

# Temple Montessori School Newsletter

October 2021

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

## News from the Top



*This article is of such importance that we are going to share it in a series. It is a lengthy instruction on the two different mindsets. It is a helpful tool in order to foster growth mindset in the classrooms and at home.*

## Fixed vs. Growth: The Two Basic Mindsets That Shape Our Lives (Part 1)

By Maria Popova  
Edited by Heather Schaefer

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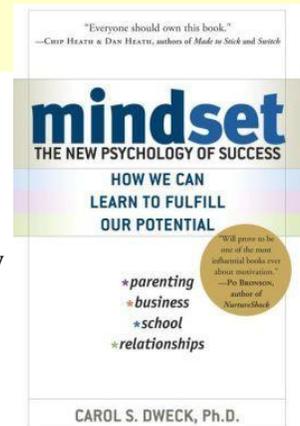
### Upcoming Events

October 2021

10/1	North America Presentation
10/11	Parent-Teacher Conference Day & Columbus Day: <b>NO CLASSES</b>
10/26	TFD Presentation

“Do what you love, and don’t stop until you get what you love. Work as hard as you can, imagine immensities.” Debbie Millman counseled in one of the best commencement speeches ever given. This advice reflects what modern psychology knows about the two different types of mindsets. Our belief about our own abilities and potential fuel our behavior and predict our success. Much of that understanding stems from the work of Stanford psychologist Dr. Carol Dweck. She synthesized in her remarkably insightful Mindset: The New Psychology of Success — an inquiry into the power of our beliefs, both conscious and unconscious, and how changing our beliefs can have profound impact on nearly every aspect of our lives.

Dweck found in her research that one of the most basic beliefs we form about ourselves has to do with what we consider to be our personality. A “*fixed mindset*” assumes that our character, intelligence, and creative ability are static traits which we can’t change in any meaningful way. So, striving for success and avoiding failure at all costs become a way of maintaining the sense of being smart or skilled. A “*growth mindset*,” on the other hand, thrives on challenge and sees failure not as evidence of unintelligence but as a heartening springboard for growth and for stretching our existing abilities. Out of these two mindsets springs a great deal of our behavior, our relationship with success and failure in both professional and personal contexts, and ultimately our capacity for happiness. So, it is imperative to understand these mindsets in order to help shape the outlook and future success of the next generation.



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## Infant I - Mrs. Clausen

We are excited to welcome October and looking forward to the Fall season which brings cooler temperatures! We plan to spend some time outdoors in the garden because the children truly enjoy the cool breeze, feeling the different texture of grass, and our discussions on nature. There are flowers, sprouting vegetables, birds, and squirrels to observe all under the shade of an Oak tree.

Sensorial activities, like sensory bags, pumpkins, and colored leaves exploration, will be introduced this month. For movement lessons, we will be practicing “up” and “down” as well as pushing and pulling. For language, we will focus on orange and green objects, identifying various vegetables, and an introduction of wild animals indigenous to Central Texas to expand their vocabulary. As always, we will continue to teach new ASL and Spanish words.

-- Mrs. Tammy Clausen

## Infant II - Ms. Stevens

“He does it with his hands, by experience, first in play and then through work. The hands are the instruments of man’s intelligence.” - The Absorbent Mind.

With that philosophy in mind we head into our October explorations. This month as the weather begins to change and the leaves fall we get to squish, stomp, and collect them all as we put our investigation skills to work. We will analyze the different colors, shapes, and sizes. Our class will add the leaves to our sensory bins as well as in our art area. Another exciting activity this month will be an introduction to the pumpkin! All of our senses will be put to work as we cut open, wash, paint and even taste pumpkins. October is also the time we start the topic of community helpers, who they are, and why their jobs are so important.

Parents, as a friendly reminder, sometimes learning can get messy at our age so please make sure you have a few outfits in your child's cubby daily.

-- Ms. Candice Stevens

## Toddler I & II: Mrs. Ronelus & Ms. Armas

Our October large group lessons will be about autumn, Christopher Columbus, and pumpkin life cycles. The students will sort fall leaves by color and participate in small group lessons to wash and hammer pumpkins. For practical life, we will be washing windows and folding towels.

Our food preparation lessons will be peeling and cutting carrots and making pumpkin bread. For art, the toddlers will make their own Columbus hats and boats using their own handprints. The students will practice social grace and courtesy when serving snack to one another, as well as have etiquette lessons on proper place settings.

In Spanish, we will learn vocabulary for fall colors and names of vegetables. Later this month, the children will go on a fun nature walk which will provide opportunities for group discussions about our outdoor discoveries.

-- Mrs. LaDonna Ronelus & Ms. Yesenia Armas



## Primary I & II - Mrs. Alvarado & Mrs. Prudencio

The Primary students will reach for the stars this month as we study constellations, the sun, moon phases, the rotation of the earth, and the first five planets in our solar system. In Spanish, we will recite the days of the week, months of the year, and introduce fall vocabulary. For science, the students will participate in experiments to learn sink vs. float.

We are half-way through the book of Genesis and our Bible stories will be Isaac's blessings and bride, as well as Jacob's dream. The Primary classes will research the continent of North America, studying indigenous animals, flags, the puzzle map, and make new discoveries with the cultural cards. There will be two empanada recipes that the students will be cooking in October, pumpkin and ground beef. Last month, the primary students learned the differences in land, air, and water but this month we will be able to classify the different states of matter into liquid, solid or gas. For Practical Life lessons, we will practice sweeping, folding laundry, and cleaning our tables after eating.

