

P  
A  
R  
E  
N  
T  
C  
O  
N  
F  
E  
R  
E  
N  
C  
E

From Ms. Suha's Desk: Happy New Year!!!

## Why the Montessori Elementary?

The advantages of having your child attend the Montessori pre-school or kindergarten program, are noticeable when you realize how your kindergartner is quickly becoming an emergent reader, a potential mathematician and a joyful scholar who is fascinated by the many subjects presented to him/her.

The advantages of continuing his/her education in the Montessori Elementary program are much more subtle and long-lasting. This comes from speaking with parents of current and previous students who have attended our elementary program. For almost twenty years, we have invited parents of kindergarten children to spend a morning in our elementary classroom and experience the learning atmosphere of a given day. What they've noticed is a room filled with engaged learners, just like a busy beehive going about their day at work. Children ages 6-9 are intently working on science, reading, math, geography, botany, geometry, maps, independent work or in groups with a teacher. The directress of the class works with each student to compose a "work plan" for the week. All this in a room full of quiet chatter of meaningful work, where children are polite, self-controlled and content, yet thoughtful about their school work.

What is our Secret you ask? It all comes down to the way of teaching in a Montessori classroom. For example, in a traditional first grade class, the teacher stands before the class teaching reading, writing and arithmetic to the class. The students may or may not understand the concept taught. In the Montessori Elementary class, the directress takes the time to use the concrete Montessori materials to work with the children which ensures a deeper level of understanding.

In a Montessori Elementary classroom, the first graders have already had the exposure of beginning reading during their kindergarten year, so by the time they begin work in 1<sup>st</sup> grade they are prepared for a variety of reading available for them. Not to mention the excitement they have about learning the Science, Geography and Social

Winter Issue 2019

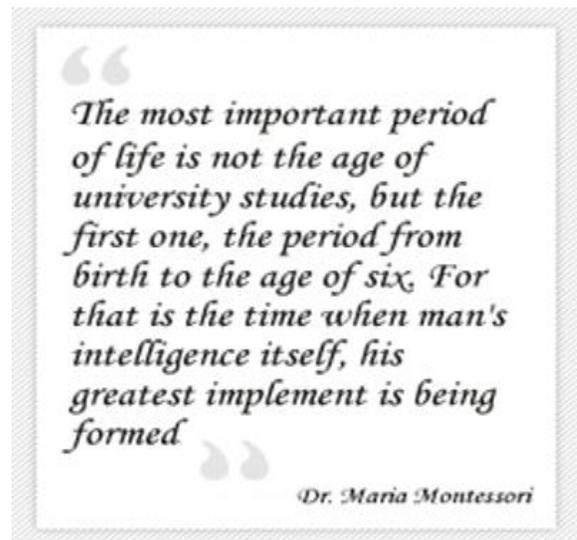
Studies subjects. In the Science curriculum, they begin with the Scientific presentation of "The Creation of the Universe" which leads to the "Timeline of Life". This ties into the "Fundamental Needs of Man", a historical picture of the "needs of man" which includes learning about the life of early man and his journey towards civilization.

Overall, the Montessori Elementary education is a window in a child's lifetime where he/she is taught in a meaningful way to absorb from their surroundings, to establish a sense of independent learning and respect for their own world and others around them. The directress is there to provide an atmosphere for them, so they can be members of a community of intellects who can self-direct their learning, initiate and accomplish their goals.

I urge you to set up a time with the office to observe our elementary class in action. You will be amazed at the outcome of watching our beehive at work.

Stay warm and healthy.

