

AROUND THE HOUSE



OUR COMMUNITY

Thank you for participating in Community Week! Thank you for taking the time to participate in the Community Survey. The survey metrics that mean the most to me are the responses to “I feel my child is respected and valued” and “I feel my child is safe.”

100% of survey participants *strongly agreed* or *agreed* with those statements.

100% of survey participants also *strongly agreed* or *agreed* with the statement, “I feel my child is welcomed into a beautiful and well-prepared environment” and 96% *strongly agreed* or *agreed* to the statement, “I feel my child is happy. These statements are a direct reflection of our school’s core values.

The survey highlighted some areas on which we need to improve. One of the areas is parent/teacher communication. The focus of our November Staff Meeting will be developing new communication channels. A great place to start the conversation is Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 5th.

The survey results will be posted on our website (any identifying information was removed). The results will also be shared with the Staff and School Board.

Thank you for your support! Danielle Giuseffi, Director
~Office Hours: Monday-Thursday; 7:30 to 11:30~

MONTESSORI MINUTE

Gratitude is one of the lessons of Grace and Courtesy. We teach children to say “thank you” as a rote habit. But to truly understand the value of being thankful builds character through “generosity, humility, wisdom, joy, integrity and trust.” (Arrien) To help children learn to value gratitude, we can incorporate it into daily Montessori activities. The guides talk about what they appreciate and model using words and tone to appreciate what they see: “I appreciate how Sam cleaned up after he made his snack.” “Thank you for these lovely flowers, Jenna. I appreciate that you picked them out yourself.”

These appreciations are descriptive compliments and recognize efforts. Maren Schmidt, author of *Understanding Montessori: A Guide for Parents*, writes, “Descriptive compliments describe what you see, what you feel and then uses a word that sums up the entire experience.” In other words, they describe instead of evaluate. General compliments can be an evaluation and may be misinterpreted to the child (or adult!) as insincere or even critical. If my partner tells me the dinner I prepared is delicious, I may wonder how my other meals taste! But if he recognizes my hard work and care for preparing a meal for my family, I understand his appreciation. Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others. — Cicero

THANK YOU!

... the PTO for the alternative Harvest Festival and all their support!

...the School Board for all they do for our school.

...families who ordered from Small Hands

...everyone who participated in Community Week

Questions about the PTO?

Email Shanna Miller at
mshanna31@yahoo.com

“The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child’s own natural desire to learn.” – Maria Montessori

FROM THE CLASSROOMS

8:15 / 8:30 / KINDERGARTEN

The children have been learning about two dimensional shapes. We have talked about squares, triangles, and circles. We will be introducing the rectangle later this month. We will also be introducing the presentation tray and the geometric cabinet. The geometric cabinet introduces the children to various two-dimensional shapes. The children will be making table decorations for our Harvest Feast. They will be displayed on our table then sent home for your Thanksgiving table the day of the feast. Please let your child's teacher know if your child will not be attending.

I hope reading bags are going well for Kindergarten families at home. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to ask. As a reminder, reading bags will continue to come home every Friday and need to be returned on Mondays. In addition, I have started the Kindergarten children earlier than previous years on Montessori math materials. I am hoping to get ahead of the game just in case we have to close school due to the virus. The children are doing well with the materials. The Kindergartners will also begin studying continents with the Sandpaper Globe and Colored Globe with a focus primarily on North America and its mammals. Sincerely, Mrs. Butler, Miss Parastou, Mrs. Verchio, & Mrs. Gibson

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Lower Elementary has been enjoying the fresh fallen snow at recess! We have been sledding and making snowpersons!! This crazy change of weather has prompted our creative minds to investigate how weather happens and where in the world it is cold and where it is very hot! We are learning all about maps and how to read them. Each child brought in a map from home and we talked about the different features of the map, the compass rose, and the legend and how we use it! The students are going to be making maps of their classroom, city, and state! We are excited to see each other's maps! First grade continues to learn how to make 10 and read and solve story problems in math. Third grade is continuing to memorize their multiplication facts and review 4-digit regrouping of addition and subtraction! Second grade is beginning to read beginning chapter books and learn the stamp game for addition!

Second and third grade are writing stories of their choice! The stories are so interesting and are all unique as their authors! First grade is developing their skills of writing amazing sentences and they are inspired by the second and third graders to write their own stories!! Next month we will do opinion writing! This is always so much fun! Second and Third graders are learning more parts of speech. They are excited to use pronouns and adjectives in their writing! Finally in Science, we have begun the story that precludes our First Great Lesson! The students, as always, are in awe of how the Universe began! This will continue all year and we will build our lessons in science around this! We are all working on grace and courtesy in our classroom, as it is a very important part of a Montessori education. We are learning how to communicate with one another, taking turns talking, using manners at the lunch table and seeing the value of our respect for one another! It is a beautiful thing! They will be awesome citizens of the world! Sincerely, Mrs. Pena

UPPER ELEMENTARY

In the upper elementary, the month of October flew by! Although, we talked about the concept of time being relative, but didn't expect it to happen like this:-) We continued to review and practice many concepts, but also had weekly presentations in two areas that are new to most upper elementary students, geometry, and matter & energy. We dedicated a week to the Great Lessons that are at the core of the Montessori Cosmic education in the elementary program. The two stories of How Writing Began and How Numbers Began were of particular interest. As a follow-up work, the students got excited to figure out how to write their names in ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs. Soon they will have a chance to write numbers using the Mayan number system. Currently, we are exploring the methods in doing historical research, so students can take on projects related to the study of ancient civilizations. We kicked off our weekly vocabulary and spelling dictation by watching the Akeelah and the Bee, which we all found inspiring. On CHM spirit day, the students designed a wreath adorned with words associated with their classroom community and the community at large; it is magnificent! Students brought in board games to share with their friends and had some donuts in keeping with their lower elementary friends:-) Respectfully, Parastou

Nov 5th- Parent
Teacher
Conferences
Nov 6th – NO
SCHOOL
Nov 12th – PTO
Playdate @3:10
Nov 16th – PTO
Meeting @ 3:10
Nov 19th – PTO
Playdate @3:10
Nov 24th- Harvest
Feast – ALL students
attend 10:15 to
11:30
Nov 25th- 27th – No
School