

MONTESSORI

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Dates to remember

2 – Dr. Seuss' Birthday

17 – St. Patrick's Day

21 – Spring Pictures

31- Registration Forms Due

31- Kindergarten and Elementary Night



Kindergarten Information Night

It's that time of the year where parents have to decide where to place their children for Kindergarten. For most 2nd year Montessori students (typically 4-5 years old), the basic foundation have been presented and it is in the 3rd year (5-6 Kindergarten age) when everything they have absorbed in their two years will begin to make sense. In the 3rd year of Montessori, you will notice spontaneous reading and writing develop further, math becomes more complex and abstract, and many more academic interests become more obvious. Most importantly, the 3rd year Montessori offers these students the opportunity of leadership in the classroom. They begin to teach other students and they become more confident individuals. There are many benefits to finishing the 3 year Montessori cycle. Presented in this Parent Information Night are the Kindergarten curriculum, benefits of the 3rd year Montessori program, and requirements. Invitations have been sent out to those students eligible for Kindergarten. Please RSVP to attend.

2017-2018 Registration

Priority registration forms for 2017-2018 school year will be distributed on March 24. Priority Registration forms are due by Friday, March 31st. Current students and siblings are given priority for classroom placement. Be sure to turn your forms in before the due date to guarantee your child's space in September.

St. Patrick's Day

We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Friday, March 17. Sign-ups for our green-themed or Irish-themed snacks will be in each class. If your family is from Ireland and would like to share the beauty of the green isle or the Irish culture, dance the jig or share the gift of gab, you are most welcome to share Irish traditions. This is a fun time for our students because they love to jig, gab, and share their fondest moments of St. Patrick's Day! Please don't forget to wear green!

Elementary Information Night

This is a great opportunity for the parents of our current Kindergarten students to learn about the benefits of continuing with the Montessori system of education for the elementary level. If you have seen your child blossom and thrive during their Kindergarten year, just wait and see what they will learn in the elementary years. Elementary students are given the opportunity to explore subject matters such as history, chemistry, biology, botany, zoology, literature, to name a few. They use many tools for learning: such as doing research on a subject matter, reenacting a certain scenes in history or literature, performing numerous hands on activities or experiments, and using the Montessori Elementary materials as a guide to understanding an abstract concept. Our goal is for the child to have a deeper understanding of the subject matter and to make this information meaningful to them. Not only elementary students do well in academics, but they are well versed in different areas, such as, performing in front of an audience, helping their community, playing a musical instrument, conversing and writing in Spanish. Self-confidence and a love for learning become inherent. Motivation and goodness come from within, not through token rewards or a need of praise.

Mixed Bag Fundraising

Thank you to all families who helped with our Mixed Bag Fundraiser. We raised \$1638.34 that will go towards our playground path. Thank you for all your orders and for your monetary donations.

Pennies for Patients

Thank you for everyone who participated in the Pennies for Patients Collection for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The elementary students counted a lot of pennies and spare change. We collected \$581.53 for the charity.



3 years old
Cecily 3/5
Emily 3/28

8 years old
Fiona 3/20
Nhathy 3/27

4 years old
Elia 3/25

9 years old
Madeline 3/9

5 years old
Bella 3/16
Matthew 3/24

10 years old
Malia 3/9
Ella 3/13

7 years old
Kana 3/3

Teachers
Ms. Gabby 3/15
Ms. Haidee 3/17
Ms. Anna 3/19

Clothing

As much as we adore cute super hero/villain shirts (Spiderman, Batman, Darth Vader), children under six love to imitate and portray these characters on their shirts. This often leads to children unintentionally hurting others. We would like to request children from the Primary and Pre-Primary not to wear this type of clothing. Clothing with real super heroes, like firemen, astronauts, etc. are a great alternative.

Spring Picture Day



We will have our spring pictures on March 21st. Please fill out the permission form and turn it in before picture day. You do not need to pre-pay. You can purchase the pictures in the afternoon.

A Montessori Perspective on Reality & Imagination

by Barbara O'Brien, Ph.D.

A young child has many developmental tasks, but one of the most critical is his ability to orient to his own place and time. As adults, we need to be as helpful as possible to the child in understanding his world. This is a big responsibility; one not to be taken lightly. Children believe what they see and what they hear, so we must monitor the input carefully. For example, by reading a child a book about something real (i.e. the life of Capuchin monkeys or how a train works) the child has an opportunity to build a solid foundation in reality on which to base later creativity. There is so much for the youngest children to touch, feel and experience in the real world that adults must give them these opportunities.

