

Montessori Pathways' News

Montessori Pathways

The best way to discovery!



School

February

"Success in life depends in every case on self-confidence and the knowledge of one's own capacity"

~ Maria Montessori, "From Childhood to Adolescence"

Notes from Ms. Alena (Head of School)

February is the month when "Montessori buds" begin opening and the "flowers" are ready to bloom. There are so many changes we observe in our kids starting this month. Our very young friends know all of the routines and are so capable of doing so many things by themselves – choosing a work from the shelf, working independently, putting work away and cleaning up after the work. They become more and more curious about new and more challenging work because they see how the older kids are working and what kind of projects they are doing.



At this time of the year, we can observe how our students gain their self-confidence. Kids who have faith in their self-confidence have the urge to try out new things and explore every bit of them. They are more likely to give their best in everything they do. Building up self-esteem allows the child to grow in a positive manner. It lets your child learn from their mistakes and even if they fall at first, they will find their way to stand back up.

Self-esteem fuels the confidence of kids and makes them proud of themselves. As a result, it helps them do their best at school, at home, and whenever they are with their friends. It boosts their personality.

If at the beginning of the school year we hear the kids saying: "It is hard, I cannot do it...", now we hear more and more: "Can I do this? I would like to try that. I want to do the same project as".

Kids have become so confident in many ways and our job as adults is to create the environment that will feed their curiosity and desire and allow them to flourish. The best enjoyment comes after, when kids come to me, show their projects and say: "Look, Ms. Alena, I did it! And I did it by myself!" And I love to see the kids' eyes at that moment, full of excitement and pride. Aren't these the feelings that should be sparked by education?



Another moment we, teachers, recently observed and were so impressed to see, is when our Elementary students decided to share *The Terra Cotta Warriors Clay Project* and brief research about the warriors with the Pre-K and Kindergarten students. Right after that, we noticed that most of the kids went to the art area and started to create their own warriors. No one asked them to do it, no one explained them how to do it. But one of the beauties of the Montessori multiage environment is that younger kids LOVE to learn from older ones and are always inspired by them.



Unfortunately, the format of the newsletters does not allow us to share all of our cool stories about our students. But watching them grow every day is a blessing.



Parents' Corner



What is the next step for my child?

- ◇ *Are a couple of years of Montessori good enough for my child to reap the benefits?*
- ◇ *Will Montessori prepare children for traditional school?*
- ◇ *Why should I pay tuition for one more year in Kindergarten if it is free in public school?*
- ◇ *How are Elementary years in Montessori beneficial for my child?*
- ◇ *Isn't it time for my child to join his/her friends from the neighborhood in going to public school together?*

These and many others are questions parents ask every year when it is time to decide about the next step in their child's education and development.

Just like all of us do extensive research before buying a new car or a house, we recommend to our parents to do the same regarding their child's future - learn as much as possible about the different types of education and choose what is most beneficial for your child.

Every year, as a part of this research, we offer a workshop for parents of upcoming kindergartener and elementary students. This year, due to Covid-19, we, unfortunately, still have no opportunity to meet in person with our families and share all of our knowledge, observations, and experience. Therefore, we decided to share some of our resources with you regarding the benefits of Montessori Education in the different stages of the child's development.

Montessori Preschool Year is a time for planting...

Montessori Pre-K Year is a time for growing...

The Kindergarten Year in Montessori is a time for blooming!



Click here for videos:

[Montessori Kindergarten: Essential & Empowering](#)
[A Time To Blossom - Montessori For The Kindergarten Year](#)
[The Montessori Kindergarten Year - A Question for Parents](#)

Montessori Elementary Program Develops Unique, Sensitive Individuals.

Children of the Elementary age are striving for intellectual independence and trying to satisfy their curiosity and excitement for learning. The Montessori classroom allows them to do just that. Rather than taking a step back to the basics and waiting for their peers to catch up, students of the Montessori class are able to progress at their own pace, discovering the world around them and focusing their varying interests appropriately.

What sets Montessori apart in the Elementary years—ages 6 – 12—is the individually paced curriculum that challenges children academically and safeguards their well-being and sense of self.

