

# MSCT School Newsletter

November 2023

Mrs. Jennifer Watson – Director



## News From the Top

### Why is Grace and Courtesy a Big Deal in Montessori?

By Ed Fidellow

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#### Upcoming Events

November 2023

- 11/1 Angel Tree Begins
- 11/5 DST Ends- Fall back
- 11/8 Lower Elem FT
- 11/9 Upper Elem FT
- 11/10 Veteran's Day  
No School
- 11/17 Thanksgiving Lunch  
12:30 Dismissal
- 11/20-24 Thanksgiving Break  
No School
- 11/28 Temple Fire Dept
- 12/1 Camp Christmas  
Registration Due

You cannot observe a Montessori classroom for even a short time without coming away with the impression that Montessori children are by and large very polite, orderly, and impressively quiet and serene. This atmosphere is created by the lessons of “grace and courtesy”. Grace and courtesy – good manners, caring about each other, and putting others first – are solid virtues that make possible the extraordinary academic gains of a Montessori classroom. Grace and courtesy is one of the non-traditional academic foundations of a successful Montessori education. It is significant even beyond the academic accomplishments that your child will achieve in Montessori.

Many lessons in Montessori (and life) are learned obliquely or indirectly as a by-product of other lessons. (For example, in Montessori all of the lessons of practical life are really preparations for reading and writing.)

While the exercises of grace and courtesy are tremendously valuable all by themselves, they also lead to four significant outcomes.

While the Montessori environment is a classroom of individual learners, each progressing as quickly as they can, it is also a community of learners who help, encourage and teach each other. The courtesy of using an inside voice so as not to disturb their classmates; the courtesy of walking so as not to disrupt the learning going on is just the beginning of creating a unique learning environment. Sharing the learning materials, waiting your turn patiently, preferring and helping each other transforms the classroom into an oasis of peace where concentration and learning can happen. Valuing community is a significant outcome.

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## Infant I

During the month of November, we will continue to work on tummy time and walking exercises. Helping your child meet their milestones keeps our hearts full! For English, Spanish, and ASL vocabulary, we will be focusing on saying “please” and “thank you”, and we will continue with the colors of fall and the shape and feel of a pumpkin. Please feel free to bring any fun-shaped pumpkins or gourds to class for the children to see and touch.

Babies can begin eating solid foods at 6 months old, and by the time they are 7 or 8 months, they can eat a variety of foods from different food groups. If your child has begun to eat solid foods, they are ready for you to send them with a healthy lunch. Many of our infants can enjoy the snacks we provide and are ready for more than just milk at lunchtime. They are growing so quickly! Also, with the weather getting cooler, don't forget to send a light jacket with your child for outdoor playtime.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we will begin talking about gratitude and are mindful of our blessings. Our lives are filled with hugs and smiles every day from your sweet babies, and for that we are grateful!

- Mrs. Terri Wallace

## Infant II

Throughout November we'll continue talking about pumpkins and corn, and we'll add some conversation in circle time about Thanksgiving and gratefulness. The children will begin using basic Spanish words like, “hi,” “please,” and “thank you,” as well as, creating Thanksgiving-themed artwork. This month students will also start working with open cups and utensils, and some of our students are ready to start toilet training-- a big milestone! We are enjoying the cooler temperatures and love spending more time on the playground. We look forward to seeing the leaves change colors and observing the blooming fall gardens that are planted around the school. It's a season filled with sensorial learning opportunities!

--Mrs. Karla Torres

## Toddler

November will be a month filled with many seasonal small and large group activities. During our small group lessons, the toddler classes will be enhancing their fine motor skills by spooning cranberries and shucking fresh corn. Our large group lessons will include circle time and Spanish lessons covering thankfulness (gratitud), Turkey (pavo), Native Americans (Nativos Americanos), Pilgrims (Peregrinos), and corn (maiz).

As the weather grows colder, the toddler students will learn how to put on their own sweaters and jackets to build more independence. When outside, we will continue tending to our fall gardens and talking about the changing weather. The toddler students will also practice sweeping and raking leaves. While inside, the children will create many Thanksgiving arts and crafts this month, like handprint turkeys and cornucopias!

