

Montessori Pathways' News

The first week of school

August 25-August 31, 2016



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 “traveling around the world”, learning about the history and geography of Olympic Games, enjoying swimming, playing soccer, field hockey and the other sports 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. Amber** – Elementary I-II Teacher in the North Room.
- **Ms. Christine** – Primary Teacher in the East Room and Early Morning Child Care
- **Ms. Carole** – Primary Teacher in the East Room and Preschool Extended Day.
- **Ms. Andrea** – Primary Teacher in the South Room and Pre – K Extended Day.
- **Ms. Courtney**– Primary Intern Teacher in the South Room.
- **Ms. Karen** – Kindergarten Extended Day Teacher.
- **Ms. Donna** – Morning Arrival, Late Afternoon Teacher, Elementary Gym Teacher
- **Ms. Linda** – Kindergarten and Elementary Art Teacher.
- **Ms. Breda** - (*Welcome to our Montessori Pathways Family!*) – Music Teacher.

We are glad to announce that the following classes will be offered as an **After School Program** to our students this school year:

- Monday – 3:15 - 4:00pm – **Soccer** – Coach Mr. Chris
- Tuesday – 3:15 – 3:55pm – **Yoga** – Instructor Ms. Becky
- Wednesday – 3:15 – 4:15pm – **Chess** - Teachers Ms. Viktoria / Mr. Yury
- Thursday – 3:00 – 3:45pm – **Dance** – Teachers Ms. Vicky / Ms. Kim
- Friday – 3:15 - 4:05pm – **Taekwondo** – Master Ken

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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.

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

- **September 7 at 9:00 – 11:00am** – Elementary students' **Field Trip to Crystal Lake Library.**
- **On September 21, 2016, 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 Sale 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!
- **September 30 - Elementary Parent / Teacher Conference Day (North Room)**
 - *No School for School Day Elementary students*
 - *Child Care is provided for 4:15 / All Day Students*

As always, if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, feel free to contact us via e-mail at montpathways@hotmail.com.

Notes from the Elementary Class (North room) Ms. Amber

A word that best describes the elementary classroom right now is **community**. This is a beautiful word to describe the relationships the children are building. Some children are reconnecting; others are just bonding.



There are instances everyday of children helping children, children *teaching* other children. This is the mesh that holds a multi-age classroom together. The children are working on adjusting to the routine of being back in school as they tackle Math, Geometry, and Language concepts. They enjoyed outside Gym activities, Art and Music.



Like a train leaving the station, the progress is slow and builds in speed. Many of the children are anxious to chug ahead, another positive sign. Even though they have only spent seven days in class, these children have built a foundation for the rest of the year. It is a very good beginning, one that could be compared to the beginning of the universe: a swirling mass of things that came together in some kind of order.



Kindergarten Extended Day News

Ms. Karen

Time flies! Already the first week of school has passed. It has been a time of children getting to know new friends and delighted to see old friends. Of course, the beautiful weather helped.

This initial week has involved children becoming comfortable in their environment and new routine. That begins with learning each other's names! It is also a time to learn where all the supplies are because that will enable the children to work independently. Where is the construction paper, glue, scissors, rulers, colored pencils, art clean up tray, recycle bin waste basket, paint easel supplies, paper towels, etc. etc. What are the routines? Where are our "lockers"? Where do we line up? What is the schedule of the day? What day is special class in music, P.E., art?



Grace and courtesy lessons help the classroom to run in harmony: respect the space of your classmate, how to wait to ask an adult a question if the adult is giving a lesson, how to return an activity to its place, ready for use by the next child.

But all this is mastered in a short time. The environment is organized in logical way and frequently used items all remain in place. So, as the children become comfortable and learn their way around, they can count on being able to be independent. They are "at home". The fundamental elements will not change. This foundation allows for the children to have freedom and choice along with responsibility and respect for others.



In the next few weeks we will have the introductory lessons in history, geography, biology, botany, and math. I so look forward to “opening up these areas” for further exploration by the children.

Looking forward to a year together!

