

MONTESSORI PATHWAYS' NEWS

September 2020



"The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn."

MARIA MONTESSORI

Notes from Ms. Alena (Head of School)

What a great beginning of the school year! We missed our little friends so much and are so happy to have them back, seeing them smiling and enjoying time with their old and new friends.

Students have learned the names of their new friends and teachers, built a friendship, learned or reviewed the class and schools' environment, many new rules, and routine during September. Now they are ready for their exciting and satisfying journey and discovery.

The first days and weeks of a new life can be exciting, but they can also be filled with uncertainty and anxiety. The following tips and strategies will help your child quickly adapt to her/his new school or routine:

- * Stay positive
- * Let them know you're in it together
- * Get your child involved
- * Get some sleep
- * Bring your child to school on time
- * Don't get rushed
- * Eat healthy
- * Be positive at arrival time and trust your school



[Click here to read more](#)



~Hardy Mums Sale Fundraiser~

On September 22, we spent another great time outside with our Elementary kids in the morning while they were unloading a huge truck filled with 130 beautiful mum plants that our families ordered in support of our school during the pandemic.

The kids were so organized, demonstrating simply amazing teamwork, so it took only about 15 minutes to "create" a beautiful garden next to our school.



[Click here to see how it was](#)

One of the best parts of the day was seeing so many parents with their kids, who were helping to choose the color of the mums and load the ordered plants into their cars.

The kids are very eager to be a part of school events because they bring to the kids the important feeling of community.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to our **Fall Mums Sale Fundraiser**. We were able to collect **\$1,633.00**.

Thank you, Countryside Garden Center for providing such beautiful mums for our school's fundraiser every year!



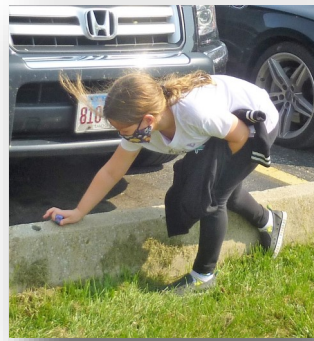


Celebrating International Peace Day



What we all like about the current situation is that it makes us think out of the box. Due to Covid, we should change a lot of strategies. This year, we try to spend more time outside and it led us to an absolutely new idea on how to celebrate International Peace Day.

In preparation for the celebration, our kids created Peace Signs and hung them out on our fence.



Spontaneously, we decided to make a street chalk Peace Mural in the school's parking lot. I started my drawing with my idea of what peace means for me – smiling kids, sunny sky with trees, flower, and birds around.



Peace Doves “found their home” on our trees in front of the school building.

Then, the kids joined me with their own visions of peace. The most popular were rainbow, hearts, and smiley faces.



One of our elementary friends started her drawing with a river filled with fish (peace from the sky through the ocean) and finished with.... drawing Montessori Pathways School. Isn't it amazing to know that Montessori Pathways is recognized by our kids as a part of their Peace?!

[Click here to see how it was](#)



Peace Rocks that were “seeded” around our neighborhood will make our neighbors feel happy and remembered.



COMING SCHOOL'S EVENTS

in October

- ◆ **October 2 (F) - The Colors of Oktoberfest**
- ◆ **October 12 (M) – No School (Columbus Day)**
- ◆ **October 28 (W) ; Rain Day—October 29 (Th) – Celebrating Halloween—“Candy Tree” Hunting**
- ◆ **October 30 (F) - Virtual Primary Parent / Teacher Conference Day (East and South Rooms)**
 - * **No School** for all Primary students **on Conference Day**
 - * The link to schedule your virtual conference will be sent to you on Thursday, October 15.

CELEBRATING HALLOWEEN AT MONTESSORI PATHWAYS

Most of 2020 has been altered by the coronavirus pandemic, and the spookiest night of the year is likely to be no different. Health experts are urging caution and care during Halloween, asking that people avoid large parties and events and stay safe.

We, at Montessori Pathways, understand that our kids are still looking forward to celebrating Halloween and would like to bring some alternate experience to them.

If weather will cooperate with us, we are planning to do **“Candy Tree Hunting” on Wednesday, October 28 at 9:30am (Rainy Day – Thursday, October 29.)** The idea is that our Primary students will be hunting for a “Candy Tree” around our neighborhood, overcoming obstacles created by our Elementary students.

As soon as they find the cherished bag of candies under the Candy Tree for their class, the kids bring it to the classroom to share among themselves and take the candies home.