Ms. Suha  
Administrator



# OFFICE NOTES

## Cold Weather News:

- ◆ Please have outside gear appropriate for the weather. We strongly recommend **waterproof mittens** because they are easier for the children to manage on their own and they keep tiny hands warmer.
- ◆ **All children are required to go outside every day when the temperatures/wind chill are as follows:** Toddler - 30 degrees or above. Preschool/Kindergarten - 20 degrees or above. Elementary - 0 degrees or above.
- ◆ **If a child cannot go outside due to health reasons, he/she needs to have a doctor's note.**
- ◆ Please dress the girls in pants or skirts with tights/pants during the winter months.
- ◆ For **morning/full time students**, please dress your child only in a winter coat, hat, and mittens. Snow pants and boots should be in their backpacks. **For afternoon half-day students**, please come dressed to go outside wearing boots, snow pants and mittens.
- ◆ Please **make sure all your child's belongings are labeled with his/her first**

**and last name.** This includes boots, snow pants, mittens, hats, coats, and everything that belongs to your child. This will ensure proper return in case of misplacement.

- ◆ **Please hand notes directly to staff/office.** Also, when your child comes home, please make sure to check his or her backpack daily for notes from school.
- ◆ Please remember to **keep your child's clear folder in their backpack.** This folder is very important for communication between you and your child's teacher. The folders are available for purchase in the office.
- ◆ **Child Information Card (i.e. White Card):** If there are any changes to information on your child's White Card (kept in the office) e.g. address, phone numbers (work, cell, or home), etc., we ask you to please stop by the office to update it.
- ◆ **RSVP's are critical for us to make plans.** **Please send us your yes or no RSVP for events as requested.**
- ◆ **Chapstick: a Medication Permission Form must be completed** for your child to use chapstick or lip balm at school. Forms can be obtained from the office.

Ms. Colleen and Ms. Dora

## LAMC Making a Difference

*Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your donations collected for **Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.***

*With your help, we were able to donate **\$362.55** to help children in need.*

*Thank you for your generosity and support!*



## LAMC STUDENTS POETRY

*Our Elementary Class  
wrote some beautiful  
poems in class. We  
hope you enjoy reading  
them!*

*We are so very proud  
of our students!*



Peace is kindness.

Peace is love.

Peace is caring.

Peace is Christmas.

Peace is Nature.

Peace is animals.

Peace is if you're helping someone.

Peace is joy.

Natalia



Peace is love.  
Peace is family.  
Peace is animals.  
Peace is God.  
Peace is earth.  
Peace is water.  
Peace is music.

Emalyn

### Christmas Morning

On Christmas morning there are presents under the tree.

So I will sort which ones are for me.

Coming downstairs is my incredible Mother,

And following her is my Dad and my Brother.

Trees are covered with snow outside,

I like to watch them sway and collide.

It is time to see what we got,

My first surprise was a cool robot.

The best part of the morning was being with my family.

We live together in perfect harmony.

Diya



**ELEMENTARY NEWS**  
MS. ROXANNE'S CLASSROOM



We wish you all a happy and healthy New Year. The elementary students are refreshed and ready to continue their work in the classroom. Their love of learning is contagious!

The beginning of this new year brings visits from the Kindergarten students, observations from Kindergarten parents, Peace Week activities and the much loved "Bring Your Parent to Work Day". Kindergarten students can be a part of the activities in the Elementary classroom. Parents visiting our classroom will be able to observe our highly motivated Elementary students who are able to achieve high-level academic standards through their experiences with the broad and integrated Montessori curriculum. When parents come to the "work day", they have an opportunity to see the amazing work that their children do in the classroom.



Respect is the cornerstone on which all the Montessori principles rest. Teachers show respect for children by providing them with the opportunity to do, think and learn for themselves. Through their growing inner discipline and freedom of choice, children are able to develop the skills and abilities to become confident learners. As a result, Montessori children are independent, and are respectful of their environment and others. The goal of the Montessori classroom is to create a harmonious

learning space that encourages independent learning. Elements of a prepared environment include: freedom, structure, order, beauty, nature and the integration of the social and intellectual aspects of child development.

In math, students continue to work on all mathematical operations, fractions, and telling time. Word problems and counting money and making change will be introduced and worked on. In history, students will be presented with the History of the Development of Numbers and how our counting system developed.

In Geography we will explore land and water forms and continue work on the USA, North America, South America and Asia. We continue to utilize reference books and iPad to find out as much as possible about the people, the customs, and way of life.