Click here for videos:

[Montessori: The Elementary Years](#)
[Structure with Choice in the Montessori Elementary Classroom](#)
[Montessori Mixed-age Classrooms](#)

Click here to learn more about Montessori Pathways:

[Kindergarten and Elementary Years at Montessori Pathways](#)

Click here to find more answers for your questions:

[Frequently Asked Questions about Montessori Education](#)





REGISTRATION FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR HAS BEGUN!



As you know, Montessori Pathways School has been serving the community for over twenty years, building a better future for our children and our world—one child at a time. Innovative Montessori education is our trademark. Our unique Montessori Pathways Team are delighted that your child and your family have been a part of this vision.

The Montessori approach to child development and education encompasses a wide range of experiences. Montessori works best when the child has maximum attendance and stays with us for the entirety of the developmental stage, which includes the Kindergarten Year in Primary class and Elementary education.

The completion of the 3-year cycle in every stage is the key of Montessori Education.

We look forward to having you and your child(ren) continue with us in the coming 2022-2023 school year!

We all know that due to Covid-19 a lot of great private schools and childcare facilities were closed. Because of this, the demand of enrolling children in the program is rapidly growing. Therefore, we would like to make sure that we accommodate our current families first and would like to remind you that registration for the 2022-2023 school year has begun!

The Tuition Schedule 2022-2023, Re-Enrollment Application Form for the 2022-2023 school year and Registration Form for Summer Camp 2022 were emailed to all families. Please let us know if you have missed it.

⇒ If you have decided to continue your child's education at Montessori Pathways, please complete the **Re-Enrollment Form for the 2022-2023 school year** and return it to school along with the **\$50.00 re-enrolment fee (\$25.00 for the second child)** no later than **March 1st, 2021**.

Check or QuickPay via Zelle are acceptable.

⇒ **The 10% annual tuition security deposit is due April 15th.** *This will ensure a place for your child at our school and allow your child to continue in the same class with the same teachers.*

⇒ The tuition contract will reflect a 10% discount for the second child's tuition and 20% for the third one's.

⇒ **The Summer Camp registration begins March 1st. The application and \$30.00 early registration fee are due April 15th.**

Please note: If the registration forms will be returned after April 15, your child will be considered as a new student with a \$100.00 registration fee for the next School Year and \$50.00 registration fee for Summer Camp requirement.

~ It is important that we know who is enrolled in Summer Camp and the School Year as soon as possible so that we can make the appropriate plans for hiring staff. Students who are enrolled just prior to the start of Summer Camp or School Year cannot be guaranteed a spot in the same class or at school at all. ~ We look forward to another great year with your family!

IN MARCH:

- ◆ **March 1 (Tu) – Summer Camp Enrollment begins**
- ◆ **March 1—4 – Dr. Seuss Week**
- ◆ **March 10 (Th) - Spring Picture Day** (please return picture background request form by March 7)
- ◆ **March 11(F) - Virtual Primary Parent / Teacher Conference Day (East and South Rooms)**
 - * **No School** for all Primary students **on Conference Day, March 11**
 - * **The link to schedule** your virtual conference was already sent to all families. Please sign up for your conference.
 - * **Zoom Link** will be sent to the families on Monday, March 7th.
- ◆ **March 28—April 1 – Spring Break (No School)**

The school will be operating for All Day (6:45am—6:00pm) students during Spring Break.



NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASS



Ms. Bridget

"Life is beautiful, on a stormy night. Somewhere in the world the sun is shining bright." ~ Keb Mo

Throughout the year, we study all people and their contributions to our world. However, in February, we focus on contributions of Black people to our world and country. This month, we did it 2 ways: one, each child researched a famous person to highlight each day and two, we listened to music of representative genres. The kids enjoyed trying to guess the artists and hearing the fun facts about the person of the day.



This month, for writing, each child chose a topic to research. I checked the library for available resources at the child's reading level. We weeded out topics due to availability of books. As the books arrived, the students were excited to begin exploring. They each made a web of questions that they would like to know about the topic of their selected choice. Then they read and looked at the information in the books. They are taking notes and soon, we will have a presentation of our topics and will record it for your viewing.