Help Needed:

To make this event happen, we ask every family (Primary and Elementary) **to donate a small bag of candies or other treats or party mini toys.** Kids will be hunting for these items and taking them home in paper lunch bags that they will decorate prior to the event. (We have extra bags at school).

Also, **we need 5 Elementary parents to supervise** the elementary students at their “neighborhood obstacle station” during this event.

Halloween Party Guidelines:

The children are invited to come to school **dressed in a Halloween costume.** Our children need consistency and routine even more so on exciting celebration days, so we will strive to make it special while maintaining a level of regularity for the children.

School Day and All-Day children will be changing out of their costume prior to lunch, so **please send a comfortable change of clothing and a labeled bag to place your child's costume into.** Children who leave at 11:45 will wear their costume home.

Costume Guidelines:

We highly encourage you to choose an age-appropriate costume with your child. As a Montessori school, we aim to operate within our philosophy of providing the children with real experiences that are beautiful and natural and encourage you to choose a costume that is based upon a person, thing or animal.

Some costume ideas include animals, community helpers, athletes, and storybook characters. The most important feature of your child's costume should be comfort, please make sure they can still independently use the bathroom and can sit and move with ease.

Please note the following guidelines for costumes:

- ~ No scary or offensive costumes
- ~ No mask or headwear that covers full face
- ~ No weapons or “fighting” props (swords, light sabers, pistols, knives, etc.)
- ~ Please do not send any costume accessories that may be lost or damaged.



NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASS



Ms. Bridget

Greetings from Elementary!

Our first month was a mix of new and old. We had new procedures, new activities, new specials teacher. However, we had some lessons that brought back memories or reminders of lessons from last year. September is often a month of what do you recall.

Every year, we begin with Maria Montessori's 5 Great Lessons: The Coming of the Universe, The Coming of Life, The Coming of Humans, The History of Language and The History of Numbers. These lessons spark the interests of the child to want to learn more in all areas of the classroom—astronomy, chemistry, physics, botany, zoology, meteorology, geology and geography, history, math and language. The charts and demonstrations that accompany these stories engage the students in deep thinking and promote big questions. It is interactive and the children share what they recall and add information that they have learned. It always starts our year off with inquisition and fun.

Folk tales are also a part of our beginning of the year routine. Mythology, Legends, Tall Tales, Fables, Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales are the oldest stories that exist. All of these early lessons show them the bigness of our world but also the interconnectedness of our stories. It IS amazing how universal the story of Cinderella is. We read many different variations. The students learn life lessons from these: what does it mean to be brave, be a friend, be cautious, be yourself, be good no matter what? There is also some good humor in some of the trickster tales and fractured fairy tales. These stories are spring boards for writing and storytelling. I have seen some variations in their journal writing both in class and at home. In order to be a good writer, you must first know how to tell a story.



Nature Class has been a hit! Every Friday we walk to Veteran's Acres, eat lunch, play on the playground and then have a nature class. This month we are focusing on observing with all of our senses. First, we observed with our hands collecting different leaves and looking at the parts of the leaf. Second, we observed the pond with our eyes and discussed what we saw. Then we did a scavenger hunt using the alphabet. Some students found some creative words! We also touched algae and pond water. We brought some back and used a microscope to look at some slides. We will continue to go throughout the year. They cannot wait to roll down the hill and go sledding when it snows.



Specials have been different but relaxing. We are learning music notation, yoga, new group games, getting fit and have been exploring art first with points and then lines.



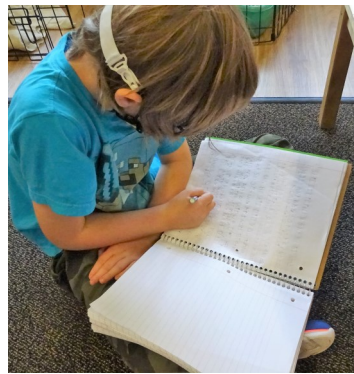
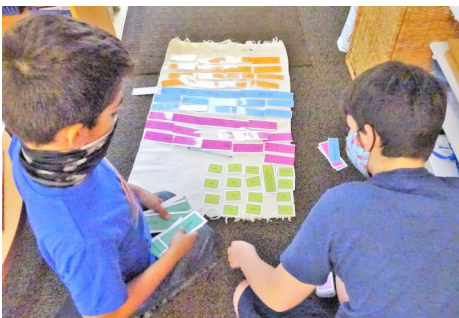
Homework is picking up. First was home journal (my favorite homework). Then we added math and now English. Soon we will add spelling. This work is enrichment as well as a review of class work. Please monitor that it is

accomplished and try to encourage independence as much as possible.

