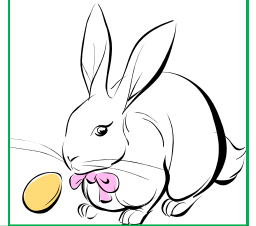




Montessori Centres March 2016 Newsletter



*The things he sees are
not just remembered;
they form a part of his
soul.*

— Maria Montessori



The Importance of Montessori's Three-Year Cycle

"It is true that we cannot make a genius. We can only give to each child the chance to fulfil his potential possibilities." — Maria Montessori

As a Montessori parent, you may have heard teachers talk about the "three year cycle." Montessori puts great emphasis on completion of the entire cycle, but more than a few parents have told us they don't understand why we make such a fuss about it.

An easy way to understand the concept is to compare it gardening. Think about planting a rose bush. Before planting, you must prepare the soil. Then you must fertilize, water and prune the plant while protecting it from disease. If you don't maintain the delicate balance, the plant will not flower. Finally, after much dedication — sometimes lasting more than one season — your hard work is rewarded with a beautiful rose. From there, the cycle begins to repeat itself as you prune, separate and graft the bushes. Most gardeners would not recommend moving a rose bush before its root ball is fully established.

Montessori's "rose bushes" are the students. During the first two years of any three-year cycle, teachers are working to groom and prepare the child for increasingly more difficult tasks. The full blossom of the rose comes after all that labor on the child's part. As the oldest child in the class, children are able to model appropriate behavior and share their inner beauty with the school community.

Moving a child before completion of

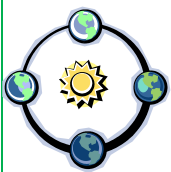
the three year cycle is much like watering a rose bush but neglecting to fertilize the soil. You may get blossoms, but the colors aren't quite as vibrant.

During the three-year cycle, children are growing both socially and intellectually. Every aspect of the three-year cycle is scientifically designed to meet the needs of the child on his or her plane of development. To quote the Cameragal Montessori School in Australia, " Failure to complete the 3-year cycle results in the child not achieving the "total possibility" offered by the class. Many loose ends, partially developed skills and incoherent knowledge are obvious.

If your child is in Year 2 of a three-year cycle and you're on the fence as to whether or not you should invest in another year of Montessori education, we encourage you to reward the effort your child has already put into the creation of a unique human being by completing the three-year cycle.

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Spring Break And Enrichment Week

The first week of Spring Break — March 21-25 — will be an enrichment week. If you haven't enrolled but would still like to, please see Mrs. Boone. 10 students must be enrolled by March 9th or school will be closed that week. Cost for the week is \$175.00.

Please note that the hours during the enrichment week are 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.

The second week of Spring Break — March 28-April 1 — the SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED.

Students not attending the enrichment week will have two weeks of spring break.



CAT Tests

All students in the Primary class will be taking the California Achievement Test during the month of March, beginning March 14th with the kindergarten class. Not all students will be tested every day. **Please make sure that your child is well-rested and has a nutritious breakfast on testing days.** Mrs. McShea will share and discuss your child's results with you at the spring

Parent/Teacher conferences in April.

Parents are asked to send a healthy snack in for their child or for the group. If you are willing to provide a snack for 5 children, please let Mrs. McShea know.



No Candy in Primary

Mrs. McShea has requested that parents of Primary students no longer send candy in lunches. Unfortunately, the extra sugar in the afternoons has been “revving” the children up, making it difficult for them to have a productive afternoon.

Library Cards

Several students in the Pre/K class now write legibly enough to receive their own library cards when the bookmobile comes to school. Visiting the bookmobile is a rite of passage for these students — a very big deal. Watching older classmates go on the bookmobile provides a huge incentive to the younger children to learn to write their names as well.



Children must have a library card to go on the bookmobile. We have sent library card forms home with those Pre/K students who now qualify. Please give the completed form to your child’s teacher. If your child already has a library card we will keep it here for them during the school year.

Transitioning from Montessori to a Traditional School

When I was teaching, I was asked about the transition from Montessori to traditional school many, many times. Because few regions of the world offer a complete Pre-K-12 Montessori program, transitioning is something the majority of Montessori kids will have to accomplish at some point in their school careers. The good news is, studies suggest that this change can be approached and managed very successfully.

A most interesting recent research project tracked 400 students in Milwaukee. Half the students received only public school education from kindergarten to graduation. The other half attended Montessori schools through 5th grade before transitioning into the public school system. The

two groups were carefully matched in terms of gender, ethnicity and family financial status. At the end of the study, which was conducted between 1997-2007, test scores and GPAs were compared.

Perhaps it won’t come as a surprise to Montessori advocates that the children who had received Preschool – Grade 5 Montessori education not only outperformed the other student group in math and science test scores, but also graduated with higher GPAs. The conclusion of the study was that early Montessori education had a long-term impact on later public school performance. At the very least, students transitioned excellently on an academic level.

Help! We’ve Just Left Montessori For Public School

[READ MORE HERE](#)

A Thank You

BIG Thank You to

All parents who helped with the Valentine’s Day parties and/or provided goodies for the children.

All parents and grandparents who drove for the class field trips.

Nancy Sherman for her donation of a printer.

And to all our families for making our school such a warm and friendly place.

Earth Day Garden Project



We are ready to officially kick-off our gardening season! We’re planning a planting party to celebrate Earth Day

on Saturday, April 22nd. Mark your calendar and come help us grow!

Spring Clothing

With spring on its way, the weather will be warming up, which means that children will want to shed those winter clothes. If your child is in the Pre/K class, please exchange your extra set of winter clothes for a set of spring wear. The Pre/K class will be spending much more time outside, so please make sure that your child has a weather-appropriate jacket every day. If your child resists wearing a jacket to school, you may leave an extra jacket or sweater at school.



Note: We’ve accumulated a large number of unmarked gear. Please check in our bins for your child’s hat, gloves, etc.

Montessori Madness!

A Parent To Parent Argument For Montessori Education

The best-selling book on Montessori education over the last three years, *Montessori Madness!* is widely used by schools, teacher training centers, and parents as an accessible introduction to Montessori. This book traces the journey of our family as we wrestle with questions of how best to educate our children. It explores why we eventually chose Montessori school and what we have since discovered.



Also available now in e-book format.

[Read more about it here](#)