

MONTESSORI

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Happy Valentine's Day

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Friday, February 14th. The children may bring a Valentine note, card, or treats for their friends. To make it easier to pass out their Valentines, fill it out as "TO MY FRIEND" and "FROM (Child's Name)."

Snack will be served. Be sure to pack a lunch or order pizza. A snack sign up will be posted on the bulletin board in each classroom. 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. Each class may have a different schedule, so be sure to check with the teacher if you are planning on volunteering.

Dates to Remember

14 – Valentines Day

17 – Presidents Day
NO SCHOOL

19 – Elementary Field
Trip / Heritage
Museum

21 – Dental Day with
Dr. Barsamian

28 – Upper Elementary
Field Trip/
Natural History
Museum

Presidents Day Holiday

School is closed on Monday, February 17 to celebrate Presidents' Day.



Lets Talk Montessori

What we mean when we say...

Work vs. Play

Work refers to the effort someone makes that has value to the person or society or a sustained physical or mental effort to overcome obstacles and achieve an objective or result. Play can be described as any activity someone finds enjoyable and interesting and is valuable in itself for that reason.

In Montessori, work and play are valued differently. Work is often perceived in three ways: 1) as the result of someone setting an intention to carry out a specific goal; 2) as needing concentration; 3) as something that must be done whether or not the work is enjoyable or interesting.

Play is perceived as: 1) as something that may or may not require concentration; 2) as recreational and not particularly important, even if it does require concentration; 3) as something that can be easily interrupted.

The words “work” and “play” have special significance in the Montessori method. Montessori referred to children’s activity as work, rather than play, because she believed that play is the important work of early childhood. What Montessori did with this one idea was place value on children’s activities in the classroom by describing and treating them as work. In effect, Montessori combines the above definitions of work and play. A child’s work becomes not only an effort a child makes or a process the child follows to do something or make something that has value to the child or to the child’s environment, but also an activity the child finds enjoyable and interesting and valuable in itself for that reason.

When a child comes home from school, ask him / her what kinds of work did he / she do and if it was a challenging or easy work. You’ll find that if you place value on their work at school, it encourages them to do more.

Who are the people in our neighborhood?

Flashback to the old Sesame Street song: “Who are the people in the neighborhood? In the neighborhood? In the neighborhood? Who are the people in the neighborhood? They’re the people that you meet when you’re walking down the street. They’re the people that you meet each day.” Yes, you’ve sang it when you were growing up. Our students want to know who the people are in their neighborhood. In the past, our students have met engineers, computer programmers, doctors, artists, police officers, and many more. They have so much fun learning about what adults do for work and its importance. For the month of February and March, we ask parents to volunteer in the classroom and talk about their part in our neighborhood. Please see your child’s teacher if you would like to share what you do to our students.

Dental Day

February is Dental month. Our special guest, Dr. Barsamian will be talking to the students about good oral health, brushing, and flossing. She will talk about “sugar bugs” and how to keep our teeth healthy. She is a past Montessori parent and most the MCDC teachers and their children see Dr. B. We’re looking forward to hear her talk about dental health on February 21st.

CSA Boxes

Last month when we received our sample CSA boxes, we made the most delicious green juice and smoothie. We used all the fresh carrots, kale, strawberries, oranges, and apples from our box. The children loved it so much they licked their cups clean and wanted more. This healthy recipe will be posted in our blog for families to enjoy.

There is still time to order your Tanaka Farms produce boxes. The next delivery will be on March 3. More information about the boxes can be found in our website’s Parents’ Board. It’s a great way to enjoy organic, fresh, and local produce.

Plastic Containers for Extra Clothes

To keep our cubbies organized, we would like to request parents to bring a shoe sized container, plastic or not, for your child’s extra clothes. These will keep clothes that are already in the cubbies not in contact with food and other things that are in the cubby. These are to be taken home each week to replenish. Please label boxes and clothes inside.