Students continue to read every day, they read for comprehension, for research, and for pleasure. Journal writing is something the children love to do.

You are invited to observe our classroom from the office. Communication between your student, the teachers, and you is a very important part of your child's education. Please direct any questions or concerns to the directress.

**Ms. Roxanne, Directress**  
Ms. Sue



PRE-SCHOOL / KINDERGARTEN  
NEWS  
MS. NEEYATI'S CLASSROOM



Well, it is hard to believe that 2019 is already upon us. Hopefully you all had a great winter break! December was filled with lots of holiday fun and much learning about the different holidays. We talked about Christmas and Hanukkah. Thank you to Ms. Debbie from Toddler class for doing a short presentation on Hanukah, Nolan Rod's Aunt for doing a presentation on Kwanzaa and Ms. Becky for presenting on Christmas. This time of year gives us lots of opportunities to celebrate the different holidays of different cultures. We also were very busy practicing for our winter concert that we hope you enjoyed! January will bring lots more excitement.

**Practical Life:** We have started working with some water activities such as using a funnel for pouring, spooning/ tonging objects in water and we will also be learning about using the measuring jar and sewing a button on burlap.

**Sensorial:** The children have been learning to use the sound cylinders and geometric cabinet. They are also working on small and large hexagon boxes and learning names of different shapes such as, hexagon, rhombus, parallelogram and trapezoid.

**Language:** The kindergarten students are into reading, comprehension, penmanship and spelling tests. The children who are comfortable with sounding out letters are working on middle and ending sounds and will be working on blending them together to form words.

**Math:** The older children will be working on the complex numbers and are doing skip counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's. The younger children continue to work on other math activities such as table top rods, bead stairs and the hundred board.

**Science:** We have learned about animals that Hibernate and Migrate and will study about parts of plant, parts of a tree, classification of animals such as fish and amphibians.

**Geography:** We will be learning about the Continents of Asia. We will also be observing Peace week (Jan 21-Jan 25) by reading books on Peace and making different art projects in our classroom.

**Art:** In the month of February the children will be learning about an art master.

**Reminders:** A friendly reminder to send your child's snow pants, boots, mittens, and hat labeled in a reusable grocery store bag. The children will have outdoor recess if weather permits. Every Friday the snow gear will be sent home for washing. As per LARA all lunch bags and water bottles need to have first and last name of the child. Please make sure they are labeled.

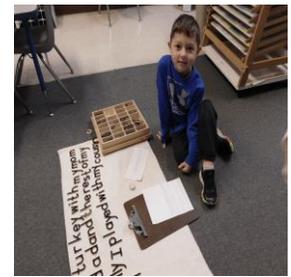
*Thank you to all the families for the delicious snacks provided for our class.*

**Ms. Neeyati (Directress)**

Ms. Becky, Ms. Manju, Ms. Carol and Ms. Maha

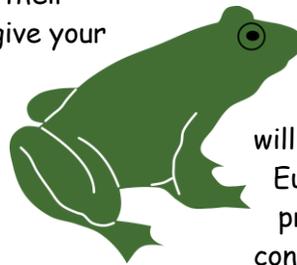


**PRE-SCHOOL / KINDERGARTEN  
NEWS  
MS. SUHA'S CLASSROOM**



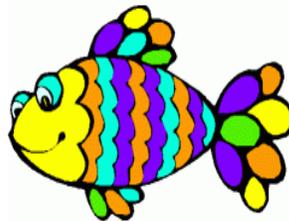
Happy New Year to all of you!

We hope everyone had a relaxing and peaceful holiday. We are looking forward to a great New Year with you and your children. We will begin the year with a special emphasis on peace education. We will look to the good deeds of Dr. Martin Luther King and learn about what we can do to encourage peace in the world around us. Our objective continues to be to guide the children in ways that will help them grow independently and responsibly. To allow them the opportunities to learn to the best of their ability. We ask that you continue to give your children the time and the task to complete. This will allow them to experience what responsibility is all about and allows them to feel a sense of accomplishment.



