

MONTESSORI PATHWAYS' NEWS

The First Week of School (August 25— September 2, 2022)



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 2022-2023

Our experienced, enthusiastic, and outstanding 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 Teacher in the South Room; Preschool Extended Day Teacher
- ◆ **Ms. Karen**—Late Afternoon Teacher / Substitute 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 successfully. 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 an accomplish 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!

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A Poem for Parents: "Nothing"

(Author Unknown)

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 worked with *Pink Tower*, counted to ten,
Or studied about *The Parts of Flower*.
Maybe I painted or learned to tie my shoe;
Or discovered 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 mastered 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.





COMING SCHOOL'S EVENTS



- ◆ **September 2 (F) - First Friday Nature Class at Veteran Acres Park in Crystal Lake for Elementary Students**
- ◆ **September 5 (M) - No School in observance of Labor Day.**
- ◆ **September 9 (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 (W) 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.*"



INTERNATIONAL
PEACE DAY

- ◆ **September 28 (W) - Mums Sale School Fundraiser.**

In 2021, we collected \$1,361.00 for our playground restoration in the spring. However, the work that needs to be done to renovate our playground and some parts of the building is estimated to be about \$5,000.00. We hope to collect more funds towards this large project this fall to begin all the necessary work. If you would like to participate, **please return your order forms with payments no later than September 6th.**

- ◆ **September 23 (F) - Elementary Parent / Teacher Conference Day (North Room)**

- * No School for all Elementary students
- * During Elementary Orientation Meeting, most parents voted for virtual P/T Conferences for elementary class.
- * The link to schedule your virtual conference will be sent to you on Tuesday, September 6.
- * The link for Zoom P/T meeting will be sent on Monday, September 19th.



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

MARIA MONTESSORI



NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASS (NORTH ROOM)



Ms. Bridget

"We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity."

—Maria Montessori, "To Educate the Human Potential"

The 6 –12-year-old Montessori environment is a microcosm of life. There are leaders and followers. There are those who are so tired and others who are busy and cannot get enough work accomplished. There are talkers and listeners, observers and doers, beginners, and masters. I am happy to be a peaceful observer, guiding students, accompanying overwhelmed explorers, finding the beauty and curiosity in everything along with each student.

The year has begun. We are currently exploring the wonders of how our world came to be, how long life has been on Earth and where do humans fit into this picture, and how writing and math became a huge part of human development. History and our past is where we begin.



This year we will be focusing on continent studies: learning about the geography, people, culture, and history of the areas. We will read literature to help us learn more about diverse cultures and will research animals and plants from different countries.



My role at the beginning of the year is to observe. Is the work too hard, too much, too easy, too tedious, or at just the right level? Is everyone getting what they need? A new friend? A place to be quiet? A job or assignment to do with others?

Math, geometry, writing and our specials classes will add to our rich curriculum. We are ready to learn.



After taking in all the sights of my students, my next job is to prepare the environment to enable growth for all. The work becomes more tailored to the needs of each child. The groups are formed to encourage workmates and discussions. The seating is assessed to determine if there is enough room for collaboration and movement among students.



NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ROOM

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Urana



What an incredible start to the 2022-2023 school year. It was wonderful to welcome new friends and see how much others have grown over the summer. You have probably been wondering how and what your child is doing? Starting the day outside allows your child to socialize and make friends. Children are introduced to each other and begin to socialize, some for the very first time. The last few years have been unique and interesting years, as we have more children who have not been in a group setting with peers. It turns out, we have a very harmonious group! The teachers observe and note the interactions between the children at play and what skills the child may need to improve social relationships, and there have not been many skills to improve. The group is happy, kind, and helpful to all! We strive for a strong and kind community, and it seems we just may have inherited one!



We gave information on, how to ask for help from a teacher or a friend, how to watch a presentation, and how to watch another child doing a work, if a work is on a rug, it belongs to someone else, you may not touch it if the other child says no. How to clean up if you spill or make a mess. Many children get upset when they spill for the first time in the classroom. We already knew they would! We show them how to take care of the situation to empower them to care for themselves. It teaches them to slow down and focus on what they are doing. How to get a snack, clean up snack, lunch procedures, they are washing their glass dishes cleaning their places. This has been a week full of lots of new information.



Entering the building provided the first challenge of the year for the new students. How to exchange and take off, as well as put on shoes, and care for a jacket, a hat, and a water bottle? These are the children's first responsibilities. After the shoes 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 of the environment and other students.



Each day will present new fundamentals of the classroom and soon your child will be very comfortable and independent. Please encourage independence at home as well. Dressing and undressing, helping to clean up and set the table or fold laundry are all tasks' children can participate within the family. Know your child is capable and they will be.



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. The returning students are also drawn to details and still love rolling a rug, this time as teachers for the younger students. This age group of 3-6-year-olds is focused on precision through repetition.



See you at the picnic at Veterans Acres Sept 9th at 5:30!



NEWS FROM THE EAST ROOM



Ms. Joey, Ms. Carole

It has been a wonderful first week of school, we are so excited and would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our friends and families. The children have adjusted beautifully to all the new changes and expectations in routines.

We are learning to take responsibility for ourselves and for each other, to respect each other's work and work space, and treat each other with courtesy.



This week we have had fun exploring new and familiar works throughout the classroom, giving our older children the opportunity to help guide our new friends along.

We are learning how to excuse ourselves, greet each other, and request things politely. The children also take an active role in maintaining their classroom by, putting materials away in their proper place ready for the next child to use, wiping up a spill, sweeping the floor, and washing their own bowls after snack.



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

We even have flower arranging to make our environment beautiful. We are all learning to work and play together, building a caring and peace-filled community.

Older children have the opportunity to reinforce their knowledge by sharing it with the younger children.



PHOTO GALLERY FROM THE KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-K EXTENDED DAY



Ms. Kathy, Ms. Joey





MORE WONDERFUL MOMENTS AT MONTESSORI PATHWAYS



In August



Our care of the children should be governed not by the desire to 'make them learn things', but by the endeavor always to keep burning within them the light which is called intelligence.
- Maria Montessori

