

Montessori Pathways' News

The first week of school

August 25-August 29, 2014

Notes from Ms. Alena,



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! We are excited to have you as a part of our Montessori Pathways family!

It seems that not too long ago we were treasure hunting, learning about different musical instruments, aloha dances, and architecture around the world, enjoying swimming and playing soccer at our Summer Camp, and suddenly the new school year is here!

I would like to introduce our Montessori Pathways Team that will be helping your children become strong and independent learners, as well as responsible, kind, and helpful individuals:

Ms. Alena – Director of Montessori Pathways School

Ms. Christine – Primary Teacher in the East Room (also responsible for early morning and assisting with Kindergarten Extended Day).

Ms. Laxmi – Primary teacher in the East Room and Preschool Extended Day.

Ms. Ambreen – Primary teacher in the South Room and Pre – K Extended Day.

Ms. Karen (*Welcome back!!!*) – Kindergarten Extended Day teacher.

Mr. Matt (*Welcome to our Montessori Pathways Family!*) – Elementary teacher in the North Room.

Ms. Donna – Late afternoon, Gym, and substitute teacher.

Ms. Susan (*Welcome to our Montessori Pathways Family!*) – Art teacher.

Each month, we will be sending out a newsletter to let you know about everything that has happened at school, as well as to announce upcoming school events. We understand the parents' interest and curiosity about their child(ren)'s first few days at school, so we have prepared a short newsletter for the first week.

For most of our students, the beginning of the new school year was smooth and organized. Some of the children are returning students and are a great help for their new friends. Many of our new students had also attended our summer camp, which helped them build a strong relationship with the school, as well as learn the rules and procedures of the classrooms.

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I would like to thank the teachers, who spent a lot of time, energy, and creativity in preparing the classrooms and new materials for our students.

Our newsletters will contain information from each individual classroom, but we suggest that you take the time to read all of it. Oftentimes the teachers include helpful information, interesting recipes, and other tips to be used at home, as well as a greater picture of what is happening around the school. These newsletters also serve as a starting point for conversations about school with your child.

Coming School Events

- ***On Friday, September 5th at 5:30pm - 6:30pm***, we will be having an ***Ice Cream Social***. Come and meet all of the kids, parents and teachers and have some fun on our school's playground.
- ***On September 22, 2014, at 11 a.m.***, children from Montessori Pathways School will sing "*Light a Candle for Peace*" in celebration of the ***United Nation's Annual International Day of Peace***.

Beginning in New Zealand and finishing in the Hawaiian Islands, the song "Light a Candle for Peace" will be sung continuously for 24 hours by Montessori school children around the world.

Our school is excited about joining the many other Montessori schools to "Sing Peace around the World". It is a chance to connect our regular lessons of encouraging the children to treat each other with respect and dignity. To show compassion, patience, and kindness to others are values nurtured in the Montessori environment as the children work together each day for a peaceful classroom. In the words of Maria Montessori, "*The child is both the hope and promise for mankind.*"

- Every fall, ***at the end of September***, we hold a ***Mums School Fundraiser***. This year, the money raised will go toward buying new materials for each classroom. Please look forward to an order form coming soon!
- We are in the process of preparing ***Parent Evening themes*** and would love to hear what you are curious to learn about! Your feedback will help us cater the evenings to your specific questions. You can let us know your questions and suggestions via e-mail at montpathways@hotmail.com.

As always, if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, feel free to contact us via e-mail!

Warmly,
Ms. Alena

Notes from the Elementary Class (*North room*)

Mr. Matt

Dear Elementary Class Parents,

During the first week we focused largely on building a community. We discussed how we can be respectful of ourselves, each other and our environment. We worked on being peaceful and how to carry ourselves in such a way as to facilitate a positive learning environment.

Monday also involved group presentations on a few practical life activities, an introduction to a typical day's schedule, and an introduction to our classroom signals. We participated in a few community building games as well. The week continued on with the students receiving presentations for works that were mostly a review so the students could have an opportunity to learn the procedure for coming to a presentation and how to record their work. The lessons of the week also gave me occasion to see where the students are at an individual level.



Academically, the children were introduced to nouns and discovered the importance of naming words. We also went into more depth with some types of nouns: Proper and Common nouns as well as Singular and Plural nouns. In math the first graders reviewed place value to the 1000s place and began adding numbers using the Golden Beads. The second graders were introduced to the Small Bead Frame and learned to use it for static addition. The third graders were introduced to the Checkerboard, which is used for long multiplication.



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While of course we could not learn everything in one week, it is great that the children are noticing the new “works” that are available in the classroom as this serves as great inspiration to build the knowledge necessary to use some of the elementary materials. One of our new students was so surprised and excited to see how the Montessori materials can help discover and understand the solution to any problem.

