

Montessori Schools of Central Texas Newsletter

August 1, 2022

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

News from the Top

Parent Teacher Partnerships

Edward Fidellow



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Upcoming Events

August 2021

8/8	Staff Development Day School Closed
8/9	Fall Semester Begins
8/16	New Parent Orientation 5-6 p.m.



**Friday Splash Days
for Infant 2,
Toddler, Primary
& Elementary**

The parent teacher partnership is different than any other professional relationship you enter. You call the electrician to your house. You tell him what you think the problem is. He then uses his expertise and experience to diagnose and fix the problem. He doesn't need your help (nor does he want you to get shocked in the process). When he is finished you get the bill and he leaves. And everything was as it was before. It is the same for computers or cars or dishwashers.

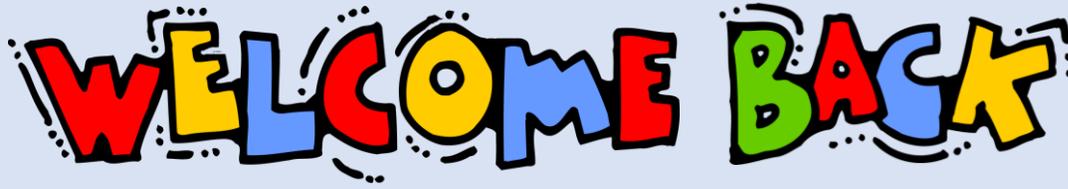
However, it is not the same for parent teacher partnerships. Your child is not a "problem" to be fixed. You don't drop off your child then pick him or her up and the "problem" is solved. Your child is a work of art that takes time to bring to creation. Each child is a unique masterpiece. Are you creating a song, a statue, a painting, a novel, or a monument?

The challenge is that few of us know at the beginning what masterpiece will come forth. If the art project is literature does the finished product look like a poem or a novel; a short story or lyrics; a biography or a history or anything in between? A great education gives the student the ability to communicate in that medium. Does an artist paint in oil or watercolor; pastels or charcoal? Do they paint portraits or landscapes, classical or modern?

Your child is that enigma of who they will become. You and the teachers share the journey of discovery. You are not creating the person but revealing what is already there in embryonic form. And with the right soil, water, and light, with sun and seasons will blossom into who they are to become.

Montessori teachers understand this process and then take their training and their experience and apply it to the mystery at hand. Like every good detective, they seek relevant clues to the unfolding mystery. And that is where the partnership begins.

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Infant 1 – Mrs. Wallace

I am thrilled to welcome our new students to Infant 1! Montessori Infant 1 provides a beautiful environment with talented, dedicated teachers, but it doesn't become a school until each child arrives. The joy and excitement that we see in the children's faces makes this more than just a school. It's a community that cares, shares, and learns together.

During the month of August, we aim to bond, build trust, and acceptance. Montessori babies require orientation - familiarizing themselves with their environment, order, consistency, and developing routines. We will be learning how to explore our environment through music, activities, and communication in English, Spanish, and ASL. Our vocabulary focus this month will be more, eat, and milk.

Our language discussions will center on the summer season, hot weather, watermelons, and the sun. We will explore the dog days of summer out on the porch with some water play. We will concentrate on the color yellow and circular shapes. Our priority will be to read and sing songs about summer and sunshine to our class. We are honored to have your support and the opportunity to educate and nurture your precious little one!

--- Mrs. Terri Wallace

Infant 2 – Mrs. Torres

I am so happy to welcome the new students to Infant 2. I know this will be a great year! The first few weeks will consist of learning the classroom routine as the students adjust to their new environment. The children will have freedom to choose their own work as we work toward learning more skills for independence.

We are going to start to use the words *please* and *thank you* in English and Spanish and ASL. As a class, we will also begin to have circle time altogether in the morning. During circle time, we will talk, sing, and read books in both English and Spanish. We also plan to do many crafts this month. We look forward to a great beginning of the school year.

Don't forget! On Fridays during August, the children will enjoy sprinkler play on their playground. Please send your child to school in a swimsuit, with a cover-up on. Please provide a LABELED towel, change of clothes and a swim diaper.

-- Mrs. Karla Torres

Toddler 1 & 2 – Ms. Gonzalez & Mrs. Clausen

We are very excited to start a new school year and are looking forward to welcoming our new students. By the end of this year, your child's independence will grow by leaps and bounds. Each of them will be able to dress themselves, be toilet trained, and learn the fundamentals of self-control in order to prepare them for Primary. Their English, Spanish, and Sign language will also grow immensely. Children will be able to restore their own work, practice social graces and practical life skills.

During the month of August, the toddlers will settle into a routine and learn the basic ground rules and routines for the classroom which will set our class up for success. We will discuss our five senses and the individual characteristics in a self-study of "All about Me." The students will identify objects in the mystery box by sound, match pictures to objects for visual discrimination, sort objects largest to smallest, and learn basic grooming techniques, such as washing one's face and hands, and combing one's hair.

