

MONTESSORI PATHWAYS' NEWS

The First Week of School (August 27— September 4,2020)



Welcome to Montessori Pathways—
your child's home away from home!

Notes from Ms. Alena

(Head of School)

We would like to welcome back all of our returning children and families and extend a warm welcome to all of our new children and families. September is always a time of excitement, yet with that comes anxiety and nervousness for many children. We will do our best to ensure the transition is as seamless as possible and to ensure that each child feels loved, respected and safe. A Montessori learning environment is like no other ... our main objective at Montessori Pathways is to provide a carefully prepared, clean, safe, and stimulating environment which will help children to develop within themselves the foundational habits, attitudes, skills and ideas essential for a lifetime of creative thinking and learning.

Respect and courtesy in our Montessori school is the foundation for everything we do and each child will soon learn the following important skills:

- ◆ how to put their work away where they found it
- ◆ how to tidy up after themselves
- ◆ the importance of helping a friend in need
- ◆ the importance of respecting the materials, the teachers and each other
- ◆ how to tuck in their chair when they leave the table
- ◆ how to walk in the classroom
- ◆ how to be self directed and find their own 'work' and most importantly,
- ◆ how to be independent!



Each child will feel empowered at Montessori Pathways School and learn how great it feels to do things on their own! Each Montessori teacher is here to nurture, support and guide them each and every day and are committed to making your child's Montessori preschool experience productive, stimulating and fun! We are honored that you have chosen our school and we are confident that this will be a wonderful year for everyone involved!

Montessori Pathways Team 2020-2021—

our experienced and enthusiastic teachers who 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. Bridget**– Elementary I-II Teacher in the North Room.
- ◆ **Ms. Joey**– Primary Teacher in the East Room; Kindergarten and Pre-K Extended Day Teacher
- ◆ **Ms. Carole** – Primary Teacher in the East Room; Preschool Extended Day Teacher.
- ◆ **Ms. Kathy** – Primary Teacher in the South Room; Kindergarten and Pre-K Extended Day Teacher.
- ◆ **Ms. Urana**– Early Morning Arrival; Primary Assistant Teacher in the South Room; Preschool Extended Day 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. Some 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.

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.

I would like to extend our appreciation to the teachers, who spent a lot of time, energy, and creativity in preparing such a wonderful and safe environment for our students.

Many thanks to all of our families who actively support our school and team at such an unprecedented time, and help us to continue in-person learning. We, of course, would not be able to make it without you!

We are looking forward to getting to know each child and working with each family to make this year a successful one! If at any time you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at **815-459-6727** or via email montpathways@hotmail.com so that we can discuss things in detail. Have a Happy and Safe Labor Day!

Warmly,
Ms. Alena

A Poem for Parents: "Nothing"

When children come home at the end of the day,
The question they're asked as they scurry to play is,
"What did you do at school today?"



And the answer they give
Makes you sigh with dismay.



"Nothing, I did nothing today!"

Perhaps nothing means
That I played with blocks, counted to ten, or sorted some rocks.
Maybe I painted or learned to tie my shoe
Or learned what happens when you mix red and blue
Maybe I learned to tuck in my chair and put my work away
Or maybe I learned to be kind to a friend while I was playing outside today,
Maybe my scissors followed a line and I learned to write my name.
Maybe I learned some sounds or numbers or learned to play a new game,
Maybe I made a craft or sang a song from beginning to end,
Or maybe I learned to play with a special, brand new friend.

When you're in preschool
And your heart has wings,
"Nothing" can mean so many, many things.

(Author Unknown)





COMING SCHOOL'S EVENTS



- ◆ **September 4 (F) - First Friday Nature Class for Elementary Students**
- ◆ **September 7 (M) - No School in observance of Labor Day.**
- ◆ **September 21 (M) at 11 a.m.**, children from 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.*"



- ◆ **September 22 (Tu) - Mums Sale School Fundraiser.**

This year, proceeds will support Montessori Pathways during the pandemic.

If you would like to participate, please return your order form and payment no later than September 8th if you did not do so yet.

- ◆ **September 25 (F) - Elementary Parent / Teacher Conference Day (North Room)**

- * No School for all Elementary students
- * The link to schedule your virtual conference will be sent to you on Tuesday, September 8.



"Our care of the child should be governed, not by the desire to make him learn things, but by the endeavor always to keep burning within him that light which is called intelligence."