Notes from the South Classroom

Ms. Andrea, Ms. Courtney

This school year has gotten off to an excellent start in the South room. At the beginning of the new school year, we always like to begin the day outside at the playground. This is a great way for the new children to get to know their new classmates in a low pressure and fun setting; it's also a way for the teachers to observe social behaviors, and help to pair up children that seem more shy or hesitant to approach and join a playgroup. It's amazing to watch these young children find friends outside so quickly and then transition into the classroom with a new buddy to work with inside.



Inside the classroom we begin with tours for the new children so that they have an idea of where to find things. We then move on to lots and lots of presentations. I have given many presentations, beginning with the basics: how to carry, unroll, re-roll a work rug, how to push in a chair, where to wash hands, how to get morning snack, etc.



This has also been a great opportunity for our kindergarteners to help with presentations and begin their year of leadership.

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Then we move on to more specific presentations of Montessori work; we have already shown some great practical life works such as table scrubbing, snack preparation, handwashing, and carrot peeling and cutting. At line time we have been playing lots of name games and singing many name songs so that all the children, both returning and new, can learn one another's names. Overall, we have had a lot of fun during these first two weeks. We have a wonderful group of children and are very excited for this school year.



Notes from the Pre-K Extended Day

Ms. Andrea

Our Pre-kindergarten friends are the children who are not yet kindergarteners and are no longer nappers. After lunch and playground time, these children go to the South classroom and continue their work cycle with an extended enrichment period.



This is a great opportunity for these older children to observe the kindergarteners and their advanced work, as well as having the chance to navigate and work in the classroom as the “older” children. This is a highly productive time of day, and all the children are very busy working during this time. It also seems to give them a sense of pride that they are the “big kids” and adds to their growing maturity. I have a lot of fun lessons planned for the pre-k group and am looking forward to the school year with them.



Notes from the East classroom:

Ms. Christine, Ms. Carole

Welcome to a great first week with much enthusiasm and community spirit in our classroom! Your children are curious and eager to experience the materials and friends they have connected with thus far (and so much more to come!).

Basically, we have been getting to know each other as well as the environment and expectations within our classroom. The weather has been beautiful so we have started our day outside and then transitioned into the classroom for a group/community snack. This has been a beautiful experience for us all to get to know each other as well as learn about our classroom protocol.



We are getting to know each, individual child and are learning their interests and personalities! We are encouraging lessons in "Grace and Courtesy" (how to wait without interrupting, please and thank you, helping a friend, etc.), asking for a "presentation" of a new work, how to organize a work and where to put it when completed- just really giving them confidence and ownership to navigate their environment on a daily basis!

All of us are looking forward to a year of fun and learning together!



Notes from the Late Afternoon class:

Ms. Donna

GROUP ACTIVITIES:

Sorting different types of seashells by same kinds, from the smallest to the largest, and by feel (smooth, rough, bumpy).

Will the oranges sink or float and why? We used 2 same sized oranges, 2 same sized containers filled with the same amount of water. We peeled one of the oranges. We then said if they would sink or float. After our guesses were recorded we put the peeled orange one container and the unpeeled orange in the other container. The peeled orange sunk to the bottom and the unpeeled orange floated on the top. The skin contained air so the orange was able to float. One of the students thought that the water would turn orange. But it didn't.



Displacement experiment. We read "The Crow and the Pitcher" from Aesop's Fables. A tale about a crow who was thirsty and finds a pitcher of water. However, he cannot reach the water. He keeps adding pebbles and rocks which causes the water to come to the top of the pitcher and he is able to get his drink of water. (Necessity is the mother of invention)

Read a book called "Nature Trails in the Ocean" by Maurice Pledger. A dolphin is looking for his parents in the ocean and meets new friends while

looking for his family.

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Learned a game called "Little Bug". One child hides under a rug and another child who is the "IT" must guess who is missing from the group.

Learned a game called "Little Mouse". Several houses of different colors are arranged on a rug. One child hides the mouse under one of the houses. The other children take turns calling out the color of the house that they believe the mouse is hiding under. The child that guesses correctly then takes his/her turn at hiding the mouse again.

Walked on the line balancing a shaker egg on the round end of the spoon.

Played the color game. A cube with different colors was tossed on the floor then the student would find something in the room that was that color. Music/Dance: "Hokey Pokey".



We are looking forward to another great and productive year!!!

