

MONTESSORI PATHWAYS' NEWS

September



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 198 beautiful mum plants that our families ordered in support of our school.

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.



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 **\$1,361.00** for our playground restoration in spring.

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





Celebrating International Peace Day



Education is the
best weapon
for peace.

- Maria Montessori



Once again, Montessori Pathways School was joining with people worldwide to celebrate the International Day of Peace on September 21st. Peace Day began in 1981 when the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution to have “a day devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples”. In 2001, the organization officially chose September 21st as its fixed date for the celebration of Peace Day, and the tradition continues today.



In our homes, in our schools, in our communities, and in our world, we hope everyone aspires to peaceful living. However, we know that peace isn't always or easily achieved. Still, peace is something that we can all work towards with effort, practice, and guidance. Learning how

to be peaceful is central to what we hope to pass on to the children we serve at Montessori Pathways not just on September 21st, but every day.

Montessori education, at its core, incorporates peace education across all areas of the curriculum. From the very beginning of her research and educational practice, Dr. Montessori sought ways to educate the ‘whole child’. Every aspect of Montessori’s work was geared toward helping children in order to help the world because she believed that children were the ‘promise of the future.’ Most of us would agree with

that sentiment today, and thankfully, we have Dr. Montessori’s guidance and time-honored traditions to know how we can work best with children to facilitate a more peaceful world.



Montessori’s educational methods and the materials she so carefully constructed aimed at providing children with ways to develop important skills and to work through challenges. The Montessori philosophy incorpo-

rates the essential ingredients needed to foster not only discovery and learning, but also peace within the child, peace within the classroom community, and ultimately, peace in the world. From Montessori’s teachings and example, we know the importance of preparing an environment for children where they learn about order, self-discipline, grace and courtesy, respect, kindness, empathy, problem solving, character, and global awareness, in addition to their academic lessons. This type of learning, this way of addressing the ‘whole child’, certainly is a path to peace.

And so, we celebrated both the International Day of Peace as well as the values of Montessori education this September 21st!

In preparation of this celebration, we were talking about peace, reading about peace, making wonderful art projects in honor of peace. Peace Rocks that were created and “seeded” by our elementary students around our neighborhood will make our neighbors feel happy and remembered.



As is tradition, everyone at Montessori Pathways was participating in singing “Light a Candle for Peace” at 11:00AM,

As Dr. Maria Montessori said, *“Times have changed, and science has made great progress, and so has our work; but our principles have only been confirmed, and along with them our conviction that mankind can hope for a solution to its problems, among which the most urgent are those of peace and unity, only by turning its attention and energies to the discovery of the child and to the development of the great potentialities of the human personality in the course of its formation”* (The Discovery of the Child).



May we all work together to create a world where everyone everywhere is able to enjoy and exercise their ‘right to peace’. And may we all help our children learn how to carry on this important mission. Wishing you all a happy Peace Day and Peace Life!

COMING SCHOOL'S EVENTS

in October

- ◆ **October 11 (M) – No School (Columbus Day)**
- ◆ **October 14 (Th) – Fall Picture Day.** Please return picture background request to school by October 12.
- ◆ **October 21 (Th) at 6:00pm– Elementary Parent Curriculum Night (in-person).**
Current **Kindergarten parents** are also invited to attend and learn about our elementary program to aid in making their decision in the future..
- ◆ **October 28 (Th) – Costume Halloween Party and Parade**
- ◆ **October 29 (F) - Virtual Primary Parent / Teacher Conference Day (East and South Rooms)**
 - * **No School** for all Primary students **on Conference Day, October 29.**
 - * The link to schedule your virtual conference will be sent to you on Monday, October 4th.

CELEBRATING HALLOWEEN AT MONTESSORI PATHWAYS

The children are invited to come to school dressed in a Halloween costume. Each classroom will have a simple celebration which will allow time for each child to show off their costume and tell a little bit about who or what their costume represents. Afterward, each class will participate in Halloween parade around neighborhood and in Halloween activities.

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.

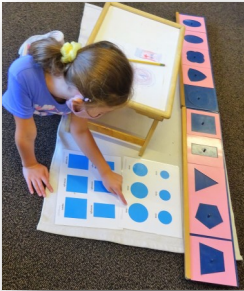


NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASS

Ms. Bridget



As we end our first full month, September, we paused a day to see where we have been and where we are going, as you heard in our conferences. We have been reviewing and learning new topics.



Our first new adventure was our trip to the Crystal Lake Library. We walked together through downtown Crystal Lake to visit the library. Each child was able to check out one personal reading book and some research books. We explored where the picture books were as well as the chapter books. Many kids went to the non-fiction area to look for books on topics of interest to them.