Another recording was Greek God and Goddess research by Upper Elementary students who completed their work.



Finally, the last recording is Theater Day. Groups of students composed a play with characters and narration. They made props and puppets and then presented it to the class.



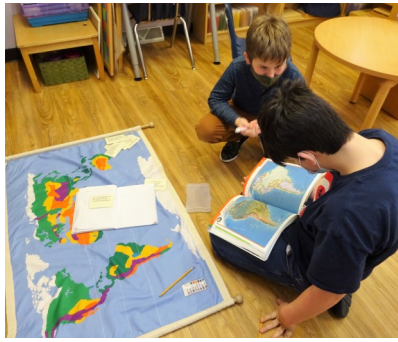
Valentine's Day is always exciting at this age because they love the candy and the sharing of Valentine's. This year, we helped primary with crafts and then relaxed in the afternoon, eating and playing together.



Finally, a very exciting part of February was the paperwork that was sent home regarding our trip to Nature's Classroom (NCI). The kids are very excited to return to one of their favorite places. If you have any questions regarding this trip, please let me know and either Ms Alena or I will answer your questions.

FEBRUARY PHOTO GALLERY

Elementary Class



com.tinc.



FEBRUARY PHOTO GALLERY

Pre-K and Kindergarten Extended Day Group



NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ROOM

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Urana



Well, another month has come and gone! We are moving into longer periods of day light and hope for warmer days to follow. Until then, please remember to send in hats and mittens every day and hope we can make it outside. Like January, February brought us a good deal of indoor recess time. The children are getting restless. We tried to accommodate the need for physical movement, by adding freeze dances and movement games to our inside time. A few favorite games are "Duck, Duck, Goose", "What time is Mr. Fox?", "The Fox and the Hound", and "In and Out the Windows". If you are not sure what some of these games are, it would be a great conversation starter to have your child explain them.

As for Ground Hog Day, we decided as a group, we much prefer the famous local groundhog, Woodstock Willy's prediction for an early spring over that of Puxatony Phil's! We are all ready to get back outside. We matched groundhog shadows to pictures and made ground hog puppets using a flashlight to make a shadow.



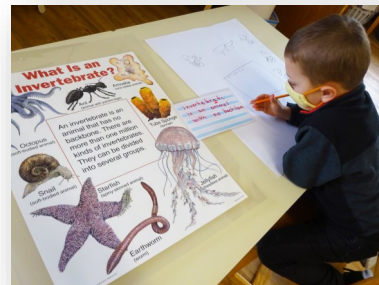
February filled our room with pink, red and purple. The art area was a favorite spot for making Valentines, and heart crafts of all kinds. The children enjoyed making small thumbprint hearts, poking, cutting, and decorating hearts for their families and friends. Valentines also encouraged our friends to try to learn to write their names, names of friends and family members. We had Math heart counting and patterning activities for all to enjoy. Valentine sight word matching, which encouraged sentence writing as well. Thank You Ms. Urana for making these seasonal projects for the children.



A huge thank you to all our parents for donating items for our Valentines Party. Your generous and thoughtful donations created a fun filled, delicious and crafty day for all. We couldn't have made it happen without you! The cookie decorating activity was great fun and the children really enjoyed it. Hopefully next year, families can again attend our classroom party and we can all celebrate together! We played musical Hearts, tic-tack-toe and valentine bingo.



In the classroom the children have been very busy with all areas an area of special interest has been exploring our Earth, through lessons on Land, Air and Water, map making and research into the animals, people, and landmarks for the continents of the world. "Who lives here?" was the catch phrase of the month. One student made an impromptu book for each continent including an outline, name of the continent and people and animals for each. The children have begun research on things that hold their interest. An example is the animals. We have cards and books which the teacher reads and the child dictate what they remember or found most interesting for each. The teacher then writes the facts for the child to copy and illustrate. A few of the 4-year-old children are branching out into more challenging materials as they gain more confidence in their own abilities. "I can do big kid work!" was also heard frequently this month.



