

MSCT School Newsletter

March 2021
Volume 10, Issue 7

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

News from the Top Courage



Contents

News from the Top	1
Upcoming Events	1
Classroom News	2-3
Student in Action	3
Birthday Celebrations	4
Contact Information	4

Upcoming Events March 2021

3/1	2021-2022 Registration Open to the Waitlist
3/7	Open House 2-4 p.m.
3/19	Elementary Field Trip

It is amazing to observe the breadth of accomplishment that a Montessori environment fosters. Courage is not traditionally thought of as an educational outcome but then again Montessori is not traditional. For children, courage is the ability to try new things even if they are afraid. As they mature, courage becomes the ability to do what is right and to do what is good.

For a child everything is new. That is the reality of childhood. The awesome task and purpose of childhood is to create the adult. Life takes courage to navigate and to become a fully functioning independent adult. And it is this kind of courage that must be nurtured and practiced for it to become a practical virtue.

We tend to identify courage with physical courage - running into a burning building, pulling people out of rivers, etc. However, real life every day common courage demonstrates itself in intellectual, emotional and spiritual settings. The courage to do what is right, to do what is good for others, to use our gifts, talents and opportunities well and wisely is the kind of courage practiced and displayed in a Montessori environment.

We well understand that the opposite of courage is fear. For a child, fear doesn't yet have a definition. It is represented by an indistinct but palpable feeling of unease. For a child fear is "defined" by the unknown, the unfamiliar. (That is why Montessori children love and are so at home in their environments because of its constant sameness and familiarity.)

For the child conscious fear starts from the unknown - the dog, the dark, strangers and then becomes attached to the inability (and frustration) of not being able to handle and control the environment - bringing it back to sameness. (Perfectionist children come to this earlier than others.) Then this fear attaches itself to the perceived rejection that comes from disapproval. The child, unconsciously thinks, that if I only do what is absolutely safe or what receives guaranteed adult approval, I don't have any reason to fear or face disapproval.

One of the hardest concepts for a new Montessori teacher to understand (and embrace) is that of not correcting children in the middle of their work. (This is particularly difficult for perfectionists and controllers.) Unless the child is damaging the material or endangering others or himself or being rude, you let them continue. There are two outcomes to not correcting the child in the midst of the work. One, the child discovers his own mistake and corrects it which produces a sense of accomplishment and control. The second outcome is far more subtle. Because you are not corrected at every turn, you do not freeze up; you do not constantly look over your shoulder; you are not waiting for the next shoe to drop. You gain breathing room to make mistakes - that's how we learn. In this way mistakes do not become the end of the universe or the world as we know it. The child is willing to try something new (which is an act of courage) without being weighed down with the fear of failure or reproof.

Not being corrected (all of the time) is the strange and unique Montessori training ground for courage. In trying something new the child gets to practice

courage every day. Eventually, the child becomes use to trying new things without the overpowering fear of failure. The child learns to work his way through mistakes which becomes a normal part of life and the learning process - which is a significant part of adult life.

Life requires courage to live fully. The Montessori classroom provides daily opportunities to develop and practice courage.

Article by Edward Fidellow, Montessorian

Infant 1 – Mrs. Victoria Badger

February was a month filled with unexpected events and surprises. Nevertheless, the infant 1 class remained busy. The walkers especially enjoyed table washing after their meals.

This month we will be adding yellow objects to our treasure basket. As the same in previous months yellow will be introduced in English, Spanish and sign language.

We will focus on naming parts of the face and body. These lessons will help in developing vocabulary and the sense of self. Projects and activities that focus on "in" and "out" will be introduced. This will help to develop motor skills and coordination.

We are looking forward to the up-coming spring weather when the babies can return to the garden for outdoor time for exploration, vocabulary building, and coordination exercises in a comfortably shaded environment.

