

Temple Montessori School Newsletter

October 2022

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



News from the Top

Learning the Language of Life Montessori Children Handle Big Words and Big Ideas

As a parent I was surprised about the words my children knew and used correctly (no, not the bad ones.) We've experienced them going from crying to making sounds, from sounds to their first words (mama, dada), from words to phrases (me go) to sentences - "I want candy." It seems like a long (and sometimes frustrating) process for both children and adults to begin to communicate. We can't wait for them to start talking and then ironically, we spend a lot of time telling them to be quiet.

The beginning formation of their language skills is "ice bergian." Ninety percent of what they know supports the ten percent that is audible. The structure of their language has been constructed by and large with little direct input. They have been sorting out the complexity of words and phrases. They don't yet possess all the building tools to communicate to the world they inhabit. That is why at an early age two phrases dominate their conversation - "Why?" and "What's that?" They are continually constructing and they need solid linguistic materials to build with.

Baby talk is sweet but does not contribute to linguistic development or communications. At an early age, at least by three if not sooner, children are ready (and capable) of big words and big ideas. A Montessori education builds on this sensitive period for language and learning by introducing advanced concepts. Parents are often amazed that their child can say "equilateral triangle" let alone know what it means. But is equilateral triangle any more complex linguistically than Elizabeth Washington?

A Montessori classroom is constantly introducing new concepts and constructs and a major part of this introduction is linguistic. It does little good to point out squares or circles unless you can call them by name, define them and find them again. Montessori education is noted for its "Three Period Lesson." First, you present the article. "This is red." "This is blue." Second, you ask, "Can you touch the red?" "Can you touch the blue?" (You see if they have understood the vocabulary.) Third, you ask, "What is this?" They answer "red." "What is this?" They answer "blue." (You see if they have mastered the vocabulary and the concept.)

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Upcoming Events

October 2022

10/10	Parent-Teacher Conference Day (Elementary & Primary) NO SCHOOL
10/15	Staff Training

Infant I - Mrs. Wallace

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. This month is a good time to refresh your child's extra clothes that are weather appropriate and have extra available for accidents.

October is a month filled with color. Our language discussions will be concentrated on the colors orange and brown. We will enjoy exploring pumpkins, fall leaves and whole corn. Our English, Spanish and ASL vocabulary focus will be "yes" and "no."

We want our babies to experience positivity and love while in our care. To help your child experience the very best transition, please send them to school in a clean diaper and full belly.

--Mrs. Terri Wallace

Infant II – Mrs. Torres

Here's the daily routine of the Infant 2 child. After the children arrive, we have our morning snack. The children learn how to pray and sit at the table. As they finish, we start diaper changes and encourage toilet learning. We use stand-up diapering for respect and so that they can visually identify their body. Next, we go outside to explore nature. This month, our topics will include the leaves, changing weather, animals, color identification, as well as gardening. Afterwards, the children come back inside for worktime, doing practical life, sensorial, gross motor activities, music, and language development. Fall art projects will also be added this month. We end worktime with a larger group lesson that includes foods, clothing, and Autumn. Lunch time is also a time for learning. The children practice using utensils, pray before eating, scrape their leftover food into the trashcan, and then wipe down their lunch area. After our busy morning, the children prepare for nap, listening to Mozart to aid in brain development. Once nap is over, and another diaper change, it's back outdoors to enjoy the cool weather while we can, along with another snack.

Our days are busy yet fun-filled, educational, and meaningful!

--Mrs. Karla Torres

Toddler I & II: Mrs. Clausen & Ms. Gonzalez

During the month of October, the toddlers will be discussing Christopher Columbus, pumpkins (calabazas), leaves (hojas), wild animals (animales salvajes), community helpers (colaboradores de la comunidad), and vegetables (vegetales) during our large group lessons. The children will also learn Spanish vocabulary for all large group lesson items. Our small group lessons will include using our senses to explore pumpkins, matching wild animals, grooming ourselves to keep our hands clean and noses wiped. The students will practice wiping down tables and cleaning leaves on plants. For art, we will paint pictures of community helpers and make creative pieces out of leaves. Food preparation lessons will include making pumpkin break, washing and slicing vegetables, and serving snack. Outside, we will garden and enjoy a nature walk.

