enjoyed their special Valentine's Day party and eating the heart-shaped brownies that they made. They took a special interest in learning about the metamorphosis of a frog and the life cycle of a chicken. Students also learned the anatomical parts of a horse, fish, frog, and bird. We focused our Cultural studies on the continent of Asia. The fried rice and tea ceremony were enjoyed by all.

For this next month, the children will learn the parts of a seed and a plant, as well as, differences in fruits and vegetables. We will plant seeds in our classrooms to observe their growth as we tend to our seedlings. The Master Gardeners will return at the end of March to help the students plant various fruits and vegetables in their gardens. We will do an experiment with celery for an understanding of how plants absorb water. Europe will be our continent study this month. The students will work extensively with the puzzle map, identifying countries, flags, and location. For Bible, we will hear stories from the book of Matthew. For Science, we will study dilution. Later this month, we will make Italian meatballs. –Mrs. Alvarado & Mrs. Prudencio

Toddlers II--Mrs. O'Donnell

February was extra special with our Valentine's Day celebration. The toddlers expanded their Spanish vocabulary to include counting, animals and colors. The children learned the names of geometric shapes while assembling puzzles. They enjoyed getting their hands dirty when we prepared our garden beds.

During the month of March, the students will be strengthening their pincher grasp for handwriting by transferring beans, rice, and water from one container to the next with a spoon, tongs, or small pitchers. For Practical Life, we will learn how to comb our hair, and master the zipper, button, snap, and buckle dressing frames. Our Spanish vocabulary will be a continuance of various colors. The students have already learned forty words in sign language this year! Next, we will learn the first letter of each one of our names. At the end of the month, the students will be planting seeds and then tending to their garden as they grow. Please send a pair of child-sized garden gloves to school which can be found at a local feed store.

–Mrs. O'Donnell

Infants I & II--Ms. Phillips & Mrs. Sonia Iglesias

Spring is just around the corner. We are looking forward to the month of March with excitement. We are already halfway through this school semester and the children's independence, verbal skills, and interest in learning is blossoming beautifully.

In the month of February, the Infant I classroom learned about zoo animals, played musical instruments, and made heart handprints. The students in Infant II learned about different kinds of insects, where they lived, and how to respect and care for them. Also, they developed their fine motor skills as they explored a stacking work related to the hungry caterpillar from the book by Eric Carle. In addition, they enjoyed puzzle work related to insects we typically find in the garden. They particularly enjoyed their Valentine's Day party, which was a total success, as well as, making Valentine's Day cards for friends and family.

For the month of March, the Infant I classroom will be learning about plants and the Earth. The Infant II classroom themes will be: gardening, spring, flowers, fruits and vegetables. We will continue to work on restoring work and on handling our outdoor environment with care.

– Ms. Phillips & Mrs. Sonia Iglesias

Elementary--Mrs. Doline Abraham

During the month of February, the students took special interest their crystallization experiment. They also learned how to classify rocks, the differences in fold and block mountains, Spanish prepositions, and parts of a flower. The Valentine's Day party was a lot of fun. The student's enjoyed passing out their cards and receiving their own treats. Our lesson on cooking pasta was a great success!

Also, during the month of February, the elementary students celebrated Black History month through studies and by welcoming a special guest speaker, Super Bowl Champion, Josh Boyce. His motivational message resonated with the children and inspired them to greatness.

For March, the elementary students will be shifting their focus to the continent of Asia. We will research its citizens and animals, identify countries, capitals, and flags. For math, we will practice fraction subtraction. Our Science study will be on human anatomy both external and internal. Also, we will study heat sources, the rotation of the Earth and its relation to heat, and how the seasons are formed. We look forward to planting a bountiful harvest when the Master Gardeners return later this month. For our field trip, we will be taking a tour of the Dr. Pepper Museum in Waco to learn more about manufacturing, assembly lines, and how Dr. Pepper is made on Friday, March 20th.
--Mrs. Abraham

Toddler I--Mrs. Ronelus

February was filled with learning and fun activities. The children enjoyed making their own Valentine's and celebrating the day with a party. We practiced spooning and pouring in preparation for pencil grasping. Although brisk, we had quite an adventurous time exploring nature on our walk and held group discussions about bird migration and insects. The children also enjoyed helping place the mushroom compost into the garden bed so that we can plant next month.

In March, we will sort by size and color. Our group study will include the spring season and farm animals. For math, we will be counting quantities, 1-7. Our Practical Life lesson will be dressing oneself, with a focus on buttoning and snapping. We also have a lot of artwork on the agenda, making chicks and sheep with paper plates, spin flowers, and finger paint rainbows. For cooking, the students will help peel carrots to make a carrot cake. When we go outdoors, the children will practice balance and walking in a straight line. At the latter part of March, we will plant vegetables and care for our garden.

- Mrs. Ronelus

***Notes from Mrs. Watson:

March 23rd-25th, children age 4 by September 1, 2019, will undergo their required hearing and vision screens. As a parent, you do not need to 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 and if further diagnostic testing would be needed by a physician.