You may also place your child’s bedding in a separate container.

Helping Our Community

One of our goals in our school is to develop children's sense of awareness in their community by contributing something small to make a big difference. This sense of awareness can be as simple as recycling to lessen pollution, respecting nature, composting to grow healthier foods, donating food and supplies to the needy, or contributing their time to make others happy. Our Montessori students have the ability to develop their sense of awareness in our community through our encouragement and examples. Learning to think of others at this very young age will help them develop compassion, generosity, and appreciation. Each month, our school strives to encourage students to become a part of the community by participating in selected charitable organizations. This month, we are supporting Packages of Gratitude. We are asking for donations to place in care boxes to send to our troops. You will find a list of items by the donation boxes located throughout the school. Please drop off your items by February 22. Most importantly, please explain the significance this contribution. Give your child a list and have him/her decide what is most important. Your child will appreciate giving if they understand why they give. Have your child drop off the donation him/herself and then congratulate your child for helping someone. This simple act will surely become more meaningful to your child. The children will be writing notes to our troops to include in the donation box. Surely, this will not only make your child feel good about him/herself but will also make our troops appreciate that someone cares.

Self Portrait T-shirts

Be sure to order your shirts by Friday, February 18. Orders will be sent to the printers on the 19th. These adorable and most popular shirts will only be printed and ordered once during the school year. These shirts are special ordered and the school will not be ordering any extra shirts. Drop off your form and payment in the envelope by the sign in and out computer.

Extra Curricular Activities

Please let the office know if you would like your child to try out any of these activities. The instructors will let you know how your child did after the trial session. Enrollment forms are available in the office.

Tuesday

Sports with Ms. Shannon at 3:00 – 3:30

Elementary tap at 4:30 – 5:30

Preschool tap and ballet at 2:30 – 3:30

*Elementary Illustration and Digital Art 8:15 – 8:45am
(Starting in March)*

Wednesday

Tae-Kwon Do at 3:00 – 3:30

Pre-K tap and ballet at 2:30 – 3:30

Thursday

Elementary tap and ballet at 2:30 – 3:30

Soccer Shots at 3:00 – 3:30

Friday

Power Play Gymnastics 3:00 - 3:30

Preschool tap and ballet at 2:30 – 3:30

Elementary tap at 4:30 – 5:30

**Private piano, guitar, and voice are held at the Carden Music Room.*

On Going School Charity Projects and Donation Needs

Luke Gordon's Recycling Project

Bring empty cans and bottles to be recycled by Luke. He is donating 100%

Joyful Garden

Bring seeds, starter plants, and soil.

Support the CSA program. A portion of your purchase will go towards our garden

Box Tops for Schools

Cut up box tops for schools from products and goods used at home. The school will earn points

Framing your Child's Art

Proceeds from this will go towards our theater program

Scholastic Books

The school will earn points for all book orders

Hope Dove Prints

Proceeds go towards Gawad Kalinga to help rebuild homes destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

Reminders

- Peanut butter or any peanut products are not allowed in school due to some children having life-threatening allergies with these products.
- Be sure to sign in and out everyday.
- Be sure to latch the gate closed as you enter and exit the school.
- Be sure to drop off your child to a teacher. Children should never be left alone in hallways or in the classroom.
- When picking up, be sure your child says good bye to the teacher. The teacher needs to have face to face contact with the child before he/she leaves the school.
- It is flu season and many of our students have gotten ill from it. If your child has the flu, fever, or is sick, he/she needs to be fever-free or symptom-free for **24 hours** before returning to school. Do not give your child fever reducing or cough medicine while in school.



4 years
Carly 2/2
Evan 2/6

3 years
Nehemyah 2/18

Ms. Jen 2/3



**A Special Thank
You!**

*Thanks to our Room parents for
organizing a fun and delicious Lunar New
Year lunch!*

*Thanks to the Marinko family for donating
drawing paper.*