In life science, I shared some books about farm equipment, harvesting and what is being harvested in Illinois now as well as a book about from which part of a plant is each vegetable found. Wait until they see the Brussel sprout plant that I am bringing in!!! Math, grammar and spelling are taught in small groups. Each group is working on concepts such as place value, multiplication and fractions for math.



Grammar lessons are the different parts of speech as well as diagramming sentences. Phonics is tied into each child's spelling list.



The first book order to Scholastic was placed. Each month, we will receive catalogues for books. Students will have an opportunity to purchase books for a discount through this program. Then the books are delivered to school where the kids can bring them home.

As I mentioned at Orientation, we are studying Ancient Civilizations. Our first civilization that is being researched is the land of Sumer. I read a kid's version of Gilgamesh, one of the oldest and greatest stories written down. Then I brought in some books about the Sumerians.



In science, the students were able to explore molecule movement through 2 demonstrations. The Upper Elementary had a lesson on the scientific process and they are currently observing an experiment about mold.

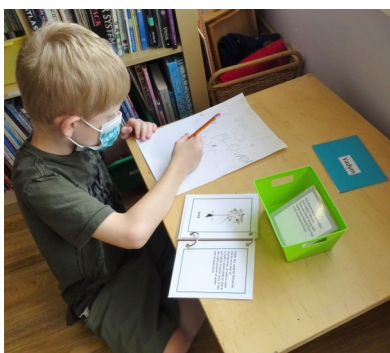
There are 3 reading groups. One group is reading a chapter book, one is reading a short chapter book and the picture book group is the final group. All are multiple copy books from the library. We discuss character development, make predictions, explore vocabulary and use concepts to relate to our own experiences.



In writing, we are working on end marks, capitalization as well as using a variety of topics to write. The writers always have the opportunity to share what they have written.

Finally, we finished our work on folk tales. The kids enjoyed listening to myths, legends, fables and fairy tales. We even had 3 guest readers!

ELEMENTARY CLASS PHOTO GALLERY



NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ROOM

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Urana



We are all excited to start our new school year. It was wonderful to welcome both our returning and new friends to this amazing environment. There are so many wonderful and thoughtfully created materials in the Montessori classrooms. Everyone is excited to discover something new and fast. There are over 600 enticing works on the shelves of the South room! A former student counted them one year labeling shelf by shelf with post it notes and then adding her post it note totals to find the quantity. Each child is drawn to something of interest on the shelf. Where to begin?

We are still beginning our school days outdoors and entering the classroom to exchange our shoes, and currently hang our hats, stowing our mittens :), and to begin our workday. This gathering time is an opportunity for learning. Each day begins with a "line time". This is an informational time for the children. At line time, we exchange greetings through song and then provide various presentations of the basic materials. A presentation is, a precise demonstration of how to use a particular material, broken down step by step. They are done in a group such as the basic line time presentations, during work time, both in a small group of 3-4 children or individually. Here the children learn how to use the different materials of the Practical Life exercises such as pouring, spooning, and scrubbing. How to wash your hands, turn on and off the water, using one paper towel to dry your hands. How to get snack, find your name tag and then clean your snack table and wash your dishes. Don't worry we sanitize everything after they are "washed"?

We have also presented nearly all the Sensorial materials and will add on as the year progresses. The Sensorial materials are qualities of objects thick and thin, big, and small, long, and short, loud, and soft, rough, and smooth, the primary colors, secondary colors and includes the gradation of color which will come. We will address Sensorial more as the year progresses. Keep in mind we as adults take the subtle differences in size, shape, and texture for granted. Children need to develop their skills to see the middle qualities or the gradation in between big and small and master them to move forward.

The children have also had group presentations in basic math, history, science, and language.

We have many new friends and they have worked hard learning everyone's name. We sing many different versions of name songs. Everyone enjoys participating and saying their name, shaking a hand, or declaring how they are feeling today. It is important for each child to feel welcome and comfortable. We addressed waiting for a turn to say your name or shake a hand and how to sit silently with hands on one's own body. This line time provides an opportunity to role play important social skills and interactions needed to have a peaceful group. Knowledge is power. The more social skills a teacher or parent can impart the more prepared the child will be.

In our first week newsletter we introduced the importance and function of a rug. A rug is a child's safe workplace, no one can touch it without permission, it designates possession of a work. If a work is on a rug, it not available. If a work is on a table, it is not a choice.