Finally, we started writing lessons by learning to write a letter. We had 2 letters to write right away to some of our former classmates who donated items to all of us. First, Sebastian Senafe donated hats and then Ashley and Lexi's family donated the lettering on them. Now when we go to the park, we are easily visible. So we are writing thank you letters to them.

If September is any indication of how this year will be, then we are in for a great year!

ELEMENTARY CLASS PHOTO GALLERY



NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ROOM

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Urana



Well, the first month of school has come and gone. What have we been up to? This school year started as none before. Returning students having been away from the prepared Montessori environment for 6 months with little peer interaction. New students dropped into this amazing and inviting classroom. Everyone is wearing masks which makes it difficult to hear. Yes, to hear each other. The noise level is higher as all feel they must talk loudly to be heard. The excitement is buzzing in the air and every child is ready to learn. But wait, we need the most fundamentals skills for our classroom, lessons on Grace and Courtesy.

What is Grace and Courtesy? Why is it important? Grace and Courtesy lessons build the foundation of a peaceful Montessori classroom, empower the children to handle situations on their own and become independent learners. The very first and important lesson is how to walk around a rug. Montessori children work on rugs sometimes for large complicated and involved projects. Without this lesson children would be running willy nilly across someone else hard work, causing disturbances and hurt feelings. This lesson was presented to all and then again to one of the youngest students by older children after a mis step. It was a sweet and stunning moment to watch as they gently took a young friend by the hand and maneuvered around the rugs not stepping on one, taking corners with precision and great care. Teaching themselves this valuable most basic respectful lesson.

With all the enticing materials it is extremely exciting to want to touch them all. Another especially important lesson is how to watch someone work.



This is an incredibly challenging exercise for many children. They just want to reach out and touch things of interest. The children are all working hard on waiting silently with hands by their sides or behind their backs.

How to get the teachers attention is a challenge as well. The children are working diligently on waiting quietly for a teacher to finish with another student by sitting or standing silently for a response from the teacher. While waiting the child may learn the skill or lesson the other child is receiving. This is an ongoing lesson we will need your help with. Please reinforce the need to wait quietly while another is speaking.

We teach each of these and many other social skills to allow the group to function independently and respectfully. Other examples of Grace and courtesy lessons are:

- ◆ Waiting for a teacher
- ◆ Offer or refuse help



- ◆ Ask a question
- ◆ Solve a disagreement
- ◆ Use materials respectfully
- ◆ Close a door
- ◆ Greet someone
- ◆ Hang up coats
- ◆ Line up
- ◆ Care for the environment
- ◆ Use quiet voices
- ◆ Respect another's work
- ◆ Etc.



Grace and courtesy lessons are ongoing and will transfer to the playground and your home.

These lessons paired well with International Day of Peace. In preparation for international day of Peace we discussed what it means to be peaceful and how we each play a role in the pursuit of peace. It was wonderful to hear all what peace means to each of the children.

Lessons on many other materials have been given on an individual and group basis as well. Seasonal projects include life cycle of an apple, parts of an apple and apple art projects. We have started apple cutting and carrot cutting. You may decide what to do with them. We are recommending the children feed the animals outside rather than eating them.



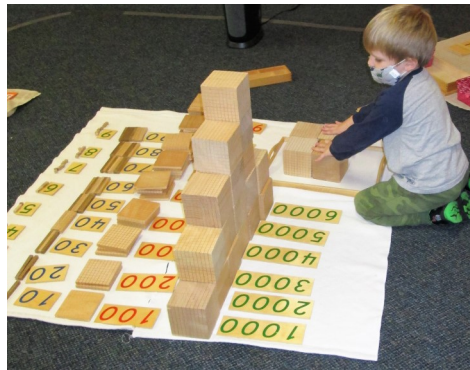
The children are all enjoying working on the patio area outside the door. They are free to bring work out or paint at the easel el fresco. Two children may go out at a time. There is always a waiting list. We will continue this weather permitting.



Happy Birthday to Matei who turned 4 and Nora S. who is now 5!

Please also reinforce the importance of wearing a mask over both your nose and mouth. We still have a few children we are reminding endlessly. This is for everyone's safety.

SOUTH ROOM PHOTO GALLERY



NEWS FROM THE EAST ROOM

Ms. Joey, Ms. Carole



Our main focus this past month has been Grace and Courtesy, care of self, and care of the environment.



