Montessori Matters

May - June 2010

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Summer Events:

- WMS Summer Session — Begins on **Monday, June 28.**
- **Monday, July 5**—School closed in observance of Independence Day.
- **Friday, August 13**—Last day of Summer Session.

From Head of School: Thanks for a great year....

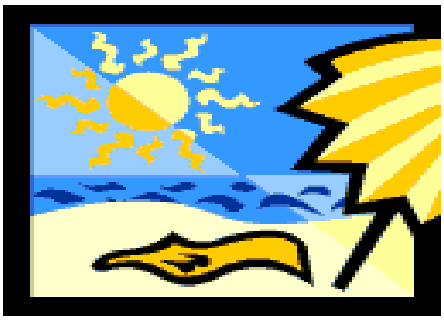
As the school year comes to a close, I look around the classrooms and marvel at the dramatic changes in the children. A toddler is now a fluent speaker, a three year old moves about the room taking care of the environment, a six-year-old leaps from reading simple words to chapter books, an eleven-year-old becomes proficient in Algebra or an expert on the monuments in D.C. In a few short months, they are transformed, and so are we.

I have the advantage of being the parent of a graduating 6th year student to witness the benefits of Montessori classrooms over the years and the almost magical transformation of that final elementary year. Benjamin was a child who resisted learning and direction but was guided by extraordinary teachers to discover the satisfaction of applying himself to various lessons and relish in the "ah-ha" moments of discovery and success. I would like to thank all the teachers and assistants in his life who helped build such a strong foundation that will carry him far.

I would also like to thank all of you for your tireless support of WMS this year. We have had a remarkable year full of memorable events such as the Oyster Roast, Auction, Wine & Cheese Socials, Parent Education Nights, and Family Outings. Every volunteer contributes so much to the school, whether it is washing the class laundry, serving on the board, chairing a fundraising event, or coordinating Farm Fresh receipts and we are all so grateful for all you do!

We finish the year with the findings from Michael and D'Neil Duffy, the Montessori consultants who spent the year observing our classrooms, who report, "From our observations, we are able to conclude that WMS has a fundamentally sound program, with competent teachers in all classrooms and a fundamental commitment to authentic Montessori practice at all levels." We will spend the summer reviewing their recommendations for larger class sizes for the smaller children's house rooms and planning a variety of parent education opportunities. Stay tuned!

Best wishes for a summer filled with much needed rest, relaxation, and joyful time with family and friends.



Sandy

From the Toddler Room: End of the year news

Eve and I would like to thank you all very much for coming and chatting with us during parent/teacher conferences, and letting us be a part of your special little ones life.

I cannot believe that we are in June already. With only a few more dayss of school left, we will continue to taste different things, and find out about our sense of touch. A letter will be sent out soon with information about summer session. Eve will be here and her assistant will be Carrie Shafer. I will work two weeks the last week in July and the 1st week in August. I will be in and out all summer, to visit with the children.

We have been busy making flowers, mixing colors, and tasting more foods that are delicious, such as lemons (sour), chips (salty), cranberry sauce (sweet/tart), delamodas (it's a grape leaf with rice and ground beef - it's Greek). Just to name a few. The kids really have enjoyed tasting different foods.

Reminders....

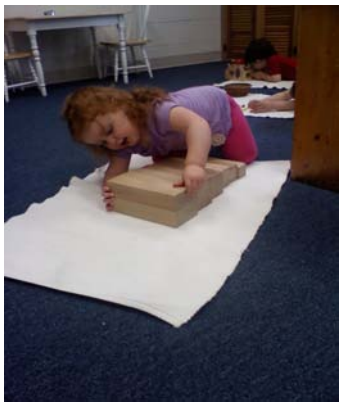
When doing the laundry please bleach the whites, and please do not dry the napkins, as they become a ball; if you could just pull them straight and let them air dry that would be great. Thank you.

Please check your Childs cubby bag, for winter items and others do not have anything in them. Thank you.

We have been practicing our table manners, and we would love you to come and have lunch. Please call the office to set up your lunch date.

Our best wishes to all our Montessori families for a lovely, fun filled summer. We look forward to next year!

Ann and Eve



SAFE

FUNFILLED SUMMER!

HAVE A

Wish list: We would love...

Sand Toys/Outside toys

Small potted plants

Balls (ask Ms. Ann or Ms. Eve)

Play Dough

From CH 1: *Another year, another wonderful experience.*

Dear Parents,

Ya sas! Apo tin ellatha. We are surely having a wonderful time in this ageless and ancient country. There is so much to see, do, and learn. It sounds like those Greek gods and goddesses had the same kind of difficulties that we sometimes have with each other here at school. They were often mad at each other, played tricks, used unkind words but then they made up and things went back to normal for a while. Things do not seem to change much over time, whether you are mortal or not. See you soon when we return from this marvelous voyage. And, by the way, we thank all of you who are helping with making our trip more enjoyable.

