

Montessori Schools of Central Texas Newsletter

May 2022

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



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Upcoming Events

May 2022

5/6	Mother's Day Luncheon at 11 am
5/11	Elementary Field Trip
5/13	EOY Conference Reports Released (Primary & Elementary)
5/19	E-O-Y Field Day Last Day to Enter Raffle
5/20	Last Day of School E-O-Y Celebration Raffle Drawing Early Release @12:30 PM
6/1	First Day of Summer Camp 1

News from the Top

Taking Montessori Discipline Home

By Edward Fidellow

Montessori children are noted for having above average discipline so how do you continue and support this at home? First, we need to understand that this discipline does not directly come from the outside - "Do this! Do that!" but arises when the child is engaged. This engagement takes many forms: interest, training, cooperation, self-direction and self-control. There are many steps to discipline but ultimately, we mean self-discipline.

If we define discipline to mean "Doing what is best when it needs to be done - to completion" we are developing a life-skill with tremendous rewards. "Discipline" is not punishment but the marshalling of all powers needed to produce a positive result. The first step of Montessori discipline is for the child to understand clearly what is being asked. This is a simple first step but often overlooked.

Second, cooperation is gained if the child is presented with a choice. "Do you want one spoonful of green beans or two?" (Not, "Do you want green beans?" and then we deliver green beans without listening to the answer.) "I don't want any." Says the child. "Oh, that wasn't the choice." Montessori children understand both choice and cooperation.

Third, further choice in the cooperation of discipline comes in extending time lines for action. "Do you want to brush your teeth now or in fifteen minutes when you get ready for bed?" "Do you want to do this first or last?"

Fourth, questions are a great form to bring about discipline and cooperation. "Is the table totally cleared?" is better than "You didn't clear the whole table."

Fifth, helping the child articulate the behaviors needed gives the child ownership of the process. "How would you like to handle this?"

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Infant 1 – Mrs. Clausen

We are looking forward to the month of May and nature's beauty! The Infant 1 children will continue to develop their independence and self-care by washing their own hands, self-feeding, and sitting in our chairs at the table. We will keep practicing, "more", "eat", and "finished" in ASL. Our language studies will continue with the Spring season, the weather, and discussions about bugs, birds, and trees. We plan to explore the garden again to experience the cool breeze, sensation of grass, and have discussions of everything we see such as flowers, plants, bugs, birds, and trees. Our new English, Spanish, and ASL vocabulary focus will be "bug", "bird", and "tree". We will focus on the color "brown", and the shape, "rectangle". Since the children love to hear books read aloud and sing songs during group time, we will make this a priority. We are pleased that our balance and coordination exercises are bearing great success as more children become independent walkers! We will also be working on crafts to honor our mothers for Mother's Day! Wishing you a great, fun-filled summer!

-- Mrs. Tammy Clausen

Infant 2 – Mrs. Torres

During the month of May, we will tend to our plants and have discussions about plant care. In celebration of Mother's Day, we will honor each of our precious mothers by creating a special gift. The children have been restoring their work when they are finished, and you can use this valuable lesson at home too. Use the same phrasing, to restore work and watch your child put away their belongings. We will also be practicing our vocabulary for weather in English and Spanish, such as rainbows, sunny, rainy, cloudy, etc., and counting numbers up to 10 in English and Spanish. We will be learning new vocabulary related to animals, colors, and flowers. This month, we are going to focus on the shapes triangle, circle, and square. We are looking forward to our Field Day on May 19th and our End-of-Year celebration on May 20th. Please remember to bring a swim diaper for your child on Friday, May 20th as we will start the day with water play.

-- Mrs. Karla Torres

Toddler 1 & 2 – Mrs. Ronelus & Ms. Armas

During the month of May, the toddlers will celebrate Mother's Day with a special luncheon. We will also learn about Cinco de Mayo; making sombreros and pinatas for special art projects. Also this month, we will study each stage of the butterfly lifecycle, starting with the egg, to larva, next pupa, and then adult. Our small group lessons will focus upon using tweezers to transfer items which will develop each child's pincher grasp, getting them ready for pencil grasp, and color matching, flower arranging, as well as, open and close projects. Another main topic of discussion will be an in-depth study of birds. We will take this lesson outside and practice bird watching, as well as, make macaron birds nests to eat. For Spanish vocabulary this month, the toddlers will learn to name human anatomy. Other art projects will include pom pom caterpillars and suncatcher butterflies. Lastly, the children will use a caterpillar to count from one to twelve. Please practice counting with your children and also have them identify random numbers like we do in class for further memory retention.