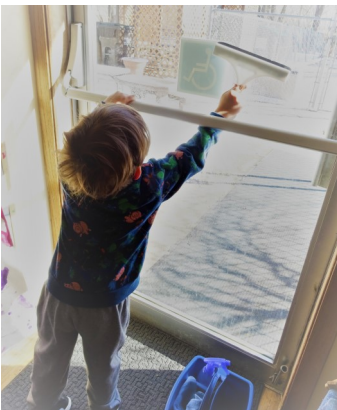
A favorite language activity with the PreK and K group was a collaborative story written by all the children. We began by talking about what a story is and how stories are someone's ideas. Anyone can make a story! What is a character, A witch can be good or bad, beautiful, or ugly? The children used their knowledge to name many different characters and their dispositions from books and movies they had watched. Where does the story take place? The ending can also be any way the author chooses.

One child introduced the concept of alternative endings. What should the title of the story be? Each child, in turn dictated a section of our story, we wrote it down and made copies for the group to illustrate and take home. Look for the "Witch and the Haunted Mansion" to read the collaboration. This activity also prompted a few children to write their own stories the next day with new characters. The children were so proud of the book, they wanted to present the story to the Elementary class!



FEBRUARY PHOTO GALLERY

South Room

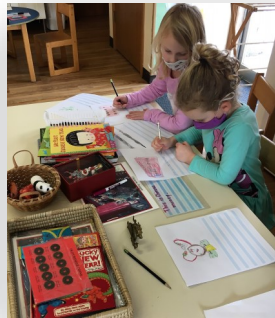


NEWS FROM THE EAST ROOM



Ms. Joey, Ms. Carole

February has been a very short but very busy month. We began with the celebration of the Lunar New Year, and had fun exploring the country of China, its culture and people. We listened to a traditional tale of how the first Chinese New Year began called "The Great Race" by Dawn Casey and learned which animal ruled when we were born. They say: "This is the animal that hides in your heart".



their choosing, at first the strokes may be erratic and extend beyond the outline, then over time they become more accurate and uniform and are able to create more intricate designs.



A new work on the shelf introduced us to the Winter Olympics. The children were very excited to share their favorite sports. We talked about the athletes who came from around the world to compete, and how hard they all worked to be able to be apart of these thrilling events!

This month in the art area the children have been exploring creatively by; tracing, cutting, gluing, painting and coloring hearts, hearts, hearts!

In our science area the children have been interested in exploring the land and water forms. Working with this material they can actually see by pouring water into the trays that water surrounds a peninsula on three sides and how land surrounds a gulf, or... island and lake, cape and bay, isthmus and straight and so on. Having a small basket of animals that belong on land or water can also make this lesson fun. Where does this animal live on a peninsula or a gulf?



Our Valentines Day was also enjoyed by all, full of fun activities, crafts, games and a wonderful snack. The children personally delivered their valentines with a huge smile to each of their friends!

I found it beautiful to see two of our friends choosing to play a game we often do on line together as a group. It is called the silence game. Mindfulness is being born out of moments spent in a quiet atmosphere of silence. The silence game is away to cultivate mindfulness in children through an ability to gain awareness of noise surrounding them and exercise self-control. In a Montessori classroom the child is shown how to "create" silence.



Many of the children have been interested in an activity which is truly unique to the Montessori environment known as Metal Insets. This is where the children learn to control a pencil by filling in outlines using an inset that represents a geometric shape. After selecting a shape and tracing it on paper, the child fills in the outline with a colored pencil of

This month Jacob is 4. Happy Birthday Jacob! Thank you to our families who helped to make our Valentines Day so special.

FEBRUARY PHOTO GALLERY

East Room



MORE WONDERFUL MOMENTS AT MONTESSORI PATHWAYS



“There is a great sense of community within the Montessori classroom, where children of differing ages work together in an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competitiveness. There is respect for the environment and for the individuals within it, which comes through experience of freedom within the community.”

~ Maria Montessori