Our study of Greece is proceeding successfully and smoothly. The children truly enjoy learning about other cultures, especially about what other children just like them do in other parts of the world. We try to make this a smaller world by bringing in a slice or two into our classroom.

It is difficult to believe that this is the last newsletter of this school year. It is even harder to realize that soon we will have to let our children leave this environment, even if for a short while for most of them. So much has taken place this year; each and every child has grown in more ways than one; each of them has learned how to function in their home away from home. But, as sad as it is, we just have to let go. To those children who are leaving us for other environments we send our most heartfelt THANK YOU for adding to our classroom in their own special ways. We wish them the best in their future endeavors.

Our days here in Children's House 1 are a continuous learning experience, whether it is learning and practicing how to pour or spoon, or how to tie shoes or setting a table. Be assured that your child's time spent with us has been well spent. We have truly loved them in anything we have done for them. They have made it all possible in their own unique ways. We have travelled together near and far, both in time and in place. We have all learned for one another, children from adults and, yes, adults from children.

As you plan for your summer activities and travels, please remember to provide your child with pastimes that promote peace and serenity. Visiting relatives, going on trips, swimming in the pool, are all great and fun-filled activities. But do find time to curl up with your child and read a book together, or simply sit and observe the several kinds of entertainment that Mother Nature provides at no charge at all. Have a weekly TV-free evening and go outside to watch the stars, catch lightning bugs, or listen to crickets. The possibilities are endless! Just let your imagination run freely.

Pocha, Alana and I would like to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for trusting your precious child with us; it has been our privilege to be part of your child's life this past year. Many sincere thank yous to all of you who have donated your valuable time and helped in any way you could. You are much appreciated.

" Let the children's laughter remind us how we use to be..."

All Our Best to you!

Angela, Pocha and

From Children's House 2:

The activity of the child has always been looked upon as an expression of his vitality. But his activity is really the work he performs in building up the person he is to become, it is the incarnation of the human spirit.

Dr. Maria Montessori

Vickie and I want to thank you for the opportunity to share in your child's self-mastery this year. It has been a joyful and wondrous experience to be a part of – supporting your child's efforts in creating himself or herself. We have been so appreciative of your support as well – in the classroom, in our blossoming gardens, in the school's library, in countless ways. We send our sincerest thanks.

Some of our oldest children are ready to move on to our own Elementary class. They have modeled good citizenship, a love of learning, and cooperation – all priceless gifts, given spontaneously to the rest of the class. We wish them the very best.

Other older children will be staying to complete their three year cycle. They will be the leaders of the Extended Days, a most awesome position in the classroom. They will be very important people.

Vickie and I wish you a summer rich in family outings, summer sunsets and lightening bugs, and some idle footprints in the sand.

Our very best to you and yours,

Katie and Vickie

Long the summer day...

Patterns on the ocean sand...

Our idle footprints...

- Shike

REMINDERS:

1. Our End of the Year ceremony will be on Wednesday June 16 at 10:15am. Bring your camera if you'd like.
2. Thursday and Friday, June 17 and 18 will be a half day for all.
3. Oyster Point Dermatology recommends sunscreens: "WIGGLY" KIDS Neutrogena stick SPF 30 or Coppertone Sport Lotion SPF 30. (Does not irritate eyes)

Wish List:

Clean, flat bottomed cans to practice can opening and recycling.

Labeled silver for polishing.

From Children's House 3: *Enjoy the long, hot summer*

Another school year has gone by and as always Charlotte and I are in awe of the metamorphosis that we see in the children in the classroom. At the beginning of the school year, we see them slowly unfurling, as they are introduced to the prepared environment. As the year goes by, we see them form a delicate but strong chrysalis with the works around them and then gradually unfurl showing their true colors and mastery of their environment.

Thank you for sharing your children with us this year. It is always a great experience.

We would also like to thank all of you for all the contributions you have made throughout the year. The year would not have been a successful one without our weekly flowers, laundry, nutritious snacks, cooking activities, books and other donated items. Thanks to Karen Quinlan for being a super classroom liaison.

As summer time approaches, take the time to laugh with your child, read a book, sing out loud, walk in the rain, kick a ball, play hop scotch and have fun.

Both Charlotte and I wish you a wonderful summer.

Beverlee

P.S. A Brief Review of what has been happening in CH3 in the past month or two

- Thanks to the guidance of the Kamara family, we completed our unit on Sierra Leone
- We began working on plants.
- We have been looking at the different ways plants grow, their habitats,
- We made chlorophyll prints, looked at how plants breathe, take in food and looked at how important they are to us.
- We made environmentally friendly planting pots and planted seeds and have made bean bags.
- As we continue to look at different aspects of plant life, we will also be looking at fish with the Hager family as our guide. We will also study land forms.

