

MSCT School Newsletter

March 2023

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



News from the Top

The Kindergarten Year in Montessori

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Kindergarten is the harvest year for all the planting and intellectual tending that has gone on for the preceding years in preschool. The kindergarten child's learning explodes into an avalanche of reading and writing and math. All of the earlier preparation (practical life, sensorial) now finds academic outlets. The kindergarten child not only gains a wider breadth of knowledge but a deeper understanding of what she has learned and now is able to use this knowledge to enhance her own intellectual pursuits.

A Montessori education is not just cumulative in its learning; it is exponential in its understanding. The learning that happens in kindergarten is not just adding another year's knowledge but multiplying what is learned and applying it to what is to come.

It is common for Montessori kindergarten graduates to be able to read well (and write) and to understand math far beyond addition and subtraction all the way to multiplication, division and geometry.

Maybe even more significantly, the lifetime patterns of responsibility, goal setting, having a work ethic, working through mistakes, inquiry and curiosity are being firmly set.

To miss this formative year that sets successful life patterns is to miss the ultimate advantage of this unique preschool experience.

The kindergarten year in a Montessori classroom is also the year of mentoring. It is the year when the five-year-old is able to really help her classmates. This mentoring year is significant for two reasons. First, when you teach others, you really master the subject for yourself. Second, when you are asked to teach you demonstrate your mastery of the material. It is this mastery that produces the profound feelings of self-confidence and assurance that is the hallmark of Montessori students. Real achievement and real achievement demonstrated builds real self-esteem.

Upcoming Events

March 2023

3/1	2023-2024 Registration Open to the Waitlist
3/5	Open House 2-4 p.m.
3/13-17	Spring Break
3/24	Asian Cultural Activity
3/31	Lunch-A-Palooza Fundraiser Kickoff

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Infant 1

Spring can be so much fun in a school setting. I am excited for a fun-filled Spring with our infants exploring everything from clouds to rainbows to flowers! The weather will start to warm up which will allow us to venture outside and experience the breeze, the sensation of the grass, and the many sights and sounds this season has to offer. Considering this, please remember to send a light jacket or sweater, labeled with their name, to school each day.

For the month of March, the older Infant 1 children will also be focusing on transition requirements for the infant 2 classroom. One of the tasks to master is walking. You can help by sending proper walking shoes to school with your child so that they can practice while here with us. We'll also continue to work on self-feeding. Please keep practicing at home by letting your child use a spoon or fork and a plate. It's amazing how much progress your infants have already made!

-- Mrs. Terri Wallace

Infant 2

This month in Infant 2 we will be focusing on the skills that will prepare the children for moving to the toddler classroom. Toilet training, setting tables, getting their own lunch boxes, and washing their hands will be among these skills. In circle time and group lessons we will continue talking about farm animals and the sounds they make, construction and transportation vehicles, and everything Spring. We'll spend time gardening, learning about soil, plants, and flowers, and continue to enjoy our new playground.

-- Mrs. Karla Torres

Toddler 1 & 2

For this month, the toddler students will participate in a lot of gardening, from planting seeds, to watering, and caring for our new plants as we watch them grow. We will do flower arranging, insect card matching, and art projects with bees and butterflies. Our food preparation activities will include peeling oranges, slicing vegetables, and spreading butter on bread. Since the weather will be warming up, the Spring season always brings lots of fun activities for outside too! We'll be practicing throwing and catching a ball on our playground and exploring nature by spotting bugs, birds, and plants.

As we get closer to the end of the year, we'll start focusing on the skills that our children will need in order to move to the Primary level. Skills like dressing themselves, using the toilet, putting on their own shoes, folding their blanket after nap, and opening and closing the containers in their lunchboxes on their own, will be a few. You can help by letting your children practice as many of these skills as possible at home too.

-- Mrs. Tammy Clausen & Ms. Janice Gonzalez

Primary

For the month of March our cultural focus will be Asia. The students will work with the continent map, make recipes from the region, and learn about the people, customs, various languages, and animals that inhabit this part of the world. We will be creating Asian artwork as well as putting together an Asian performance that parents are invited to attend! Please see below for details.

To further our study of the spring season, the students will learn the names of many varieties of flowers and indigenous birds and participate in many botany and gardening lessons throughout the month. There the children will learn to identify parts of a seed, leaf, and plant. In Spanish we'll introduce the word for weather: *el clima*. And bible studies this month will be from the stories "The Good Samaritan," "The Great Banquet," and "The Sower."

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

Elementary

March will be a busy month for our elementary students! In Physical Science we will study heat and solar energy, as well as participate in related experiments. The lifecycle of a mammal and identifying anatomical parts will be our Zoology focus. In Bible, we will learn about the Good Samaritan, the Sower, and the Great Banquet.