**Practical Life & Sensorial**

We will continue working with water activities in the practical life area. We will practice measuring and using funnels. We will also be studying different art masters. In sensorial we will work with the thermic tablets and the Binomial Cube.



**Math:**

The older children will continue to work on the math operations, while the younger children will work on recognition of numbers out of sequence and counting to 50. We ask that you encourage your children to practice number formation to better their skills.

**Language and Writing:** Reading and writing is part of our daily routine. We continue to work on making sentences using the moveable alphabet followed by writing the sentences on paper. Some older children are learning about nouns, verbs and compound words. The younger children will continue working on beginning, ending and middle sounds. Some children have also started blending sounds of letters together to form words.

**Science & Geography:**

In Geography we are learning about the different continents and their cultures. We will be focusing on the continents of Asia and Europe. You are welcome to come and do a presentation about your culture. Please contact the office for more details. In Science we will study Amphibians, parts of different animals as well as sink & float activities.

**Thank you to Parents:**

Thank you to all the families who joined us for the Thanksgiving Feast, the children enjoyed having you and sharing a special time with you. We would also like to thank all the families for providing a nutritious and healthy snack for our class.

Thank you,

**Ms. Suha (Directress)**

Ms. Fran, Ms. Ann, Ms. Kristen  
and Ms. Monika

**TODDLER NEWS**  
**MS. MICHELLE'S CLASSROOM**

Welcome back to a new year, to new beginnings and to new friends here in our toddler room! In **Practical Life** we will be learning many new exciting things such as cutting and color blending incorporated into the water pouring activities. The toddlers will be learning and exploring new and exciting foods such as different colored peppers and cabbages, ginger, garlic, rosemary and sage.

In **Language** we will be studying transportation and things that drive, float and fly along with a study of dinosaurs! Not only will we be reading about different kinds of cars, trucks, planes, trains and boats, but also about dinosaurs. We will also be digging through sand for "bones", setting up a mock dinosaur habitat.

**Math** activities involve learning our numbers in and out of order, rote counting and also introducing the calendar, which means we will be counting out loud as a group all the way to 31! We would love to take our toddlers outside if the weather permits, so please make sure they have appropriate outdoor wear such as mittens (no finger gloves please as it takes too long to get each little finger in), hats, snow pants and snow boots. Also, please be sure to send extra long sleeve shirts, as they are learning to independently wash their own hands, and sleeves sometimes get in the way!

We would like to thank the family of Alexia, Juliette, Jiya and Maxwell for providing us with healthy and nutritious snacks

**Ms. Michelle, Directress**

Ms. Sherry, Ms. Debbie, Ms. Valerie, and Ms. Maha and Sophia (aftercare)

## MUSIC NOTES

December in class, we reintroduced the basic theory of general music education. The children enjoy the giant music note cards. We use our hands, feet and the wide assortment of our rhythm instruments to show the beats of eighth, quarter, half, dotted half, and whole note values.

Our elementary class are really enjoying the ukuleles. It is a relatively easy instrument to learn to play. We have started out with simple chords and strumming patterns.

This class uses the musical ball to learn all kinds of terms used in music theory. Again, all the students have already learned our all school songs for our spring program, "Our Cultures United". Happy Happy Holidays.

**Musically Yours**  
**Ms. Marianne**



# SPANISH NEWS



Dear Parents:

**FELIZ ANO NUEVO 2019!!! (HAPPY NEW YEAR !!)**

We reviewed all the past vocabulary and daily greetings in each class, we also reviewed how is the weather and days of the week. All the kids are doing AWESOME!!