Although this month has gone by so quickly, the children have enjoyed many works in the classroom. It is apple picking time! and we have enjoyed learning about the lifecycle of the apple tree, parts of the apple and apple tasting activities.



In our multi age setting the children learn from each other, and they learn because of each other. Younger children get a chance to look ahead and see what is coming next by watching the older children.



We are also learning about the honeybee and it's important role.



Older children have the opportunity to reinforce their knowledge by sharing it with the younger children. Because of their constant interaction the children learn to take responsibility for themselves and for each other. We also learn to get along with children of different ages and abilities, to respect each other's work and workspace. We are using our peaceful voices to settle conflict, learning how to phrase things in a peaceful and supportive manner, and learning how to communicate needs and desires respectfully.

The children have been very excited working with their sounds and numbers. When we work with our sounds at school we always begin by just saying the letters sounds and later introduce the name.



For our younger children, they have been focusing their attention on the works in the practical life area, which builds concentration, coordination, order and independence. The five year olds have started journaling and have some wonderful stories to share.

This is a special time when it is imperative that the children become independent with things like using the bathroom; hand washing; using a rug; making choices at the shelves, and treating the materials with care. As a new experience the 3 to 6-year-old classroom is a huge transition whether a child is moving from one cycle to the next or has never attended a Montessori school. The children are learning so many new responsibilities and they're doing a wonderful job. We are a thriving community where children are treated with respect and dignity and want to treat others with the same respect and dignity.



EAST ROOM PHOTO GALLERY



NEWS FROM THE KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-K EXTENDED DAY



Ms. Kathy, Ms. Joey

It was so great to see all our returning friends and meet our new kindergarteners as well. We have a well balanced and strong group of children for the afternoon Pre-K and Kindergarten class. During this time, the children can explore their interests with academic work and extensions to existing materials. Our focus is to see that each child has a foundation of experiences to build skills for the future.

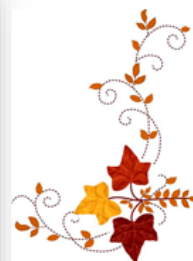


Another favorite work in the afternoon has been “roll work” the child adds a unit or one bead to the quantity they had previously and then counts, reads, and records the numeral. For example: Begin with one bead. Count 1, flip a card and record one, add a bead, count 2, flip a card and read 2, write 2, and so on. A few children are past 100 on their roll work. Roll work never ends! Numbers never end. Amazing. Working with decimal system with teens and tens alone others adding hundreds and thousands to build numbers and quantities.

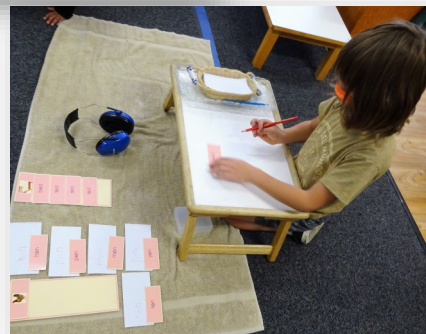


The children begin each day by journaling. Each child is at a different point. Some draw a picture and the teacher writes the words, a few copy written text and others have begun to build words by sounding them out. At this phase we are not correcting the spelling of words. The goal is to write phonetically isolating sounds heard in words.

Working on initial sounds and word building has been a favorite.



There has been a renewed interest in geometric solids. Naming various solids such as cube, sphere, rectangular prism, and cylinder are favorites. The children also like to treasure hunt and find other geometric cubes, spheres, etc. in the room and match them on their rugs.



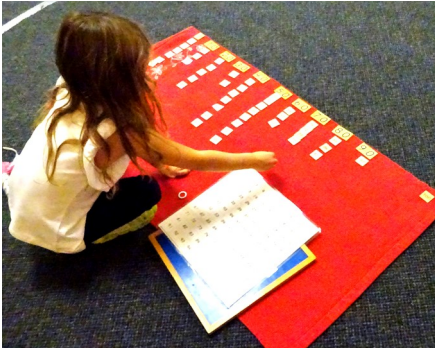
Currently with all the talk of peace, the children found an injured frog with an obviously broken leg. They are brainstorming ideas of how to heal and care for this frog. I hope we find one that works.

We look forward to an exciting and productive year ahead. With many more projects and group ideas.

NEWS FROM THE KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-K EXTENDED DAY



Ms. Kathy, Ms. Joey



MORE WONDERFUL MOMENTS AT PATHWAYS IN SEPTEMBER