Before the age of six, a child has a very difficult time distinguishing between reality and fiction/fantasy. Referring to the young child, Dr. Maria Montessori said, "We alone imagine, not they; they merely believe." This is why Montessori classrooms are full of real lessons that are useful aids in understanding the world. A child enjoys these lessons, which are called "work," because she recognizes their importance. The atmosphere in the classroom is calm, peaceful and joyful. "Joy is not the opposite of serious. Serious business (like learning) can be joyful," notes Adele Diamond, PhD, University of British Columbia. A recent study from the February issue of the journal of Child Psychiatry and Human Development notes that younger children have a harder time with the fantasy-reality task than older ones, showing that the ability improves with age.

Around the age of six a child enters a new stage of development. He begins to question how things work. With a mind that has a strong base in reality, the child can now let the universe come to life through his imagination. Maria Montessori highly valued the imagination and worked it into the curriculum of the Elementary years. The impressionistic charts, such as The Work of the Leaf, are a perfect example of this. The leaf chart depicts cells as "workers" who take heat, light, water and carbon dioxide to "bake" the plant's food. The child knows that there aren't really small workers inside a leaf, but the drawings are used to help him imagine how a leaf works. Current research shows that children who receive a Montessori education solve problems more creatively than their non-Montessori school peers. This is likely because as a scientist, Dr. Montessori observed and honored the child's natural developmental stages, giving the child exactly what he needed at each stage.

Barbara O'Brien is a Developmental Psychologist.

Easter Baskets for CHOC Hospital

As part of our school's community service project, our Elementary class would like to make Easter baskets for the children of CHOC Hospital. Headed by Hadley Lanning, a 1st grader, she and the Elementary class are asking for donations for these baskets. Below is a list of items you can donate. Please NO food, candy, or stuffed toys. Items must be new and sealed in their packages.

We will be collecting for the whole month of March. Drop boxes are located in the office or in the elementary class.

Infant & Toddler:

- Crib toys – mobiles, mirrors, busy boxes
- Teethers & rattles
- Little People/Weeble People
- Musical toys (ones with buttons, knobs, light up, etc.)
- See 'n Say/talking phones
- Shape sorters/stacking toys

School age:

- Action Figures (Batman, Superman, Transformers.)
- Dramatic play-medical play kits, kitchen, food, doll families
- Coloring books, Paint by Numbers, Velvet color posters
- Barbie Dolls/small dolls
- My Little Pony, Doc McStuffins,..
- Princess dolls, dress-up...
- Beads & jewelry making kits
- Craft sets/ Stickers
- I Spy Books/Look 'n' Find books
- Light-up wands/Light & spin toys
- Small Lego building sets/Bionacles
- Matchbox /Hotwheel cars (small size cars)
- Playdoh/Model magic-all colors
- Playing cards & Uno cards
- Puzzles - 24, 63 & 100 pieces
- Markers & crayons (8, 16 & 24 pack)
- Travel Size Board games

Teenagers:

Always in need of more activities for teen population.

- Manicure kits with nail polish, polish remover, files, etc. are especially useful for our girls who are in the hospital for extended periods of time.
- Make-up/body care products
- Young Adult novels
- Intricate craft kits (from stores such as Michaels)
- Wooden items to paint- birdhouses, small boxes, etc. (Michaels)
- New Clothes, jewelry-teen themed
- Sweatshirts (new)
- Sports jerseys, hats (new)
- Sports equipment (new)
- Skateboard themed clothing (new)
- Picture frames
- Food and movie gift certificates, iTunes gift cards
- Model kits (snap-together cars, airplanes, etc)
- Jewelry making kits
- Flip-flops/Slippers
- Room decoration Kits- posters, banners, party decorations in various colors/themes
- Gift bags
- DVDs- PG13 ratings (English and Spanish) New release movies
- Video games: Xbox 360

Craft Supplies (From stores such as Michael's or JoAnne's)

- Beads, crayons, markers, glue, paint by numbers, fuzzy art posters, coloring books, needlepoint, wooden items to paint (birdhouses, trinket boxes, etc.), seasonal crafts, scissors

2017 Sacramento Trip

The Upper Elementary will be going to Sacramento in May. They will be reliving the gold rush at Sutter's Fort, seeing where state representatives discuss legislation at the California State Capitol Building, visit the Vietnam Memorial, and finally be touring restored trains that helped connect California to the rest of the nation.

To help them raise some of the cost of this trip, we will be having a Spaghetti Fundraiser, Ice Cream Socials, and Milk and Cookies (vegan for children with dairy allergies). Sign-ups will be posted in your child's class.



Big Thanks!

Thank you to the Chegade family for donating wooden decking tiles to our school.