SUMMER BLESSINGS!!!

From Lower Elementary 1: Special Events

Cooking with Chef Renny Parziale

Professional chef Renny Parziale, whose daughter Caroline benefits from his culinary skills at home, talked about “classical” cooking and showed the children how to prepare their ingredients and fold them into their own two-egg omelettes. Children worked in pairs, and "Mmmmmmmm" was heard as they slowly savored their creations. Has everyone been eating a lot of omelettes at home lately?

Going Out Trip to Jamestown

Five students who had researched and presented reports on Jamestown organized a Going Out trip to Jamestown Settlement so that they could get some answers to questions that had come up during their research. They spent a lot of time looking at the exhibits and talking with the interpreters at the Powhatan village, the fort, and the three ships. After the trip, they reported back to the class on such things as chamber pots, the making of clothes, preparing animal skins, and life onboard a ship for several months at sea.

Field Trip to Shirley Plantation

With all the history buffs in the class, a field trip to Shirley Plantation seemed like the perfect destination. With the labor of indentured servants and slaves, the plantations were the backbone of the English empire in the 17th Century. Besides providing a tour of the Great House, staff at Shirley Plantation wove together stories and activities about life on the plantation, the James River as a major transportation route, and games and schooling for children in the 18th Century.

Ett tusen tack!

As they say in Swedish, “a thousand thanks” to all the parents who have helped and supported LE1 throughout the school year by sending in snacks and fresh flowers, buying books and materials for the classroom, assisting in the classroom or at special events, working on our auction quilt and at the auction, donating to WMS fund raisers, sharing your professional skills with the class, laundering our work mats, attending the informal drop-ins and parent ed events, sending in birthday treats, and all the many other things you have done to show you care. Particular thanks to class liaison Esther Shivers as well as Andrea and Jordi Catasus, Garrett Fesler, Chris Hager, Mark Hofer, Okie An and Jang-Woo Lee, Tracy Lord, Renny Parziale, Iyabo Osiapem, Corine Sprigle, Kelly Tillinghast, Lauren Wagner, Kinan Zaitoun–and Penn Russell who will make the school year (almost) disappear at the Family Picnic! We hope we haven’t overlooked anyone. We know many of you contribute in ways we don't even know about. Thank you all.

Have a wonderful and safe summer. See you next September!

David & Mary Lou

From Lower Elementary 2: *A Warm Farewell!*

"Thank you for all the memories. You will be missed!
Here's wishing you all a great summer!" *- Nicole and Aneta*

Clara shares her country report

What a delicious spread!

Mmmm... what to try first?

Gathering around the food

Everyone listening attentively

Enjoying the international flavors.

Ryan shares his country report

I think someone is daydreaming!

Sydney reports on her country

Can't resist all the yummies!

Evelyn shares her country report

Bas shares his country report

Upper Elementary: D.C. Trip Memories....

MONEY MATTERS

Honor a Montessorian

Be on the lookout for your invitation to ***Honor a Montessorian*** being mailed next week. This is your chance to respond to our invitation to recognize a special person who embodies the Montessori values of respect for the child and commitment to human development. Gifts made in honor of a cherished Montessorian enable us to enhance our support of students, professional development and special projects. Please take a moment to consider a gift of the following:

- Toddler - Complete Set of Vocabulary Cards $208.45
- Children's House 1 – Map Cabinet $339.00
- Children's House 2 – Whale Nomenclature and Exercise Cards $175.00
- Children's House 3 - Number Rods, Red and Blue $182.50
- Lower Elementary 1 – Wormery $250.00
- Lower Elementary 2 – Geometry Nomenclature Set $285.00
- Upper Elementary – Chemistry Experiment Set $154.95

Like many independent schools, tuition income represents only a portion of the expenses involved in maintaining our excellent programs. Annual Fund revenues represent approximately 5% of our operating budget. Consider leaving a legacy by giving new learning materials for future children to enjoy.

Box Tops

Over the Summer please keep collecting box tops. They are worth 10 cents each & can add up. Every box top matters!

Farm Fresh Receipts

Thank you for turning in the Farm Fresh receipts!

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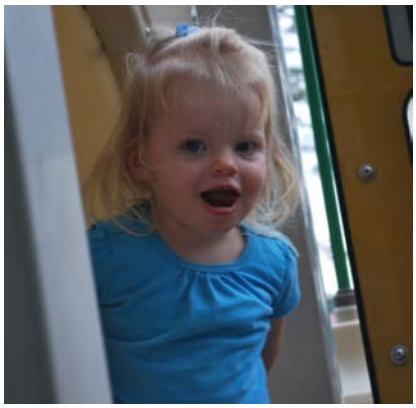
Fun WMS Family Picnic Moments