

Lakes Area Montessori Center

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www.lakesareamontessori.com



Spring Issue 2019

“A Bridge to Learning Reading & Writing”

From Ms. Suha’s Desk:

A question that is always asked by Montessori parents is “how can I help my child learn to read?” We as Montessorians know that the quality of language exposure in the early years affects all later learning. This is referred to as the “sensitive period” for language. This is a term used in the Montessori which means that children 0-4 years of age go through a special sensitivity for learning sounds, symbols, rhymes, etc. This assists in the later development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. This also provides the bridge for interpersonal relationships and logical thoughts.

As for infants and toddlers, many studies of their behaviors have proven that babies watch our mouth as we speak and then try to imitate the sound, accent and speech patterns. There are two ways the adults can react to these articulations, either in surprise/delight or neglect/boredom. This results in a positive or negative language development. The baby essentially “learns” the tone, syntax, rhythm of what is known as ‘mother tongue’ before ever being taught the rules of grammar.

In the Montessori Pre-School classroom, the sensitivity to sounds, symbols, and formation of letters is evident in all the different language reading and writing materials. Not only is the classroom full of books of stories, songs and poems. But there are labels, sequence cards, pictures of different/same, categorization, sandpaper letters, alphabet boxes, sand/rice tray, and other writing and drawing materials. The

combination of all the above are the foundation of learning to read and write. In the Montessori classroom, the adult (Directress/Teacher) speaks quietly, respectfully and precisely. He/she uses proper descriptions and accurate words for the different materials used in the class. An example is the “cube” instead of a block, or “sphere” instead of a ball. The directress/teacher also bends down and looks straight into the eyes of the child to make enunciation understandable. As trained Montessori directresses/teachers, we follow the sequence of language in order to assist the child in meeting his/her goal of learning to read and write. We encourage you to learn about this unique way of teaching reading and writing in the Montessori environment so you can implement the same ideas at home. The following are some ideas and strategies that you can use to work with your child at home, even as your child’s Montessori directress/teacher is working with him/her at school.

- *Play rhyming or word game.*
- *Ask questions or riddles that teach about categories/classifying objects by function, color, size, family, etc.*
 - *Start by reading simple short stories and slowly introduce chapter books.*
 - *Sing songs, read or write poems, then ask questions to build comprehension skills.*
 - *Ask your child to retell a story in sequence*



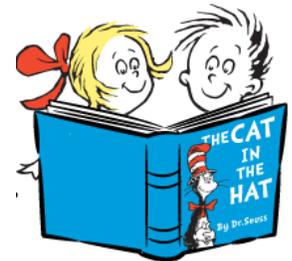
- *Work on multi-directional projects, such as building kits, using a recipe to cook/bake, play board games and follow the rules of the game.*
- *Teach your child about how to properly read and use a book (point out the front, back, cover, title, author, etc.). Show respect for books by taking good care of them.*
- *Use puzzles with increasing levels of difficulty to develop spatial intelligence. For younger children use puzzles with knobs to help exercise the 'pincer' and finger grasp used to hold a pencil.*
- *Prepare the eye and hand of reading and writing by playing games that use words such as right, left, top, bottom, etc...*
- *Teach your child to write his/her first and last name, address, phone number, days of the week, months of the year, and year of his/her birthday.*

- *Always keep a supply of arts/crafts available for them to use and be creative with.*

Finally, you as the adult 'role model' in your child's life have an important role to play in his/her language development. Always attempt to use simple, clear and precise speech with proper vocabulary, not 'baby talk'. Speak in a respectful, even tone voice, and avoid rough aggressive language to communicate.

Just like Dr. Seuss said "The more that you READ, the more things you will KNOW. The more that you LEARN, the more places you'll GO."

Suha Zablock
Administrator



Office Notes

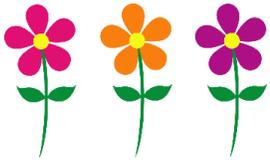
- **HOT LUNCH PROGRAM:** It is not too late to try our Hot Lunch Program. Each entrée comes with a fruit and vegetable. Remember to use the online portal to place your orders: <https://www.ezparentcenter.com/>. You may contact Homemade Lunch Service at 248-642-8134 with any questions.
- **NOTES/PAYMENTS:** Please hand important papers to a staff member and check your child's backpack daily for school notes.
- **EXTRA CLOTHING BOX:** With the changing season, please check your child's box to make sure the appropriate clothing is available in case they need it. Please return fresh clothing the next day if clothing is sent home to be cleaned. Please label all of their clothing with their first and last name.

THANK YOU: To Mrs. Hingorani and to all of the Valentine Dance volunteers for making the dance a fun event and an evening to remember!