If you have any questions, feel free to stop in, email or call. This next week the students will begin to receive many new presentations to move them into the elementary curriculum. The kids are eager to learn and we have a lot to cover, which makes for an excellent combination.



*Enjoy your long weekend!
Mr. Matt*

Kindergarten Extended Day News

Ms. Karen



It has been such a nice week! I am enjoying the process of getting to know each of the children as individuals. This is, of course, a process that never ends. The children have been delightful, cooperative and so interested. It has been a full week.

We have a combination group lessons and individual work time and lessons.

This week, the group lessons have been based around refining skills that the children will need this year.

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We have practiced precise cutting on a line, how to get a sharp corner of a shape, how to use a glue bottle (so the glue does not become an obstacle when we are working on projects), how to fold and crease the paper, location of the specific supplies, including the recycle basket, how to clean up after gluing, how to organize a multi-step project.

While that has been a direct aim of the lessons, we are always cognizant of the vocabulary development of the children.



We observe, interject, plan, and use specific vocabulary in each lesson. So the above lessons included vocabulary such as primary colors, names of geometric shapes, line, corner, edge, sequence of steps, overlapping, next to, smaller than, larger than, etc. You recognize much of this as math vocabulary and math thinking (ex. sequence) which is present in all of the work.

In math, we have begun reviewing and extending the concept of place value using concrete materials.

Of course, practical problem solving is an everyday occurrence ranging from how to clean up spilled water to how to get the Frisbee off the roof of the school (took a ladder, a rake ---no that didn't work, a broom ----success). I climbed the ladder, but the process of thinking and solving the problem was totally from the children.

Looking forward to a fun, interesting, thoughtful, challenging year with the children!



Warmly,
Ms. Karen

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Notes from the East classroom:

Ms. Christine, Ms. Laxmi

Welcome and welcome back to our students and families! We introduced ourselves and got reacquainted during the morning line time, and have enjoyed getting to know each other. After morning arrivals, around 9:00, we come together as a group and learn about classroom etiquette, basic presentations and grace and courtesy (manners). Snack is available as a choice until 10:30, the morning work cycle continues until 11:00 and then we get ready for outdoor activities. This routine will continue throughout the school year, and allows for maximum learning opportunity and freedom of choice within the curriculum.



We have a diverse group of students within the 3 - 6 year olds; 20 students, and it is already functioning as a beautiful Montessori classroom. We have observed older and returning students helping new children with navigating the classroom and showing "work" that they choose. We are also in the process of assessing individual student levels and making customized work plans for each child.



Our community extends to our families who we hope will help by contributing to the monthly Sharing Basket for items used in snack preparation and tasting activities. In addition, we hope to have monthly volunteers to assist us with crafts and special projects. If anyone can help us at this time with sewing (we have fabric that needs to be cut and hemmed for lunch napkins), tracing continents on colored paper (all supplies provided), please email and let us know!

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Thank you for the opportunity of teaching your children this year. We look forward to watching them grow and blossom in their success at school and within themselves!



Looking forward to a great year together!

Ms. Christine, Ms. Laxmi

Notes from the South Classroom

Ms. Ambreen

Hello friends from the South Room,

Our first week of school was the introductory 'get to know' week and I am so happy to share with you that it was a very happy and exciting week.



We did many activities like playing name games on the line involving all the kids to facilitate their introduction with each other, we had basic presentations done from sensorial and practical life areas and took bathroom breaks to help kids get comfortable.

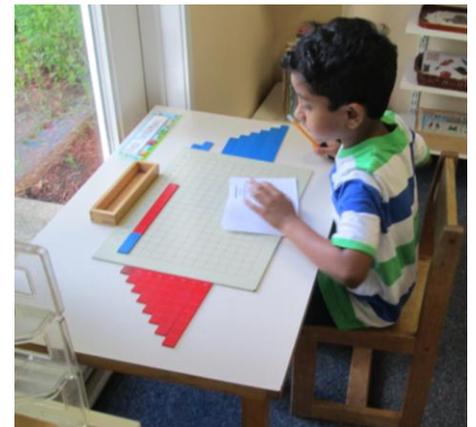
All the kids really enjoyed our group snack and outside play time.

I really appreciate all the kindergarten kids in our classroom who were very helpful to their new friends and I extend my great thanks to them.

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Although the first week is over, there is still a lot more to look forward to. I wish you all a very good weekend and can't wait to see your smiling faces next week.



Sincerely,
Ms. Ambreen

Notes from the Afternoon classroom:

Ms. Donna

Everyone has learned everyone's name and they enjoy working on our afternoon works with a partner.

We played a game called *Pass the bean bags down the line*.

We made our first science experiment. The children were amazed at what happened when we added several drops of dish soap to a plate of milk with drops of food coloring.

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Our group art project is almost finished. Though we have had rain during the day we have been able to spend end of day time outside using hula -hoops, basketballs and scoops.



Best regards,

Ms. Donna