--Mrs. Badger

Infant 2 – Ms. Rosa Gray

During the month of March, the students of Infant 2 will study vocabulary and objects colored green and yellow. In Spanish, the color green is verde, and the color yellow is amarillo. Other Spanish vocabulary that the students will be learning is rain or lluvia, flowers or flor, and spring or primavera. The students will also learn corresponding sign language for each vocabulary lesson.

In addition, we will have large and small group lessons on the spring season including current weather, Saint Patrick's Day, and the emerging flowers in our outdoor environment. For Art, the children will paint using artificial flowers as a paint brush, create Saint Patrick's rainbow feet, and paint with cotton balls to create rain clouds to further our discussion about spring weather conditions.

Remember, we go outside every day for exercise, coordination and gross motor skill development, and exploration, unless it's raining or too cold. Please ensure that your child has a coat daily because this time of year, the temperatures can be unpredictable.

--Ms. Gray

Toddler 1 & 2 - Ms. Yesenia Armas & Mrs. LaDonna Ronelus

During the month of March, the toddler students will be studying the spring season and participating in gardening activities outdoors. We will also begin our discussion on Easter, hearing Bible stories and celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Small group activities will include transferring eggs to cartons, matching corresponding butterflies and colored eggs, sorting by size, cutting strips for fine motor coordination is preparation for pencil grasp, and counting one-seven. In art, the students will create spinning flowers, Easter cards, rain clouds, and will finger-paint rainbows. For food preparations, we peel and cut carrots, and also bake a yummy carrot cake.

Most toddler students will be promoted to the primary level in five months and it is a requirement of the primary class to be fully potty trained. For parents of students who are not quite potty trained, please make sure to meet with your child's teacher to discuss successful strategies to be implemented consistently at home and at school while there is still time for a successful transition.

--Ms. Armas and Mrs. Ronelus

Primary – Mrs. Prudencio, Mrs. Alvarado & Ms. Prudencio

Europe will our cultural focus this next month. The students will work with the continental map, make French toast and personal pan pizzas, and learn about the people, customs, various languages, and animals that inhabit this part of the world. We will also be participating in a lot of botany and gardening lessons during the month. The students will learn and make booklets, identifying parts of a seed, leaf, and plant. We will also experiment with celery stalks and colored water to learn how plants draw water from the soil. For Bible, our stories will focus on the Easter story and the students will make empty tomb rolls. In Spanish, we will learn vocabulary for furniture pieces, and various fruits and vegetables. To further our study of the spring season, the students will learn the names of many varieties of flowers and indigenous birds.

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

Elementary – Mrs. Abraham

For the month of March, the elementary students will be creating a timeline of their own life using pictures for a personal history lesson. In Physical Science, we will study heat and solar energy, as well as participate in related experiments. The lifecycle of a mammal and identifying anatomical parts will be our Zoology focus. In Bible, we will learn about the Good Samaritan, the Sower, and the Great Banquet. Our Geography lessons will be trifold, studying the continent of Asia and archipelago, or an area that contains a chain or group of islands scattered in lakes, rivers, or the ocean. The students will also learn about systems of lakes. Spanish vocabulary will be centered on naming fruta, which means fruit. During this beautiful spring weather, the students will continue to garden outside and we will also learn the parts of fruit and various edible and inedible fruit. Language will focus on prepositions and for math, the students will practice Golden Bead division, also working with the Checkerboard to solve equations.

--Mrs. Dolline Abraham

Student Activities in February





Happy Birthday



- Charles Knaus Elementary March 1st 7 Years
- Aster Thiel Toddler 2 March 1st 3 Years
- Sebastian Perez Infant 1 March 6th 1 Year
- Luke Khalil Primary 1 March 10th 6 Years
- Karina Soto Infant 1 March 11th 2 Years
- Phuong Doan Primary 1 March 12th 5 Years
- Eloise Troy Primary 1 March 18th 5 Years
- Sami Matic Primary 2 March 21st 6 Years
- Catherine Stewart Primary 1 March 23rd 6 Years
- Ryan Rawdah Primary 1 March 29th 5 Years

Infant II Valentine's Day Party.

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

