

January 2023

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



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Upcoming Events January 2022

1/2	Staff Development Day SCHOOL CLOSED
1/3	First Day of Spring Semester
1/16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day SCHOOL CLOSED
1/30-2/1	Hearing & Vision Screening

Notes from the Top

Parent Teacher Partnerships

by Edward Fidellow

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 water color; 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.

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Infant 1 - Mrs. Wallace

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope each of you enjoyed your time together during our holiday break. A big thank you to all the parents for all the lovely Christmas gifts! It was very considerate and thoughtful of you and we greatly appreciate it.

One thing I enjoy most about this age group is how fast the students grow and develop. In December we asked for your help in supporting your child's independence over the break by allowing them the opportunity to hold their own bottle, use a spoon, or drink from an open cup. I cannot wait to see just how much each child has evolved during that short time! We know it was messy, but we appreciate your trust in our request. By allowing them to use their independence, you're giving your child the opportunity to develop their own personality and problem-solving abilities. This month we will continue working on independent eating skills in class and encourage you to do the same at home. We will also introduce Arctic animals, snow, ice, and polar bears.

-- Mrs. Terri Wallace

Infant 2 – Ms. Torres

Welcome back and happy New Year! This month our infants are going to be working on many practical life skills. During mealtime we will be working on having our children get their own plates and getting their own snacks and lunch boxes to bring to the table. They will use open cups for their water and milk, learning control and strengthening their hand-eye coordination. When children are finished, they will practice wiping down their tables and we'll add soap to the dishwashing lesson. They will be learning to clean their faces and brush their hair, as well as practicing to change into their inside shoes when they come inside.

In circle time this month we will be reading books and talking about winter and wild animals. We will learn vocabulary about different body parts and in Spanish we will continue adding more numbers and colors. Each week a student will learn how to feed the fish - a job that everyone is excited about! Our infants are becoming more independent every day and we enjoy watching them take pride in what they can do for themselves.

-- Mrs. Karla Torres

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

It's hard to believe that the New Year is already here! This month, we will be discussing the winter season, the continent of Antarctica, igloos, and Arctic animals. We will take nature walks and practice our coordination by walking in a straight line. We'll be working on our independence by wiping our noses, dressing ourselves, and hanging up our coats when we arrive each day.

Our small group lessons will be geared toward winter themes. The students will be ice-picking (hammering), snowball (cotton) transferring, matching arctic animals, and exploring seasonal sensory bottles. In music and movement, we'll also be singing songs, dancing, and playing instruments. For art, the students will create snowflakes and make cotton ball paintings.

Finally, our toddlers will be learning how to serve their snacks, wash fruits and vegetables, and squeeze fresh orange juice!

-- Ms. Janice Gonzalez & Mrs. Tammy Clausen

Primary 1 & 2 – Mrs. Alvarado, Ms. Copeland, & Mrs. Prudencio

Happy New Year and welcome back students! Our Cultural focus this month will be on the Continent of Africa. The students will learn the countries, customs, and animals that inhabit this land. We will also introduce the students to delightful dishes, African art projects, and the children will practice walking while balancing a basket on their head. Also, during January, the students will become paleontologists, studying fossils, and identifying dinosaurs by name and diet: omnivore, herbivore, or carnivore. They will also match dinosaurs with their skeletons.

For Bible, the students will hear stories about *Jesus and the Children* and *Jesus and Zacchaeus*. In Zoology, we will learn the anatomy and life cycle of a turtle. Finally, this month Mozart will be our featured musician.

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

Elementary – Mrs. Abraham & Mrs. Walker

For this first month of the New Year, the elementary students will be participating in a study of light for Physical Science. We will research sources of light, how light travels in a straight line, reflection, and refraction. In Geography, we will learn about the landforms, capes, and bays, identify the layers of the earth, tectonic plates, and the continental drift. Our continental focus will be Africa, learning the countries, flags, capitals, and culture.

In Language, the students will do sentence construction, reading analysis, and verb analysis. For Math, we will subtract fractions and work with equivalency. The parts of the American flag and the significance of the thirteen folds will be our Civics study for the month. For our Bible lessons, we will study stories of Jesus in the Temple, Jesus being Baptized, and Jesus with Zacchaeus. Lastly, the students will be creating a family tree for history.

-- Mrs. Doline Abraham & Mrs. Walker

Notes from Mrs. Watson

January 30th- February 1st, children aged 4 by September 1, 2022, will undergo required hearing and vision screens. As a parent, you do not need to do anything other than have your child present for those three days. These tests are important to help determine if your child's vision and hearing falls within the normal range for their age and if further diagnostic testing is needed by a physician. You will receive notification once these tests have been completed.

The most common misconception is that young children see at the desired 20/20 range; however eyes are not fully developed until the age of 8, typically. At age 4, children pass with 20/40 vision, unless there is a two-line difference between each eye. At age 5 and above, the state considers passing at the 20/30 line.

Also, I have found in the past that the few children who have failed the initial hearing test, will pass with a re-screen a couple weeks later because they were congested which affected their ability to hear during the first screen.

In my experience, these tests have proven beneficial because children will often over-compensate to see, which can mask vision problems. Catching hearing and vision problems early can have a positive impact on your child's health and general ability to thrive.

**If your child wears glasses, please ensure that they bring them!

-- Mrs. Jennifer Watson



Happy Birthday



Kohen Castilleja	Toddler 1	January 1 st	3 Years
Penelope Greco	Elementary	January 9 th	8 Years
Theodore Cooney	Primary 1	January 9 th	5 Years
Luke Judy	Infant 2	January 11 th	2 Years
Dylan Cooper	Primary 1	January 12 th	5 Years
Evelyn Tisdale	Elementary	January 13 th	7 Years
Liv Sparkes	Toddler 2	January 14 th	3 Years
Millie Betik	Toddler 2	January 15 th	3 Years
Roman Barton	Primary 1	January 17 th	4 Years
Oona Carlin	Primary 2	January 19 th	5 Years
Sasha McMahan	Primary 2	January 25 th	6 Years

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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. 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.

Updates from the Elementary Christmas Service Project:



Thank you everyone for supporting the Elementary class Operation Christmas Child service project. All in total, MSCT students donated forty-three shoeboxes! Children around the world will be delighted when they receive the box that your student(s) packed with so much love and thoughtfulness. Your generous gifts will make a big difference in their lives this Christmas season!