September is a time for focus on the lessons of Grace and Courtesy. The foundation of a peaceful Montessori classroom. 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
- * How to offer or refuse help
- * How to ask a question
- * Solving a disagreement
- * Use of materials respectfully
- * Closing a door
- * Greeting someone
- * Hanging up coats
- * How to line up
- * Walking in a line
- * Caring for the environment
- * Use of quiet voices
- * Respect another's work



Grace and courtesy lessons are ongoing and will transfer to the playground, restaurants, and your home. Your child waits quietly at school without interrupting. Please remind them to do so at home. How do we wait for someone? Silently and with no words.

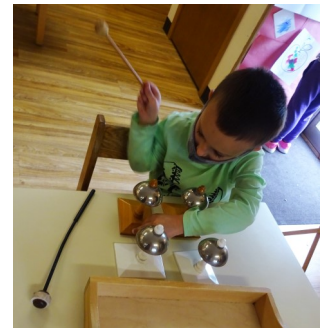
September also brought us Peace Day. The children heard many books on what it means to be peaceful and gave their opinions of peacefulness. Peace Day was beautiful! It gave us all a reason to think of how to be peaceful and what peace means. It also helped enhance our Grace and courtesy lessons. We read a few books about Peace. Each child then was asked what peace is and had a wonderful and subtly different definitions of peace.

~ We are looking for volunteers to cut pictures out of magazines for sound activities. Please email if you are interested in helping with this project. ~

We will wrap the month up with apple activities, tasting, parts of an apple and more.



SOUTH ROOM PHOTO GALLERY



NEWS FROM THE EAST ROOM



Ms. Joey, Ms. Carole

We are off to a wonderful start for the new school year. There is always a busy hum of activity in a Montessori classroom because the use of the materials involves many motions—walking, carrying, sorting, poring, speaking, and all guided by and presented with a respect for the work of others, and a respect for the materials themselves.



Our Montessori classroom has six different areas, Practical life, Sensorial, Language, Mathematics, Culture and Science. The children have the freedom to move throughout the classroom choosing materials and are encouraged to complete the work cycle for each activity before selecting another.



Practical life is a favorite area for our younger and new children, this area consists of daily living exercises familiar to the children. Many spend several weeks just in this area before venturing out into the other areas of the classroom. Practical life activities are designed to increase control of movements, eye-hand coordination, attention span, concentration and fine and gross motor skills. They include such activities as washing, scrubbing, pouring, cleaning, cutting, dressing frames and care of things in the environment, watering plants, feeding Mr. Bobby Bubbles (our fish) carrying a chair, or rolling a rug.



The children are also learning care of self, knowing where to put their outside shoes, putting on their inside shoes, and hanging up their own jackets. When given a presentation and time even the youngest children will develop these skills, letting your child practice at home will ensure success. Having difficult zippers and fasteners or laced shoes before they are

ready to tie will be frustrating for your child when trying to be independent at school, please allow enough time for your child to practice and get ready independently. And please be sure to label your child's belongings and if possible, there masks, sometimes even they forget what they wore today. This is also a time when we focus on grace and courtesy (social skills and manners) to promote harmony within each person, with peers, and within our community.



We use our peaceful voices to settle conflict, we learn how to be supportive and how to communicate our needs and desires respectfully; waiting our turn when wanting to talk to someone who is already speaking (one tap and wait for a response), how to greet someone, excusing oneself when walking in front of another, or saying please and thank you.

We continued our discussions of grace and courtesy for International Day of Peace celebrating around the world. The children created peace doves and a handprint Peace sign. Our wish for the world... Give Peace a Hand, Give Love!! Autumn is here! In the science area we have introduced life cycle of the apple, and parts of the apple.

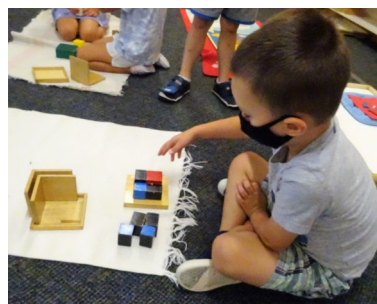
We are also exploring the life cycle of the honeybee and have discovered each bee has a special job, which is why its apple picking time! The children enjoyed tasting 3 different types of honey: wildflower, clover, and buckwheat. Everyone agreed that this was by far the best tasting activity to ever! We plan on having more tasting activities this month including apples



and squash. Happy Birthday Luke who is now 4!



EAST ROOM PHOTO GALLERY



KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-K EXTENDED DAY PHOTO GALLERY



Ms. Kathy, Ms. Joey



MORE WONDERFUL MOMENTS AT PATHWAYS IN SEPTEMBER