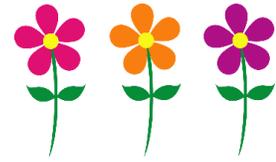
- **SPRING CONCERT AND KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION:** Friday, May 17, 2019 at 6:30 PM at "Walled Lake Central High School ". (NO PM Daycare on this day.)
- **KINDERGARTEN & ELEMENTARY YEAR-END CELEBRATION:** Friday, May 31, 2019 at 9:30 AM.
- **FOR CURRENT PARENTS ONLY:** Enroll by Monday, March 25, 2019 and receive a waiver of your registration fee. To receive this waiver ALL forms and fees must be completed and submitted to the office.

Spring is just around the corner!

Ms. Colleen



Elementary News



Our Elementary Classroom continues to be an exciting place of learning because the children are active participants and eager learners. At this age, children enjoy learning with others. You will observe children working together on geometry and geography concepts, researching selected topics in science and much more. Learning to collaborate in an important part of the learning process.

During Peace Week, the Elementary students did an amazing job writing peace thoughts and creating a list of Peace Pledges. They used their five senses to write honest and heartfelt thoughts about Peace. We hope you have the opportunity to read the classroom Peace Pledges displayed in our room.

In math, children are working on memorization of math facts while learning the process of math operations with the Montessori material. As students master the operations and memory of math facts they move to a deeper understanding of fractions, decimals, measurement and percent. We will be working on a unit on money and Roman Numerals.

In science, we will be learning the parts of the five classes of vertebrates: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. We will continue lessons on the Timeline of Life.

In history, we will be studying the Presidents of the United States. Geography will continue as we explore the United State, North America and Europe.

Reading and writing are done daily throughout all subjects. Students are encouraged to read carefully and answer questions with neat writing.

You are invited to observe our class from the office. Communication between your student, the teachers, and you is a very important part of your child's education.

Ms. Roxanne, Directress

Ms. Sue

Did You Know? Added Benefits of Homework

- ◆ It improves your child's thinking and memory.
- ◆ It helps your child develop positive study skills and habits that will serve him/her well throughout life.
- ◆ Homework encourages your child to use time wisely.
- ◆ It teaches your child to work independently.
- ◆ Homework teaches your child to take responsibility for his/her work.
- ◆ It allows your child to review and practice what's done in class.
- ◆ It helps your child get ready for the next day's class.
- ◆ It encourages your child to explore topics more fully than classroom time permits.
- ◆ It allows your child to extend learning by applying skills to new situations.
- ◆ Homework helps parents learn more about what their child is learning in school.
- ◆ It allows parents to communicate about what he or she is learning.
- ◆ It encourages parents to spark their child's enthusiasm.



NEWS FROM MS. NEEYATI'S CLASS

Spring

Hopefully everyone had a great time at the Valentine's Dance. The children had a great time passing their valentines in the morning. March always brings the anticipation of Spring. It is a busy and exciting month in class. Children are working with the Montessori materials practicing their reading skills. April brings out study of new beginnings such as sprouting seeds, new buds, and life cycles of plants and animals.

Practical Life: We have started learning some polishing works such as brass polishing, silver polishing and shoe polishing. The children have been practicing running stitch on a burlap. We have been practicing individual snack and the children have shown independence in serving snack and pouring milk and juice for themselves.

Sensorial: Children have started to learn about different tastes by working on tasting jars. The different tastes introduced are sweet, salty, sour and bitter. They will also work on making different shapes using the geo board.

Language: The kindergarten students are into journal writing and sentence building. Some second-year students are working on blending and building 3 letter words using the movable alphabets. They are also working on penmanship on a daily basis.

Math: The older children have been introduced to the clock and money. They are also working on the four operations. The younger children continue to work on other math activities.

Science: We have learned about Reptiles and Mammals. We will be studying about other classification of animals such as bird and insects. The children will learn about the different classification of animals at the "Science Alive" presentation.

Geography: We learned about the Continent of Asia. Thank you to Ms. Becky for presenting on China and Ms. Carol for presenting on Japan. The children enjoyed the presentations. We will be learning about the Continent of Africa, different countries in Africa and its unique culture. The Kindergarteners have been presenting on a country from each continent.

Reminders:

As per LARA, it is very important that your child's **lunch box and water bottle be labelled with first and last name.**

We have Parent Teacher conferences coming up on March 21st and 22nd.

We will also have our annual Science Fair on March 21st from 10:00am to 11:00 am. Hope to see you all there.