We will also showcase some of the songs and dances we have learned from North American culture. Please join us on Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. to watch our performance!

-- Mrs. Carmen Alvarado & Mrs. Veronica Prudencio

## Elementary – Mrs. Abraham

October will be filled with many interesting units of study. For History, the students will create their own timeline of life and we will also be able to define decades, centuries, and millenniums. In Civics, we will research the story of the statue of Liberty. Our Physical Science lessons will center around Newton's Law of Motion and simple machines. North America will be the continent of focus for Geography and the students will be identifying countries, capitals, and flags. The students will take their Botany lessons indoors to classify various plants, learn the parts of a plant, and the life cycle of a plant. In Music, we will study string instruments. In Language Arts, the students will practice articles, adjectives, and interjections. Our Math lessons will be on the addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts, as well as geometric shapes and the relationship of lines. Later this month, the children will make puppet animals.

-- Mrs. Dolline Abraham

## Notes from Mrs. Watson:

On Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, the Primary and Elementary teachers will be hosting Parent-Teacher Conferences to review your child's progress thus far and to answer any questions that you may have. Conferences are held by appointment and a sign-up list will be posted on the classroom clipboard. Please make other childcare arrangements for the conference time so that we may speak confidentially.

Just as a reminder, we are a Christian school and we do not celebrate pagan holidays. If students arrive to school in Halloween themed attire, they will be asked to change upon arrival.

The Temple Fire Department will be on site on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> for a dual presentation on poison control and fire trucks for the primary and elementary students. The toddlers will also get to see the fire truck up close.

-- Mrs. Jennifer Watson



Happy  
Birthday



▪ Daisy Weir	Primary 1	October 1 <sup>st</sup>	4 Years
▪ Matthew McMahon	Primary 1	October 5 <sup>th</sup>	4 Years
▪ Henry Weir	Elementary	October 8 <sup>th</sup>	9 Years
▪ Mitchell Joyner	Elementary	October 10 <sup>th</sup>	7 Years
▪ Lily Martin	Primary 1	October 17 <sup>th</sup>	6 Years
▪ Anya Sanchez	Toddler 1	October 18 <sup>th</sup>	3 Years
▪ Emberlynn Shelton	Elementary	October 19 <sup>th</sup>	9 Years
▪ Audrey Sisco	Primary 1	October 20 <sup>th</sup>	5 Years
▪ Peyton Fuchs	Toddler 2	October 20 <sup>th</sup>	2 Years
▪ Raymond Hacker	Primary 2	October 21 <sup>st</sup>	4 Years
▪ Dylan Baker	Toddler 1	October 23 <sup>rd</sup>	2 Years
▪ Ashliam Montalvo	Primary 2	October 27 <sup>th</sup>	6 Years
▪ Sebastian Daza	Toddler 2	October 31 <sup>st</sup>	3 Years

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Believing that your qualities are carved in stone — the fixed mindset — creates an urgency to prove yourself over and over. If you have only a certain amount of intelligence, a certain personality, and a certain moral character — well, then you'd better prove that you have a healthy dose of them. It simply wouldn't do to look or feel deficient in these most basic characteristics. Dweck writes: "I've seen so many people with this one consuming goal of proving themselves — in the classroom, in their careers, and in their relationships. Every situation calls for a confirmation of their intelligence, personality, or character. Every situation is evaluated: Will I succeed or fail? Will I look smart or dumb? Will I be accepted or rejected? Will I feel like a winner or a loser?"

There's another mindset in which the hand you're dealt is just the starting point for development. This growth mindset is based on the belief that your basic qualities are things you can cultivate through your efforts. Although people may differ in every which way — in their initial talents and aptitudes, interests, or temperaments — everyone can change and grow through application and experience.

At the heart of what makes the "growth mindset" so winsome is that it creates a passion for learning rather than a hunger for approval. Its hallmark is the conviction that human qualities like intelligence and creativity, and even relational capacities like love and friendship, can be cultivated through effort and deliberate practice. Not only are people with this mindset not discouraged by failure, but they don't see themselves as failing in those situations — they see themselves as learning.

In Dweck's words: "Why waste time proving over and over how great you are, when you could be getting better? Why hide deficiencies instead of overcoming them? Why look for friends or partners who will just shore up your self-esteem instead of ones who will also challenge you to grow? And why seek out the tried and true, instead of experiences that will stretch you?"

The passion for stretching yourself and sticking to it, even (or especially) when it's not going well, is indicative of the growth mindset. This is the mindset that allows people to thrive during some of the most challenging times in their lives. This idea, of course, isn't new. If anything, it's the fodder of self-help books and vacant "You can do anything!" platitudes. What makes Dweck's work different, however, is that it is rooted in rigorous research on how the young, developing mind works, identifying not only the core drivers of those mindsets but also how they can be reprogrammed.

Dweck and her team found that people with the fixed mindset see risk and effort as potential giveaways of their inadequacies, revealing that they come up short in some way. But the relationship between mindset and effort is a two-way street. It's not just that some people happen to recognize the value of challenging themselves and the importance of effort. Our research has shown that this comes directly from the growth mindset. When we teach people the growth mindset, with its focus on development, these ideas about challenge and effort follow.

*The article will continue next month. For more information, view the infographic on page 6*