--Mrs. Tammy Clausen & Ms. Janice Gonzalez



Primary I & II - Mrs. Alvarado, Ms. Copeland, & 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 have new Good Shepherd hands-on Bible curriculum to enhance our stories on “Abraham and Sarah” from the book of Genesis, and “The Promised Land” from the book of Joshua.

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. For cooking, we will make ground beef empanadas and pumpkin muffins. 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.

Music lessons will resume this month and our featured composer is Ludwig Van Beethoven. We will also explore percussion instruments.

-- Mrs. Carmen Alvarado, Ms. Copeland & Mrs. Veronica Prudencio

Elementary – Mrs. Abraham & Mrs. Walker

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 instrument and Mrs. Schaefer will host weekly music lessons. 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. Our Good Shepherd Bible lessons will be “The Promised Land” and “The Temple-A House of God.”

-- Mrs. Dolline Abraham & Mrs. Walker

Notes from Mrs. Watson:

On Monday, October 10th, 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. We will have studies centered upon fall planting and harvest.

-- Mrs. Jennifer Watson



Happy Birthday



▪ Jordan Garza	Infant 1	October 3 rd	1 Year
▪ Luke Hilton	Toddler 2	October 9 th	2 Years
▪ Nora Vuong	Primary 1	October 9 th	5 Years
▪ Mitchell Joyner	Elementary	October 10 th	8 Years
▪ Amina Anthony	Primary 1	October 12 th	4 Years
▪ Myra Joyner	Primary 1	October 13 th	6 Years
▪ Dorian Anthony	Primary 2	October 14 th	6 Years
▪ Lily Martin	Elementary	October 17 th	7 Years
▪ Emberlynn Shelton	Elementary	October 19 th	10 Years
▪ Audrey Sisco	Primary 1	October 20 th	6 Years
▪ Peyton Fuchs	Toddler 2	October 20 th	3 Years
▪ Dylan Baker	Toddler 1	October 23 rd	3 Years
▪ Ashliam Montalvo	Elementary	October 27 th	7 Years
▪ George Van Velzen	Infant 1	October 27 th	1 Year
▪ Sebastian Daza	Primary 2	October 31 st	4 Years

Contact Us:



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Language starts with the concrete - mama, doggie, cat and proceeds to action - "me go, I jump." And then it begins to add the color of adjectives - tall, short, biggest, smallest (all demonstrated in the classroom) until language blooms into conversation, discussion (and debate.)

When our son started Montessori at 17 months we wanted to be good Montessori parents by offering him choices he could make. Everyday for breakfast we held up two boxes of cereal and asked, "Do you want this or that?" Cereal, thereafter, became known as "dis and dat." (In hindsight, we should have been correct and named the cereals for him - but it would have ruined a good story!)

It is important that we correctly name the words and actions of their lives. A Montessori classroom is constantly adding vocabulary to a child's linguistic development. Studies have indicated that extensive vocabularies are a hallmark of successful adults. This process and habit of vocabulary acquisition is a foundational concept of your child's Montessori experience.

While we do use body language and facial gestures, oral language is the predominant means of communication. Helping your child communicate clearly their needs, desires, frustrations, etc helps them to move on to the more complex use of language and culture - the ability to define (and embrace) intangible concepts like love, hope and faith. Ironically, (and I don't know how it comes about) the first intangible concept they latch on to is wrapped up in the words, "It's not fair." But it is from there that justice, respect, duty, honor, honesty, loyalty begin to form with the child and are defined.

One of Montessori education's great gifts to your child is the emphasis and focus on observation. Your child is given training and time to become an observer. As has been said, "You can see a lot if you just look." The materials and exercises of the classroom are designed to aid your child during these earliest formative years to develop the habit of not only observing but of naming and defining the experience.

It is never just the accumulation of knowledge (or vocabulary) but the ability to use that knowledge to think, to communicate and to formulate the actions that are necessary for success. The more you talk with your child the more you develop the communication skills your child needs to succeed in the world.

Edward Fidellow, Montessorian

In Loving Remembrance



Mrs. Elidia Garza March 9, 1956 - September 19, 2022

We honor Mrs. Elidia Garza and her family during this difficult time. Mrs. Garza was our first employee, shaping young minds and touching hundreds of children positively during her twenty-year tenure. She earned AMS certification in Early Childhood and mentored teachers as well. Her sense of humor, giving heart, and Christian spirit is well remembered and will be cherished forever.

We love you, Elidia, and know that we will meet again.