Our vocabulary for the following months are:

## ZOO & FARM ANIMALS

perro - dog  
caballo - horse  
vaca - cow  
gato - cat  
tortuga - turtle  
pato - duck  
cerdo - pig  
pez - fish  
gallina - chicken

leon - lion  
jirafa - giraffe  
mono - monkey  
cebra - zebra  
oso - bear  
serpiente - snake  
cocodrilo - cocodrile  
elefante - elephant  
mariposa - butterfly

## ANIMALS HABITAT

### DESIERTO

arana - spider      camello - camel      cactus - cactus

### OCEANO

ballena - whale      tiburón - shark      cangrejo - crab  
foca - seal      pulpo - octopus      delfin - dolphin

### BOSQUE

venado - deer      ardilla - squirrel      conejo - rabbit  
arbol - tree      flores - flowers      sapo - frog

**Songs: "La foca Ramona"  
"Habia un sapo"  
"Los pollitos"  
"La tortuga Tomasa"**

Thank you for reviewing all the vocabulary with your child at home. Spanish class is lots of fun!!

**Gracias,  
Senora Melba**

## AFTERCARE NEWS

Happy Holidays from all of the Day Care staff!

Hope you enjoyed your Holiday Break with your children. We are now entering a new year and are excited about the opportunities your children will have to learn, grow, and socialize in 2019. This winter we will start the year out in January thinking about peace and what it means to us. The children will be making doves, snowflakes, and snowmen to decorate our winter bulletin board. In February we will bring in the Chinese New Year of the pig (February 5) by learning to draw simple Chinese Calligraphy and making Chinese lanterns. We will also decorate our bulletin board with various Valentine crafts. We also have puzzles and board games to play with when we can't go outside. As always, please provide a nutritious snack for your child. Happy New Year!

Happy Holidays!

Ms. Fran and Ms. Debbie (AM Care)

Ms. Ann, Ms. Valery, Ms. Carol, Ms. Becky, Ms. Maha and Ms. Sofia (PM Care)



## Physical Education

Happy New Year!!!

I hope everyone's holiday was great! I am very excited to get back to work with the children! Each class begins with stretching, to help the students become more flexible and to prevent injuries. I always explain why stretching is very important to the children.

I am excited to start the New Year with the children continuing our work on the President's Physical Fitness Challenge. This includes sit-ups, push-ups, and the shuttle run (the children enjoy competing against each other in a race) to name a few in my exercise program.

We will review the food pyramid. The children enjoy naming their favorite fruits, and vegetables.

The children will learn how proper nutrition helps you stay healthy!

The President's Council on Physical Fitness will help your child acquire skills to increase their endurance, strength, and flexibility, which can stay with them for a lifetime. Every child is encouraged to participate to the BEST of their ability.

I always instill exercising as fun with positive enthusiasm! Looking forward to a fun filled physical fitness education program!

Staying fit!

**Mr. Roby**





Parents, Do You Know?  
Why a Montessori Kindergarten Program

1. **Advanced Academics – (Montessori Reading, Writing, and Math)** The Kindergarten year is the culmination of a tremendous amount of preparatory work that is done by the student in the preschool years. The child's 'sensitivity' to shapes and symbols, which we use in the pre-reading and pre-math areas, now comes to fruition as the child "blends" the letter sounds for reading. From there he/she goes into reading, writing in workbooks and journals, and comprehending story lines. Advanced math and math operations are also mastered with the special Montessori math manipulatives before the child goes to grade 1.
2. **Cultural Areas – (Geography and Science)** These subjects are also developed in great detail in a Kindergarten program culminating with a special 'Science Fair' that the children participate in during the spring. The child is exposed to Geography in much greater depth and detail with maps, time lines, and cultural celebrations than in a traditional Kindergarten class. We are preparing our students for today's international and competitive climate.
3. **Social Development** The child has a chance to be a 'leader' (a senior) who gets the opportunity to mentor, teach, and read to the younger ones, thus building self-esteem, leadership, and a strong academic foundation. In Montessori, we believe that one has not truly learned a concept until you can teach it to someone else.

*The mixed ages in a Kindergarten classroom gives ample opportunity to practice all the academic skills and leadership traits thus leading to a deep love of learning and school.*

*Finally, the developmental levels of children are in three-year spans, (0-3, 3-6, 6-9, and so on) so the benefits of a Montessori program are maximized only when children complete a cycle of intellectual and social development – as in the Kindergarten year.*