For food preparation, the toddlers will peel and slice their own banana and learn how to serve their own snacks, including pouring from a pitcher. Our Spanish lessons will center around colors.

-- Ms. Janice Gonzalez & Mrs. Tammy Clausen

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

We are excited for the new school year. Welcome back to the returning students, and a special welcome to our new students. We thank you all for your patience as we settle into our classrooms for the semester and learn our routine. This month we will be focused on learning the procedures of the classroom as well as how to treat the materials in the classroom and care for our environment.

Our Bible focus will be on how to pray. We will also be learning our primary and secondary colors in English and Spanish. We will conclude the month with studying living and non-living things; food groups; and the sandpaper globe.

Please remember to label all your child's belongings including; lunch boxes, blankets, shoes, changes of clothes, and towels.

-- Mrs. Carmen Alvarado & Mrs. Veronica Prudencio

Elementary – Mrs. Abraham

Welcome returning and new elementary students! I hope you had a fantastic summer. I am looking forward to a great year ahead. For the month of August, we will focus on learning our routine and classroom rules. The children will also make their own name cards in order to help organize our classroom.

In physical science, we will use experiments to study the creation story, the formation of galaxies and stars, and we will begin to classify living and non-living things. In language, we will practice nouns, phonograms, and handwriting. In math, we will use concrete materials to perform different mathematical operations as well as study shapes, lines, and angles in geometry. For our geography lessons, we will explore the hemispheres map in order to be able to name the continents and oceans. We will also study landforms.

For our Bible lesson, we are going to begin with the creation story. We will also discuss and practice how to pray to God.

-- Mrs. Doline Abraham

Notes from Mrs. Watson:

Welcome to the 2022-2023 School Year, our 40th year! Please know in order for this to be a successful experience for your child, we must have good communication. The teachers have sent you their contact information if you have questions regarding the classroom, and for administrative questions, please contact me.

Did you know that we offer transportation between Harker Heights and Temple each day for children aged 4 and above? Please contact me if you are interested in this service.

New Parents: Please join me for a New Parent Orientation Meeting being held on Tuesday, August 16th from 5-6 p.m. Bring your handbook and questions. Childcare will be provided. This is a parent only meeting. When children are present, they get bored and the disruptions make the meeting run longer.

Please visit the Parent Portal on our website to view pictures and videos of your children. We update and add to the portal site at the end of every month.

Splash Days: During the month of August on Fridays, Infant 2, Toddler, Primary, and Elementary students will be participating in Splash Days. Please bring your child to school in their bathing suit with a cover-up on. Please provide a LABELED towel and a LABELED change of clothes in a Ziploc bag. Water shoes are optional. Please apply sunscreen to your child before arrival so that they are ready to go. INFANT 2 students should provide a swim diaper for the teacher to put on your child right before they go outside.

Blessings to all, Mrs. Jennifer Watson



Happy
Birthday



Helaina Singer	Elementary	August 7 th	8 Years
Wesley Pomerence	Toddler 2	August 10 th	2 Years
Fallyn Burgart	Infant 2	August 28 th	1 Year
Paisley Fuchs	Elementary	August 16 th	6 Years
Sebastian Forston	Elementary	August 19 th	8 Years
Mia Coles	Toddler 1	August 28 th	2 Years
Bernard Samuel	Primary 1	August 28 th	5 Years
Claire Van Velzen	Primary 2	August 28 th	5 Years
Eliana Garcia	Primary 1	August 29 th	3 Years
Elijah Tindall-Diehl	Primary 2	August 30 th	5 Years
Thein Doan	Primary 2	August 31 st	4 Years

Contact Us:

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Parent Teacher Partnerships

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You are a great repository of insight and information about your child. You, too, are going through a discovery process everyday with your child as they reveal their character, their temperament, their likes, and passions. The more of who your child is that you share with the teacher, the better the teacher is able to individualize and focus their teaching on the emerging personality.

Montessori education is not primarily about facts and figures even though Montessori children acquire this knowledge in great depth and understanding. Montessori education is about nurturing and educating your child through the prism of their personality. One size does not fit all and Montessori education is tailored to your child's strengths and gifts.

The more the teacher knows about your family (they spend so much time with your child that they become like aunts and uncles) the better they become at helping your child become the success that they are capable of. To gain the most from your Montessori experience there needs to be an ongoing relationship with your child's teacher. In Montessori you don't hire teachers - you adopt them. The partnership is one of love and concern that you both share for your child. Embrace the partnership for your child's sake.

-- Edward Fidellow, Montessorian



The Montessori Schools
of Central Texas

Educating the Total Child

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HOME ABOUT US PARENT RESOURCES PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES **FAQS** MITS

Parent Portal

 **PARENT PORTAL**

This content is password protected. To view it please enter your password below:

Password:

Don't forget to visit our Parent Portal to view pictures and videos from the classrooms! Please email us for the password, if needed:

Frontdesk@templemontessori.com