-- Mrs. LaDonna Ronelus & Ms. Yesenia Armas

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

It's hard to believe that our school year is coming to a close. For Geography this month, the students will learn their place in the universe, also studying the definition of neighborhoods, and individual homes. In Spanish, the primary students will learn the names of la comida, or food. 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. Our Science experiment will be exciting as we generate electricity. Bible lessons will center around the First Church. Social graces and courtesies will focus on implementing good sportsmanship, especially as the children are gearing up for a fun-filled Field Day on May 19th.

-- Mrs. Veronica Prudencio & Mrs. Carmen Alvarado

Elementary – Mrs. Abraham

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 visiting the Inner Space Caverns for our field trip on May 11th. More information will go home about that soon. Our geography lessons will include the imaginary lines on the globe, winter and summer solstice, and the spring and autumn equinox. 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 of 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

Notes from Mrs. Watson:

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

- 1. Friday, May 6th:** 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.)
- 2. Friday, May 13th:** End of Year Conference Reports will be distributed for Primary & Elementary.
- 3. Thursday, May 19th:** 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.
- 4. Friday, May 20th:** 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. If at all possible, please pick up your child by 11 am so that the teacher's can be present to serve food and for all of the events.

Early dismissal at 12:30 pm for all classes! MITS & MSCT will close between the end of the school year and the beginning of summer camp. June Summer Camp starts on Wednesday, June 1st.



Happy
Birthday



Sophia Fox	Toddler 2	May 1 st	3 Years
Catalina Henderson	Toddler 1	May 2 nd	3 Years
Hazel Regier	Infant 1	May 3 rd	1 Year
Malachi Dudley	Infant 2	May 8 th	2 Years
Atlin Conley	Infant 2	May 8 th	3 Years
Jaeda Smith	Primary 2	May 14 th	7 Years
Owen Fett	Primary 1	May 30 th	5 Years

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Sixth, an occasional “How do you feel about your actions?” may elicit a host of hidden icebergs - everything from “It’s not fair. I don’t know how to do it” to “I am afraid.” (Children’s fears are real to them and “There is nothing to be afraid of.” Does not really help.) Adult sensitivity, patience and cooperation moves the action to completion. This completion is another step on the way to self-directed obedience.

Seventh, the ultimate parent command (which occasionally is necessary) “because I said so” might give way to a more subtle approach “How does your teacher handle this at school?” A mother of Montessori twins was counting to ten to get her twins cooperation when one of them said “Mr. Leming at school doesn’t count.” “How does your teacher handle this?” can be a strategic tool to continue this transformation to self-discipline which is practiced daily in the Montessori environment.

From “Taking Montessori Discipline Home”
by Edward Fidellow

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.

Our school budgets to pay half of the tuition for each Intern, and the Intern is responsible for covering the other half of tuition, plus their fees. In addition, each teacher will have to pay out of pocket for a lot of school expenses such as lodging, travel, school supplies, along with the inability to work while being enrolled in such an intense course.

Our goal is to raise \$5,000 per Intern to make sure their expenses are covered so they can then focus their energy on their studies and come back a powerhouse Teacher with all the skills and knowledge needed to become the best Teacher possible! \$20,000 may sound like a lofty goal, but if we can get close, it will help tremendously.

The Family Night out at Treno Pizzeria & Taproom (the most successful fundraiser they have seen to date) was such a blast!!! Along with the Pajama Party and a few altruistic donations, we have raised almost \$10,000!!

The final fundraiser is the raffle. We have just three weeks left to meet our goal! Please enter the raffle, if you have not already, and PLEASE share the link with friends and family. There are amazing prizes to be won from a 75 inch TV, to a Mommy Basket, a Family Basket, and a Handmade Quilt! **THE LAST DAY TO ENTER THE RAFFLE WILL BE MAY 19th.** Winners will be drawn at the End-of-Year Celebration on May 20th. Once entered, please drop off a check written to MSCT in the front office or Venmo our Fundraising Committee of Taylore Jackson or Ashley Fuchs and you will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

We cannot begin to thank you enough for investing in our Teachers so that they in turn can invest in your child’s future. A big thank you also goes to Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Fuchs for coordinating these fantastic events!