New Students this Month None

Student Activities in February



In Celebration of Black History month, Elementary students received an inspirational message from Super Bowl Champion, Joshua Boyce.



Preparing Dough



Preparing beds for planting with the Master Gardeners



Railroad Museum



Valentine's Day Party



Music Appreciation with Mr. Gilmeister

Practicing spatial recognition
Serving tea for our Asian continent study.



Giving Valentine's Day cards in Primary II.



Golden Bead Addition



Infant I



Tummy Time.



Making friends under the mobile.



Infant II Valentine's Day Party.

Strengthening those leg muscles



Insect study.



Sorting



Fine Motor Skill



Making Music.

External Parts of a Bird

Painting a Rainbow



▪ Charles Knaus	Primary 2	March 1 st	6 Years
▪ Macie Terpenning	Primary 2	March 7 th	4 Years
▪ Luke Khalil	Primary 1	March 10 th	5 Years
▪ Karina Soto	Infant 1	March 11 th	1 Year
▪ Phuong Doan	Primary 1	March 12 th	4 Years
▪ Eloise Troy	Primary 1	March 18 th	4 Years
▪ Arya Patel	Toddler 1	March 21 st	2 Years
▪ Sami Matic	Primary 2	March 21 st	5 Years
▪ Catherine Stewart	Primary 1	March 23 rd	5 Years
▪ Vanessa Kutnink	Primary 2	March 23 rd	5 Years
▪ Ember Striclyn	Primary 2	March 25 th	5 Years
▪ Tylee Striclyn	Primary 1	March 28 th	6 Years

Contact Us:

Montessori Schools of Central Texas
 Temple Campus
 1302 S. 27th St
 Temple, TX 76504
 254-771-1116

frontdesk@templemontessori.com

www.montessorischoolsofcentraltexas.com



Why is Order Important? *(Continued from page 1)*

Designating specific places in the home for specific activities like eating, sleeping, changing, and playing will help him understand what to expect in each of these areas. If you always use a specific chair for feeding your baby, he will know that it's time to eat when you carry him there. When you consistently ask your toddler to lie in his bed after a bedtime story, he will know that this is his time and place for sleep. This consistency in his environment will support your child's need for order, providing predictability and comfort. It will also make it easier for you to care for your baby when he knows what is expected of him.

A place for everything and everything in its place

Organizing your home and keeping things consistent will make it easier for your child (and for you) to maintain order. When an item "lives" in the same place all the time, your child knows where to find it and where to replace it. At first, it will be your responsibility to model keeping the space tidy, cleaning up her toys when she is not yet mobile. As your little one observes you consistently putting things in their places, she will absorb this idea and routine and eventually take on the habit. As she absorbs the tidiness of her environment in its default state, she will be more inclined to appreciate and keep it this way as she grows.

Simplicity

When preparing an orderly environment, simplicity should be the goal. Choosing just a few materials and activities for your little one that are simple in design is best. Having limited choices empowers your child to make choices independently, rather than feeling overwhelmed with options. A simple selection also engenders focused play and eliminates distraction. Toys that are simple in design also allow for focus and experimentation. When a toy is "passive," such as a simple wooden board with pegs, your child must be "active" in order to explore it. When a toy is "active" such as an electronic gadget with lights and music, your child can shift into a "passive" mode, pressing a button and waiting to be entertained. As your child grows up playing in a simple environment, he will be well prepared to take on more complex work and creative tasks.

Routine

Along with the physical order of the environment, children thrive with the order of consistent routines. When a routine is established, your child will quickly understand that certain activities happen at certain times of day or that one thing leads to another. For example, when she is a baby she will learn that after a diaper change, a feeding, and a story comes naptime. This pattern helps your baby prepare to self-soothe and makes it easier for her to fall asleep on her own. When she is older, she will come to know, for example, that when she wakes up in the morning, she will visit the bathroom, eat breakfast, and then get dressed. This structure can help you avoid power struggles and tantrums. Montessori said, "The presence of this sensitive period [for order] is perhaps more clearly shown by the obstacles that a child encounters, and it may well be that most childish tantrums are due to this sensibility." Because young children are so sensitive to order, they feel unsettled, frustrated, and anxious when they don't know what to expect or when their expectations are unmet. Routines allow your child to anticipate what comes next, instilling a sense of security and confidence.

When things get messy....

Of course, the realities of life and new parenthood often lead us to slip into messes and disorganization. Thankfully, young children are incredibly adaptable. It's good for your child to occasionally encounter changes in his environment and routines. This helps him to understand that life can be unpredictable and that flexibility is important. Eventually, when you reinstall order, a young child will adapt to it again, finding comfort and ease. For example, several weeks may have passed since you tidied your toddler's toy shelf and as a result, his play may seem unfocused. When you take a hour to organize, put extra toys away and leave only a small selection on his shelf, you will likely notice a difference in his behavior soon after. While you may not be able to give your child perfect order at all times, even a small effort on your part can have a tremendous impact on his behavior and development.