In Geography this month we will be focused on studying the continent of Asia. The students will learn about the national birds, flowers, and flags of the 14 Asian countries, and will also be creating a performance with music and dance from that region. Parents are invited to attend! Please see below for details.

Spanish vocabulary in March will be centered on naming clothing, or *ropa*, while in language they will focus on prepositions. The students will practice Golden Bead division in math and work with the Checkerboard to solve equations.

With the weather getting warmer, we are excited to spend more time outside! We'll take our botany classes in the garden where we'll learn about different fruits, their parts, and which fruits we can eat and those we cannot.

-- Mrs. Dolline Abraham & Mrs. Monica Walker

Asian Cultural Activity

March 24, 2023

2:00 pm

Parents of Primary and Elementary students are invited to attend a performance that features what they've learned about this beautiful and diverse continent. There will be songs and dancing, a fashion show, and samples of food from Asia!

This event will be held on the campus splash pad. Some benches and chairs will be provided; however, parents are encouraged to bring camp chairs or blankets for

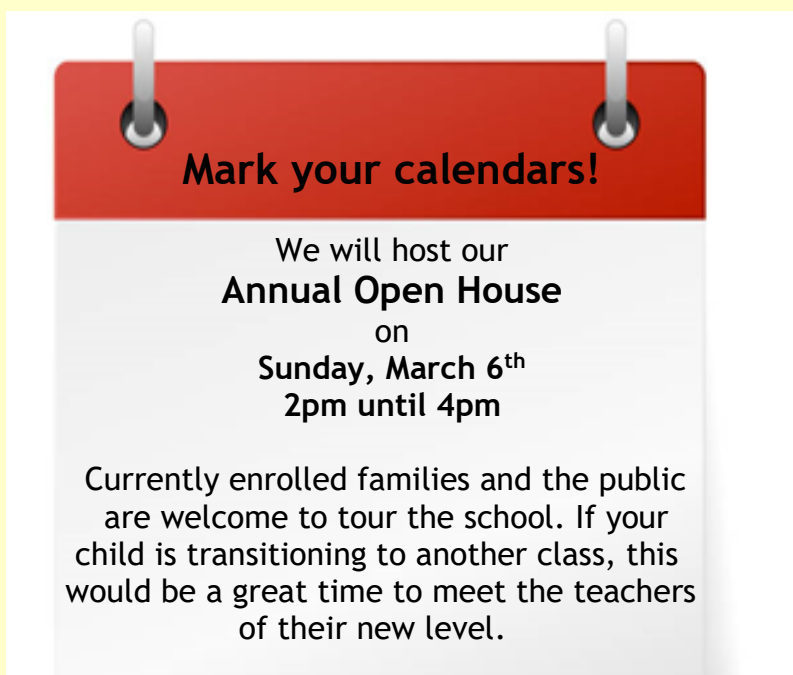


Happy
Birthday



- Charles Knaus Elementary March 1st 9 Years
- Sebastian Perez Toddler 2 March 6th 3 Years
- Karina Soto Primary 2 March 11th 4 Years
- Phuong Doan Elementary March 12th 7 Years
- Cordellia Lindblad Infant 2 March 12th 2 Years
- Eloise Troy Elementary March 18th 7 Years
- Sami Matic Elementary March 21st 8 Years
- Emma Daza Infant 1 March 23rd 1 Year
- Ryan Rawdah Elementary March 29th 7 Years

Infant II Valentine's Day Party.



**This month we'll kick off our first fundraising event
in support of our 2023-2024 Intern teachers:**

Mrs. Preciado (Primary 2)
Ms. Gonzalez (Toddler 1)
Mrs. Wallace (Infant 1)

Lunch-A-Palooza!

By participating in this fundraiser, MSCT will provide your child with a nutritious, hot lunch each day for up to two weeks!

*** Details coming soon ***

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Leaving the Montessori program before kindergarten often places a child into an educational setting that is not as advanced; nor one that allows for the initiative that has been carefully cultivated during the earlier preschool years. The child is often introduced to a different curriculum one that lacks the individual intellectual satisfaction that comes from exploring and discovering the wonderful world of learning found in Montessori.

The essence of successful life is to be able to make wise choices. The Montessori kindergarten student is at a major threshold of exercising that wise decision making power. To lose that opportunity is to lose a significant part of the hard won success of the preceding years.

The great gift of an education is not the accumulation of facts and statistics but the lighting of the fire of learning, discovery and joy. It is a gift that Montessori children have the privilege and pleasure of opening and using for a lifetime.

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