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

Ms. Neeyati, Directress

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



AaBb

NEWS FROM MS. SUHA'S CLASS

Spring is slowly approaching and the children are eager to enjoy the smell of flowers, the touch of grass, and watch the bunnies hop. We are preparing our classroom with a variety of activities that promote more independence, concentration, organization, and success.

Practical Life & Sensorial

In Practical Life, the children will be baking, folding different pieces of clothing, and using different instruments to pour liquids (funnel, baster, and a dropper). They have also been introduced to sewing. Some children have learned to sew a button on felt, while others have sewn a button on burlap. In sensorial, we have been experimenting with different extensions using the Montessori material. One all-time favorite is using the blindfold to try and sort all the knobbed cylinders into their right spots.

Math:

The focus in Math will be on number writing. It is very important that your child practice the correct formation of the numbers on a daily basis. Encourage him/her to practice one number a week and allow them to write it on a chalkboard or paper. The older children have been working with money and telling the time. Other concepts that have been introduced are addition and multiplication. The older children have been using the stamp game to practice the different operations. We have also been using some computer programs to reinforce what is being learned.



Language & Writing:

Many of the older children continue to work on their reading and comprehension skills. Some children will be learning more about grammar: nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. They will learn to differentiate each one when reading a sentence. The younger children continue to practice blending and word building using the moveable alphabet.

When possible, try to visit the library with your child and share some reading time with them. This is a wonderful opportunity to listen to your child read and ask them questions about what they are reading.

Science & Geography:

We will be learning about the continent of Australia and its culture. In Science, we will study vertebrates and invertebrates. We will also learn about the distinct species under the sea and learn about their habitats. The children will discover the concept of "Sink or Float" and learn about which objects are Magnetic or Nonmagnetic.

We look forward to seeing all the Science Fair projects on Thursday March 21 from 10:00-11:00 AM.

Thank You:

Thank you to all the families for providing us with the nutritious snacks. Please remember to check your children's backpacks daily for newsletters/forms coming home.

Happy Spring!

Ms. Suha, Directress

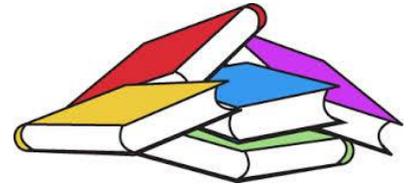
Ms. Fran, Ms. Ann, Ms. Kristen & Ms. Monika

SPRING



toddler time

Toddler News



that we notice the social relationships between the children really begin to grow. They are now very familiar and comfortable with each other and enjoy engaging with one another on the playground and in the classroom. Rather than the typical toddler parallel play, we see them wanting to play together more frequently, and when we see this happening, we try to facilitate their ability to do this successfully! Each toddler is unique and has specific needs, with these needs changing daily, which is why it is important to integrate new experiences and add challenging materials to our room. Here is a glimpse of our beautiful toddler room:

Practical Life: In practical life, the children are using their hands, strengthening them while participating in activities involving small paper cutters, clothes pin and tweezer work. Other forms of practical life activities we have been using involve threading and learning how to cut using scissors. This incorporates focus, concentration and hand eye coordination.



Math: We have been rote counting as a group during calendar time and we are counting up to 31. Along with counting, we have been working on incorporating numbers in and out of order to instill a solid base of recognition.

Sensorial: We have been working on all colors which include primary and secondary, shapes, advanced shapes and many more manipulative puzzle works that the children love to do over and over again. We have learned about dinosaurs, different kinds of transportation vehicles, arctic



animals, woodland animals and different kinds of tools. Toddlers are very inquisitive, so keeping them challenged is our specialty!

Pre-Reading: March is reading month and we really stress reading in the toddler room for many different reasons, here are a few: Basic speech skills, better communication skills, mastery of language and enhanced logical thinking skills along with the basics of knowing "how" to read a book. Showing the children that words go left to right and that words on a page are separate from images, are essential pre-reading skills that benefit each child. One last important skill toddler benefit from is enhanced concentration and discipline. Toddlers may initially squirm and become distracted during a story but will eventually learn to enjoy and stay put for the duration of the book which leads to stronger self-discipline, longer attention span and better memory retention, all of which will serve your child well.

We would like to thank the families of Benjamin Turbovsky, Calvin Link, Thomas Pfefferkorn, Blake Ayiar, Kailyn Freeman and Gia Hingorani for the healthy and delicious snacks!

You can learn many things from children. For instance, how much patience you have.

The Toddler Team,
Ms. Michelle, Directress
Ms. Sherry, Ms. Debbie, Ms. Valerie,
and Ms. Maha



Music News

I am excited to teach music at Lakes Area Montessori and appreciate how welcoming the school is!