We hope you'll join us for our Thanksgiving celebration! This is always a special time for our students, parents, and teachers to gather together. As we get closer, sign-up sheets will be available for families to decide what they'll bring to share.

--Mrs. Tammy Clausen

## Primary

We have many exciting lessons in store for the month of November. The students will wrap up their study of our solar system with a focus on Saturn and Neptune. Next, we will delve into the layers of our Earth and move into rock classification and volcanoes. For social graces and courtesies, the students will be taught how to care for books, proper usage and placement of a napkin, table setting, and dining etiquette. Cooking lessons will involve making a dessert for our Thanksgiving celebration, *pan de bono*, a Columbian dish, to tie into our study of South America. For our Bible lessons, the students will hear the stories of *A Baby in a Basket*, *The Burning Bush*, and *The Ten Plagues*. Lastly, the primary students will be able to define an isthmus and strait, compare the size of planets, learn weather patterns, and classify plants and animals. We also look forward to honoring our Veterans this month!

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



## Lower Elementary

This month, our Elementary students will be introduced to the first level of fractions in Math. They'll be learning about verbs and different kinds of nouns in Language and identifying types of roots in Botany. In Science, we are exploring states of matter and the water cycle. Students will be working on a family timeline this month and be learning about our first president in History. For Bible study, we'll read about Mary's House, Elizabeth's House, and a story about Mary and Joseph.

With the holidays nearing, students will spend time learning about the first Thanksgiving and completing themed arts and crafts. We're looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving with all of you as we gather for a luncheon on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sign-up sheet for items you can contribute as we get closer.

-- Mrs. Walker

## Upper Elementary

For the month of November, we will shift gears studying our first President, George Washington. In geography, we will focus on the South American continent, learning the culture, countries, flags, and capitals. Our Botany studies will center on roots to learn the parts and the types of roots, and root adaptation.

In Bible, we will read about *Prophet's Show the Way*, *Mary's House*, *Elizabeth's House*, and *Mary and Joseph*. In Zoology, the children will learn the parts of a fish and also research different species. Our Physical Science experiments will encompass states of matter and the water cycle. We will also introduce fractions in math and complete various verb lessons in language.

For history, the students will continue working on their personal family timeline and we will also learn about our first Thanksgiving. There will be plenty of Thanksgiving crafts also as we prepare to celebrate together at the end of the month. We hope you'll join us for this special event!

-- Mrs. Dolline Abraham



Happy  
Birthday



|                   |            |                           |         |
|-------------------|------------|---------------------------|---------|
| ▪ Leah Ellis      | Primary 2  | November 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 4 Years |
| ▪ Julian Preciado | Primary 1  | November 11 <sup>th</sup> | 4 Years |
| ▪ Madelyn Tisdale | Primary 2  | November 12 <sup>th</sup> | 4 Years |
| ▪ Knox Sparkes    | Primary 1  | November 12 <sup>th</sup> | 5 Years |
| ▪ Lane Deholloz   | Lower Elem | November 12 <sup>th</sup> | 7 Years |
| ▪ Ellis Conley    | Infant 2   | November 15 <sup>th</sup> | 2 Years |
| ▪ Vira Soto       | Infant 2   | November 15 <sup>th</sup> | 2 Years |
| ▪ Henry Samfield  | Upper Elem | November 15 <sup>th</sup> | 7 Years |
| ▪ Siyona Naik     | Upper Elem | November 18 <sup>th</sup> | 7 Years |
| ▪ Hayden Barton   | Upper Elem | November 18 <sup>th</sup> | 7 Years |
| ▪ Paxton Pehl     | Lower Elem | November 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 8 Years |
| ▪ Aila Mascorro   | Primary 2  | November 27 <sup>th</sup> | 4 Years |

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Second, grace and courtesy leads to the most significant lesson in life – how to love. Love is the ability (and the desire) to put someone else’s needs in front of yours – wanting the best for them. Whether it is holding a door, letting them go first, or doing what pleases them, love is a great lesson (most often demonstrated in small actions and ways.) Grace and courtesy is the doorway to love.

