

MONTSSORI  
CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
CENTER  
NEWSLETTER  
November 2018

[www.montessorichilddevelopment.com](http://www.montessorichilddevelopment.com)

## Gratitude Month

There are so many things to be thankful for. Often these are the littlest of things we hardly notice or take for granted. As part of the 365 Days of Gratitude, this month we will recognize and appreciate moments of gratitude. The children will have many fun ways to be thankful: from picking up the trash from the ground, saying thanks to one another, especially to mom and dad, making gratitude crafts, to sharing a wonderful meal they make with friends.

“Be thankful for what you have; you’ll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don’t have, you will never, ever have enough.”– Oprah Winfrey

## November Events

**Monday, November 12**  
Veteran’s Day  
(*School Closed.*)

**Wednesday, Nov. 21**  
Thanksgiving Feast  
(*Minimum Day/ School Dismissed at 12:30 p.m.*)

**Thursday and Friday, November 22-23**  
Thanksgiving (*School Closed*)

**Monday, November 26**  
Santa Pictures

**Monday-Friday, November 26-30**  
Holiday Scholastic Book Fair

## Thanksgiving Break

Our Thanksgiving break will be on Thursday, November 22 and November 23. It will be a minimum day on Wednesday, November 21st. The school closes at 12:30 p.m.

From the staff of MCDC, we wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving!

## Big Thanks!

THANK YOU TO ALL PARENTS WHO HELPED US WITH OUR HALLOWEEN PARADE AND POTLUCK.  
THANK YOU TO GLENDA, ISAAC’S MOM FOR THE SUGAR SKULL CRAFT!

## Thanksgiving Baskets

Our annual Thanksgiving Baskets for Orangewood Foundation is something our students look forward to making each year. Please help us gather items to fill the baskets.

The elementary students are hosting a fundraiser for Orangewood on Friday, November 9. Your child will receive a pizza lunch when you donate \$5 or more in cash or items to sponsor a family’s dinner. Please check the donation list located in your child’s class. When you donate you can log on the pizza list – “donated”. We are accepting donations until November 14. We will deliver the baskets the following day.

## Scholastic Holiday Book Fair

Books make a perfect and lasting gift! Share our joy of reading with our Holiday Scholastic Book Fair on November 26 to November 30. Add a book or two in your child’s library. We will have our Top 10 Children’s Pick, Children Review Books, and Story Time from our students. A surprise new book will be featured, along with a milk and cookies book drive. So, mark your calendars! Let’s all share our love for books!

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2 YEARS OLD

LIAM 11/23



3 YEARS OLD

IRIS 11/3

6 YEARS OLD

PIPPY 11/13

5 YEARS OLD

EMMAH 11/10

8 YEARS OLD

Aidan Q 11/19

## Montessori Q & A

### WHAT ARE SENSITIVE PERIODS?

Montessori sensitive periods refer to a period of time when a child's interests are focused on developing a particular skill or knowledge area. During what Maria Montessori describes as the child's absorbent mind, birth to age 6, is when most sensitive periods occur.

Some sensitive periods are so noticeable that even someone who doesn't practice Montessori would agree with them. For instance, the Montessori sensitive period for walking is 12-15 months. Others may refer to some of these sensitive periods as developmental stages.

Other sensitive periods take a bit more work on the adults part (preparing the environment and awareness). For instance, the sensitive period for order is often looked at as a tantrum or the "terrible 2's". When really, your child is simply going through their sensitive period for order and if given a properly prepared environment and routine they will flourish!

Montessori has noted several sensitive periods.

#### **Social Aspects of Life 2.5-5**

At this age, children learn that they are part of a group and develop an intense interest in social relationships. This is when children learn to develop friendships and participate in group play. This is a good time to introduce the importance of manners and basic principles of human interaction.

#### **Manners & Courtesies 2.5 years – 6 years**

Manner and courtesy are modeled by the adults. This means the parents should be using their manners with the children and other adults that may be around.

## Thoughts to Ponder

### CULTIVATING GRATITUDE

from the North American Montessori Center Newsletter

In the Montessori environment, gratitude is a key component of peace education, grace and courtesy exercises, and the concept of cosmic education. Dr. Montessori understood implicitly the value in fostering a grateful nature in children and helping them become compassionate citizens of the planet.

#### TEACHING GRATITUDE - HELPING DEVELOP PEACEFUL MONTESSORI CITIZENS

Although adults understand the worth in expressing gratitude, young children find it more difficult. Gratitude involves being sensitive and empathetic to others, and truly appreciating what others do for you. While children can quickly learn to say please and thank you, it takes time and guidance to help them truly learn to be grateful.

Young children, by their very nature, are self-absorbed. In fact, Jean Piaget described children from ages 2-7 as being egocentric, or unable to see a situation from another person's point of view. According to Piaget, young children primarily think and communicate about themselves. They automatically assume that the experiences and thoughts that they have are shared by others. Even in this egocentric phase, however, children can begin to understand gratitude when they are offered repeated opportunities to experience being grateful.

Teaching children to be grateful and show appreciation takes patience. Gratitude is a quality that needs cultivating over time. But encouraging children to be grateful and modeling its importance is well worth the effort as it lays the foundation for children to develop a positive, optimistic outlook on life.

#### **Order 1 – 3.5**

The sensitive period for order is a desire for consistency and repetition. An established routine, a carefully ordered environment, and established ground rules will help to keep your child from being disrupted by disorder. This is a need that needs to be fulfilled, having order helps a child in this sensitive period.

STREET SWEEPING IS EVERY FIRST AND THIRD MONDAYS OF THE MONTH, BETWEEN 12:30 – 2:00 P.M.

IF YOU ARE PICKING UP YOUR CHILD AT 12:30, PLEASE PARK IN THE PARKING LOT OR PICK UP BEFORE 12:30 P.M.