

# MONTESSORI PATHWAYS' NEWS

The First Week of School (August 26— September 3,2021)



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, kindergarten, and elementary 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 2021-2022—

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
- ◆ **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
- ◆ **Ms. Karen**—Substitute Teacher
- ◆ **Ms. Saeram**—Afternoon Teacher
- ◆ **Ms. Tara**—Music 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](mailto: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 3 (F) - First Friday Nature Class for Elementary Students**
- ◆ **September 6 (M) - No School in observance of Labor Day.**
- ◆ **September 10 (F) - Back to School Picnic at Veteran Acres Park—5:30-6:30pm**  
We welcome all of our families to meet each other as well as our wonderful team! Let's begin this school year together!
- ◆ **September 21 (Tu) 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 (W) - Mums Sale School Fundraiser.**

In 2020, we considered proceeds go to our playground restoration in spring, but, unfortunately, the pandemic ruined our plans and we have used raised money for being able to finish our school year remotely. We are hoping that this year we will finally be able to restore our playground in spring.

If you would like to participate, please return your order form that was sent home this week and payment no later than September 9th.

- ◆ **September 24 (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 7.



## NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASS (NORTH ROOM)



### Ms. Bridget

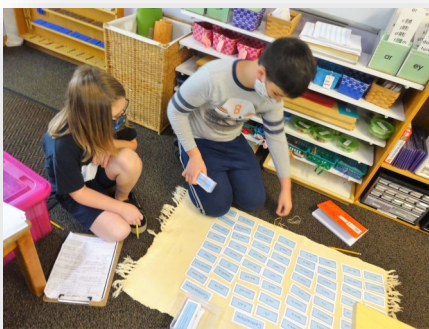
At the beginning of each year, elementary students are buzzing with excitement. We are back together after SO long.



Therefore, this year, we spent the first two days talking, catching up but even more important, learning our new roles. For new students, it begins with making friends, knowing which children are helpful and exploring where to find the items they need.



For experienced students, they are figuring out what the new workload feels like, who can help with the more challenging work, who needs my help?



I love to be the Montessori observer at this time. I watch, guide and direct students to use each other as guides. Find the friends who can help you. Find the friends who will guide you to work well. It is so important for them to socialize as this is their sensitive period for socializing. As I look through my pictures of the first week, I see many things.

I see kids at play. This is an important step to being a community member. New students are also observers, watching the flow of play. Veteran students observe to see who would like to join, listen for the words, and find those standing alone. We are all friends here. See collaboration of one team as they plan a strategy to try to catch the other team players? See howling wolves hiding inside a den?

Kids also need to work. Hands need to be busy. Thus, we did practical life outside and pulled weeds to make our patio more appealing in order to sit outside to work or to hang out. It was a group activity. All must pull their weight.



Then we had to learn. We had some lessons, three of Montessori's Great Lessons that deal with the creation of the universe, the coming of life and the coming of humans. We had reading groups, math lessons and did some writing. I read some old folk tales, adapted for children, to the class. They received their first work plan to review topics from last year.



We walked to the park to explore and to gather items like early humans to "paint" for our art class. We designed ourselves or friends on human cut outs to show that no matter how different we are, we are all unique but human.



We began our PE unit on soccer. We even had music class where we used rhythm sticks to recite nursery rhymes. It was a great start filled with excitement to begin this new journey. We are here to learn, listen and love.

## NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ROOM

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Urana



The school year has gotten off to a great start! We worked out the bumps and hiccups of starting a new year, new friends, a few sad to separate from parents, and having school lunch and the rigorous routine that goes along with it. We have mastered how to enter the building, what to do with masks, shoes, hats, coats, etc. Now, we can say everything is running relatively smoothly for our first week and a half. It I will only get better.



Beginning the day outside allows the children to socialize and make new friends. The children were introduced to a game of "Duck, Duck Goose", and have they have begun to recruit others on their own to play the game without a teacher's suggestion. The group was about 20 children past few mornings! It was fun to watch the organization and cooperation with one another. The children ran it seamlessly and fairly, needing only minimal assistance from a teacher. A few who don't like to wait to prefer a more upbeat and speedier version with only two participants, which makes the game more exciting, has much less waiting to be chosen! And a whole lot more running!

Our day inside begins when we enter the building and put our belongings away, including the exchanging of outside shoes for inside shoes and recently hanging jackets as well. Please send your child in the same shoes daily for the first few months. Especially very young children. Changing outside shoes daily to match outfits just confuses your child! They are looking for the same shoes they usually wear. If they even know what those shoes look like! We all have different interests! I love shoes! Those that are not interested, will never be PERIOD! "If the shoe fits" they will wear it. We would like them to know and wear their own shoes. Please keep shoes consistent. Also, LABEL, LABEL, LABEL everything!

After the shoe exchange, we then have an educational/ informative line time. This line time has been devoted to basic tasks such as carrying a rug, setting out a rug, unrolling, walking around a rug, respecting the work on a rug, and finally re-rolling a rug and returning the rug to the basket.



These simple procedures lay the foundation for respect for the environment and other students. The children create a space only for themselves on the rug. No one may touch it without asking and everyone needs to be aware of the work on rugs. If disturbed by accident it needs to be restored and often other returning students will help restore the work without being asked. A simple rug is a basic and important building block for every Montessori classroom.



A parent from the South room sent a photo of her child rolling a rug at home, well every rug he saw in their home with precision and care! She reported he checks to see if it will stand up on end when rolled perfectly. Thank you for sharing this precious moment. This age group 3-6 is focused on precision through repetition.



We are also laying groundwork elsewhere. We have presented many basic materials and routines on the line. These will provide the building blocks for later success in the Montessori classroom.



We have a very harmonious group this year! See you at the picnic Friday, September 10.

# NEWS FROM THE EAST ROOM



## Ms. Joey, Ms. Carole

We extend a warm welcome to all our families as we start the new year . It has been wonderful to see our returning friends and to meet new friends.

These first few weeks can be very exciting, and can be a little overwhelming at times, as we get to know each other, become familiar with our classrooms, and the routines of the day, so many new experiences !



The Three to Six Year Old Classroom is a big transition, whether a child is moving from one cycle to the next or has never attended a Montessori school, we need to give the children so much credit for learning so many new responsibilities. During line time we have had fun learning each others names, singing fun and informative songs, and new games focusing on community, and working together as a group.



When we have our outside time it is so amazing to see the children gathering in groups and continuing these games on their own, everyone is included !! Our work time has been very busy with children exploring new and familiar works though out the class room.



Presentations also include rug rolling, walking around our rugs (running feet are for outside) carrying and using materials, putting materials back in their place, using inside voices, and taking turns speaking.



Through out this month our focus will be grace and courtesy! The children have also done a great job remembering to keep those masks on once again. Thank you for your support as we continue to focus on the health and safety of everyone. We would like to ask you to please remember to make sure your child has a least 2 extra masks at school, we do change them in the morning and again in the afternoon if needed, hopefully this will not be needed for very long !



We have also been observing each child to understand their needs in the areas.



We are looking forward to enjoying a wonderful year together and helping your child grow! See you next Friday at the Back to School Picnic!

# PHOTO GALLERY FROM THE KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-K EXTENDED DAY



Ms. Kathy, Ms. Joey





# MORE WONDERFUL MOMENTS AT MONTESSORI PATHWAYS



## In August