In music class the Toddler room is performing movement songs and dramatizations. PK1 and PK2 are practicing moving to the steady beat in their songs and singing high and low. The Elementary class is strengthening their singing by performing partner songs and following conducting.

Students in all classes are learning songs from or inspired by different cultures in preparation for "Our Cultures United" spring program. For

example, we are having a blast singing about the Olympics in Greece, the pyramids in Egypt, the markets in Jamaica, and learning some French words to perform a song from France. Each class is focusing on different countries and it will be fun to learn from each other when we perform in the spring!

Musically yours,

Ms. Jessica



Spanish News

We reviewed all the past vocabulary and daily greetings in each class. Everyone is doing great!!

Please review the following vocabulary with your child.

La escuela

Maestra - teacher
Mochila - backpack
Lapiz - pencil
Silla - chair
Colores - colors

libro - book
mesa - table
bandera - flag
mapa - map
reloj - clock

Los numeros

10 - diez
30 - treinta
50 - cincuenta
70 - setenta
90 - noventa

20 - veinte
40 - cuarenta
60 - sesenta
80 - ochenta
100 - cien

La ropa

vestido - dress
camiseta - t-shirt
chaqueta - jacket
calcetas - socks
gorra - hat

pantalon - pants
zapatos - shoes
botas - boots
guantes - gloves
shorts - shorts

Los accesorios

sombrero - hat
lentes - glasses
aretes - earrings
cinto - belt

anillo - ring
reloj - watch
collar - necklace
bufanda - scarf

Spring vocabulary:

conejo - bunny
flores - flowers
mariposa - butterfly

canasta - basket
huevos - eggs
primavera - spring

We play a lot with the flashcards, bingo, hot potato!! they love it!!!
Spanish is a lot of fun!!

Songs: " Los conejos panaderos ", " La rana ", " La foca Ramona " and " En la pulga de San Jose "

FELIZ CUARESMA (Happy Easter)!!

**Gracias,
Senora Melba Acosta**

Physical Education News

We have been stretching and exercising indoors the past few months.

We continue working on the Presidents Physical Fitness Program. Another inside favorite race with the children is the shuttle. It is a competitive race where the children must run 30 feet and pick up one block, return the block to the start and then run and get the second block and return.

We have practiced throwing and catching balls, which helps the children learn to throw better in dodge ball. In addition to our weekly program of sit-ups, push-ups, and numerous stretching



exercises, we are working on the standing broad jump, and the running jump.

We review how important proper nutrition is. The children enjoy naming their favorite fruits and vegetables.

Spring is on its way and we are very excited to continue with our outdoor activities which will include soccer and relay races among some other fun activities!!!

Staying Fit,

Mr. Roby



Before and Aftercare News

We sure have had some crazy weather this winter! Hope you have all stayed warm and safe. We hope to soon be welcoming some warmer weather and again be able to play more outside. While we are still inside for our play time, we have added some new board games and puzzles to bring some interest to our indoor playtime. We have also colored hearts for our bulletin board. Soon we will be taking down our winter penguin scene from our bulletin board and put up a spring scene. Students will be cutting and gluing flowers and shamrocks for our spring bulletin board. We will also have an egg hunt for the students in the spring. Looking forward to warmer weather!



As always, please provide a nutritious snack for your child.

Happy spring!

Ms. Fran, Ms. Kristen and Ms. Debbie
(AM Care)

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

Peace Thoughts from the Elementary Class

Peace feels like the warmth of a hug when you are feeling sad.

Peace sounds like laughter from a funny joke.

Peace looks like smiles from everyone around you.

Peace smells like a candle being lit, filling the room with a great smell.

Peace tastes like the first bite of a chocolate cupcake.

Peace means to have love and friendship.

Diya Jonnalagadda

Peace feels like happiness.

Peace sounds like birds singing on the tree.

Peace looks like snow falling from the sky.

Peace smells like tulips.

Peace tastes like healthy vegetables.

Peace means calm.

Karin Kobayashi

Peace feels like happiness.

Peace sounds like laughter.

Peace looks like nature.

Peace smells like a rose.

Peace tastes like vanilla.

Peace means calmness.

Natalia Schuster

Peace feels like everyone acting very calm.

Peace sounds like quietness, soft music, or the sound of the birds chirping right outside my window.

Peace looks like everyone when they are having fun.

Peace smells like the perfume from one of those magazines or mint chocolate chip ice cream.

Peace tastes like homemade cookies and milk.

Peace means everyone is having fun in their own way.

Ashton Bernacki

Peace feels like love.

Peace sounds like beautiful chirping birds.

Peace looks like the clean beach.

Peace smells like the ocean breeze.

Peace tastes like strawberries covered in chocolate.

Peace means hope.

Aly Borghi