The third benefit of grace and courtesy is the building of self-respect. Interestingly, when we are kind and courteous to others, we like ourselves better. The young child cannot articulate all the conflicting emotions that are part of growing up, but the structure of grace and courtesy helps them enjoy the feelings that come from a calm and orderly environment. They are much more at peace with themselves when they are at peace with their neighbor.

The fourth benefit is that grace and courtesy contributes to the development of self-control. Grace and courtesy give children an external set of markers that they internalize and practice which in turn leads them to change their own behavior. This is the first step to controlling themselves. Self-control will lead to focus; focus will lead to accomplishment; accomplishment will lead to success.

Not a bad byproduct for “Please” and “Thank you”.



## Elementary Community Service Project 2023

This Christmas season, the Elementary classes will be conducting a community service project by partnering with the Salvation Army to host an Angel Tree. The Angel Tree project is a local effort to shop for a child whose family is experiencing financial difficulties during the holiday season. When a parent registers their child to be a recipient, the Salvation Army add them to a list of "angels" that include the child's age, gender, clothing sizes, interests, and their most desired item and provides it to members of the community who are interested in supporting them with gifts. For many children, this is an item of clothing such as pants, socks, or a winter coat. In partnership with The Salvation Army, MSCT will have a tree of angels displayed in the front office from **November 1<sup>st</sup> – December 14<sup>th</sup>**. If you wish to participate, please stop by and choose an angel from the tree; then bring it to an office staff member or a lead teacher so that we can record the child's information as well as the family that has been chosen.

Please open your hearts to the young children in need and consider blessing one or many children this season. We ask that if you select angels, you have their gifts returned by **December 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.** Please do not wrap the gifts, per the request of the Salvation Army, so they are able to ensure the gifts received are in good condition to pass on to the families.

Questions or concerns can be directed to Mrs. Walker at [msct.lowerelementary@gmail.com](mailto:msct.lowerelementary@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for your support!

## Notes from Mrs. Watson:

The Toddler through Elementary classes will be hosting a Thanksgiving luncheon with performances on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Each class will have a sign-up sheet of requested items.

The performances will start at 10:30 am, followed by lunch. We will have three serving lines for you to choose from. Please do bring your dish hot, ready, and covered.

Believe it or not, Christmas is right around the corner! We were able to secure the American Legion Hall, but I have been unable to secure volunteers to help, from 8 am to 1:30 pm. The teachers are watching children and also preparing them for their performances, so we must have volunteers to pull this huge event off! I am hoping that a military crew will step forward so that this event can be successful, or even 10 parents. Please consider volunteering so that we can use this wonderful space.

A couple of weeks ago, I shared with you my hearts' desire to purchase additional, beautiful, wooden playground pieces for our Infant 2 and Toddler playground, as well as send our Lead Teachers to the Christian Montessori Fellowship conference in January. I would ask that you consider enrolling your children into our Camp Christmas which is a fun-filled event taking place December 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. This week will not be about academic learning, but rather all things Christmas, from making gifts and crafts, stringing garlands, watching classic Christmas movies, baking and decorating gingerbread cookies, Christmas caroling, dancing, tons of games, and participation in cooking nutritious lunches. Yes, two snacks and lunch are included! The deadline to register is Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

At this time, we are offering Camp Christmas to our Primary and Elementary students. If there is enough interest in a combination Infant 2 and Toddler Camp Christmas, I will certainly offer this opportunity. Please let me know if you are interested!

I emailed you the pictures of the playground equipment (\$8295) and the details about the CMF conference (\$8500). If your child will not be able to participate in our Camp Christmas, please make a tax-deductible donation of any amount to go towards these worth goals! Thank you in advance for your kind generosity! It's parents like you that make all the difference, and our children benefit greatly from our supportive community.

God bless each of you,

Mrs. Jennifer Watson