~ Dr. Montessori



NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASS (NORTH ROOM)



Ms. Bridget

What an excellent start to a very different type of school year. All of the planning and cleaning has paid off. The students have settled into the school routine and have been curious learners and the topic of COVID is non-existent. Thanks to the hard work of Ms. Alena, the elementary program has begun with not much of a difference.



the first humans. How did we come to be how we are today. Next we will learn about what makes a human so different from any other animal. I love these lessons as it really excites the students and brings forth a curiosity in each of them.



I DO so enjoy seeing them be together. I can tell that they are loving being together. From the very beginning of the first work cycle, students were working together to accomplish their work



They also really enjoy the different folk tales that I share. I know one favorite of theirs and mine is the beginning story of Gilgamesh, one of the oldest stories we know. For the first time I had a student ask if there is a copy of the Canterbury Tales written by Chaucer. Cool. I also read abridged versions of the Wise Fool, an Islamic folk tale as well as Beowulf, also abridged. These stories have great lessons for the kids to think about.



There IS a lot more talking than usual as well as outdoor activities but for right now, we are enjoying the weather and being together again.



This year we will focus on American History. We will also have book groups, learn new math and language concepts, explore the sciences and learn more about the geography of the United States.



I presented the first 3 of Maria Montessori's Great Lessons so far. The kids love to hear theories and myths as to how the universe came to be. We examined different galaxy shapes and for art, they made their own galaxy. There are always so many questions about the TimeLine of Life as to how all of the living beings on Earth flourished due to the changing of the Earth's climate. They are also intrigued as to the theories of

We are so happy to all be together. Keep being safe!

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ROOM

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Urana



The first week of school has come to an end. This historic beginning has gone quite well. It was so great to see all the returning students and the new faces. The children have forged new friendships, cooperate, and work well together. The group is very well balanced and strong. The returning children are taking pride in helping our new friends. The new children have absorbed the rules quickly and are reminding the others of them.



In the classroom, the focus has been on introducing the new children to the materials. There are over 600 works in our classroom. One child counted them all last year, putting a paper with the number of works on a shelf and then adding them all up! It is a lot of ground to cover. We begin with the basics and will build upon that framework, adding from each area as we progress through the month.

The returning children have just enjoyed diving into old favorites. Often being unsure of where to start or what to do. Once reminded they are unstoppable. They really missed using the materials.



We are settling into our very new and quite different routine. The major focus has really been on health and safety of everyone. Reinforcing hand washing procedures, not returning materials to the shelf but to the sanitation station, mask wearing and storage of masks at lunch. There is a quick quiz to review with your child at the end of this brief newsletter. Answers provided. Please be sure your child knows the safety procedures. I bet they do but please help us reinforce them at home.

We have held our line time outside and are learning friends' names, fun songs, informative songs, and new games, focusing on community, and working as a group.



We also have a table and easel outside for children to enjoy during our classroom work time.

The children really enjoy being outside and understand they must stay under the awning to enjoy the privilege of taking work outside.



International Day of Peace will be celebrated on September 21 st. We will have a classroom celebration rather than a school wide celebration. Look for our display on the fence at dismissal and arrival time.

Take the short quiz below with your child and reinforce the safety protocols we need to have in place. We need you to be supportive.

QUIZ:



1. What should your mask cover?
2. Where do you put your mask at lunch?
3. When do you need a mask?
4. After you are finished with a work where should you put it?
5. What do you do every time AFTER you do a work?
6. How long do you wash your hands?
7. What do you turn the water off with after washing hands?
8. How far apart should we try and be for lining up?
9. How many children should use the closet at a time?
10. When do we take work home?

ANSWERS:

1. Your nose AND mouth
2. In a baggie
3. All day and especially when waking around the room
4. The sanitation station
5. Wash your hands
6. For 20 seconds or the ABC song
7. A paper towel
8. 6 feet
9. 1 child
10. Fridays only



NEWS FROM THE EAST ROOM



Ms. Joey, Ms. Carole

We are all very excited to be back at school and together again, and we would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our families and friends.

With so many changes and new expectations the children have been adjusting beautifully to the routines of the day.

We are learning to work and play together, building a caring and peace-filled community, even with social distancing. It has been lovely getting to know one another.

We have spent the week exploring new and familiar works throughout the classroom, which has given our older children the opportunity to help guide our new friends along. It will be a wonderful year of learning and growing together!



PHOTO GALLERY FROM THE KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-K EXTENDED DAY



Ms. Kathy, Ms. Joey





MORE WONDERFUL MOMENTS AT MONTESSORI PATHWAYS



In August

