

Montessori
Child Development Center

NEWSLETTER

February 2019



www.montessorichilddevelopment.com

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE

Please sign-up for our 2nd Parent-Teacher conference on Monday, February 11. Your child's teacher will discuss your child's progress and goals for the second term. This is a great time to ask questions and learn more about the foundational lessons being presented to your child to prepare him or her to the next level.

The school will be closed that day, and daycare will be available during your conference time only.

ELSA'S WORM BRIGADE

Our "wormbassador", Elsa Caton, age 4, has started a new movement here at MCDC: DON'T STEP ON THE CUTE WORMS! (#dontstep). She is our new protector of annelids. Combined a few caring children, they have formed the MCDC Worm Brigade. Elsa's mission is to reroute all lost worms back to their homes or relocate them to a new home. With all the heavy rain, worms have surfaced to seek for shelter from the massive deluge overtaking their homes. If you see a lost worm, there are green papers all around the campus for you to use to transport these little critters safely back to their homes or new location.

You might find this amusing, but little children learn act of kindness from their environment. Caring for nature, even a little worm, can mean so much. Empathy towards others begins with little acts like these. Caring for living things is understanding that each and every one of us matters. Mundane things we ignore could be seen as an important and learning opportunity for a young child.

VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION

Love is in the Air. Our Valentine's Day celebration will be on Thursday, February 14. The children may bring a Valentine note or card for their friends. Please fill cards "TO MY FRIEND" and "FROM (Child's Name)."

A snack sign-up is posted on the bulletin board in some classrooms. Please bring lunch. Parents are welcome to volunteer to read a story, help set up or clean up, and do arts and crafts. Please check the sign-up sheet for details or speak to your child's teacher. To make this day more festive, be sure to dress your child in red or pink.

The festivities will start at 9:30 and end at approximately 11:00 a.m. Each class may have a different schedule, so be sure to check with the teacher if you are planning on volunteering.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, February 7

100 Days of School
Celebration

Monday, February 11

Parent Teacher
Conference/First Semester
Progress Report
(School Closed/ Daycare
available during
conference time only.)

Thursday, February 14

Valentine's Day
Celebration

Monday, February 18

Presidents' Day
(School Closed)

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR
KINDERGARTEN/ELEMENTARY
INFORMATION DAY.

THANK YOU TO THE WERBER AND
BETTENDORF FAMILIES WHO DONATED
SCHOOL ITEMS.

Montessori Q & A

WHY DO WE TEACH PRACTICAL LIFE ACTIVITIES?

The inner need of a young children is to become the master of himself, his environment, and to learn to relate socially to others.

Children are dependent on the adult because they lack the necessary muscular coordination to perform independently. This dependence is therefore a biological condition.

Muscular coordination is achieved through MOVEMENT. This explains why the young child is impelled or driven by an inner force to grow and develop continually, seeking out opportunity for movement and activity. Movement is essential to the very life of the child.

The Exercises of Practical Life are grouped under four main headings:

1. Exercises for CARE OF PERSON
2. Exercises for CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
3. Exercises for SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS and for GRACE AND COURTESY
4. Exercises for the PERFECT CONTROL and REFINEMENT OF MOVEMENT

The exercises of Practical Life are scientifically designed with a specific purpose and are graded by difficulty, from simple to complex. Their very nature is drawn from life and is used to prepare a child for a successful and satisfying experience with each activity. It builds concentration, confidence, coordination and refinement of movement, self-discipline, independence, and develops conscious awareness.

Thoughts to Ponder

BUILDING CHARACTER

No reward, praise, preaching, or any form of admonishment will build a child's character. What I'm referring to is doing the right thing or good things because one chooses to without expecting a reward, recognition, or fear of punishment in the end. There is no threat or temptation to being good because it's what one desires. Children want to perfect themselves. The process takes time, and only through purposeful work that they build character.

Here's an excerpt from Dr. Montessori's book, *The Absorbent Mind*. "Children do not work with an outer aim; it is evident that they have another aim which is not external, but directed by nature. These repeated and concentrated activities always share one feature; the mind and the hand are engaged in it together. We must envisage this and try to understand it. These children are building the character of man, they are elaborating the inner qualities which we admire in a person of character; the ability to decide rapidly, constancy at work. These qualities have not been developed in response to preaching or to our examples. We must study character from a positive point of view: character is only acquired through long and gradual exercise which lasts for years. This is achieved in the period from 3 to 6 years and this creation and elaboration of qualities of character are carried out along the lines nature established for the formation of the human personality...The construction of character is accompanied by work so that at six years of age the construction of mental qualities and character has been fundamentally accomplished."

"The work of education for children of this age is therefore not to preach to them; there is only one way of helping this spontaneous development of character and that is to prepare the environment for their development and then to respect their intelligent activities and leave them alone. It is useless to put examples in front of these children. For one thing, they may do better than the example already; and in any case it is useless to preach to them, it is like talking to the wind."

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



2 YEARS OLD
FILEY 2/25

8 YEARS OLD
NEHEMYAH 2/18

4 YEARS OLD
SCARLETT 2/22

9 YEARS OLD
ALESSIO 2/10

5 YEARS OLD
SASHA 2/10
SAI 2/27

STAFF
MS. JEN 2/3

LUNAR NEW YEAR

Wishing everyone a Happy Lunar New Year! We had a wonderful parade and potluck to celebrate the Year of the Pig. Some of the children wore the traditional Chinese or Vietnamese outfits and others wore red and yellow. We are grateful to all the families who brought food and treats. We bought eggrolls from the donations and enjoyed the delicious food! Headed by our paper dragon, the rain didn't stop us from parading from class to class.

