



Moultrie Montessori Newsletter

October 2016

Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.
-George Eliot

Dates to Remember

Monday, October 3 rd	Monthly Tuition Due
Thursday, October 13 th @ 6 pm	Parent Gathering - 'Practical Life'
Friday, October 14 th @ 12:00	Early Release
Monday, October 17 th	No School – Teacher Planning Day
Saturday, October 22 nd 9 am – 10:30 am	Fall Gardening Day
Wednesday & Thursday, October 26 & 27 @12:00	Early Release & Parent Teacher Conferences

People were so generous in bringing school supplies at the beginning of the year that the only real need we have is for mulch.

Good to Know!

- Plastic utensils are available for use at lunch time.
- Halloween is on a Monday this year. Costumes are **not** allowed, nor 'scary' attire. Children can wear friendly pumpkin clothing, orange, or happy themes if they wish.

Fall Gardening Day!

Saturday, October 22nd 9 am – 10:30 am



Our beautiful garden and yard needs some TLC. Please help!

Director's Note from Ms. Jeannie

The exercises of practical life are the very foundation of Montessori. They help the young child develop concentration, coordination, and independence. The child performs these activities for very different reasons than the adult. He does not clean the table in order to get it clean. He cleans the table over and over in order to develop himself. For the child the activity itself is meaningful. Adults clean the table for the purpose of getting the table clean. As children grow, practical life takes on new significance, meeting needs for community, belonging and contribution. Come to the Parent Gathering on October 13th, to see some of the practical life work, observe lessons, and learn practical ways to include your child in the daily activities of the home.

Nonviolent Communication and Montessori

One of the many areas where Dr. Montessori made a great impression on modern educational thought is in the area of peace education. Many Montessorians, myself included, believe this to be at the core of her philosophy and method. Montessori postulated that the most direct road to peace was through supporting the natural development of children. In this way the destiny of every individual is inextricably intertwined with the renewal of mankind.

From: <http://www.internationalschool.info/nonviolent-communication-and-montessori/>

Learn more at The Center for Nonviolent Communication <http://www.cnvc.org/>

Beginning on Monday, October 24th Primary Children are asked to bring one pumpkin to school. Pumpkins should be a size that the child can carry easily. We will use them to integrate math, science, and language. Think hypothesis and prediction, weight, place value, counting, measurement, autumn, and so much more!



Montessori Beliefs and Practices

THE MONTESSORI PARENT

The work we can do as parents to bring Montessori into our daily lives

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by Simone Davies, The Montessori Notebook

GUIDE THE CHILD

FOLLOW THEIR LEAD

What is your child interested in today?
How can we explore this?
eg, if they are climbing off the back of the sofa, how can we provide them climbing opportunities?

SET SAFE LIMITS

Even though they are interested, it's ok to calmly step in to stop behaviour you don't like.
eg, your child hits you, "I can't let you hit me. My safety is important!"

LET'S FIND OUT TOGETHER

INCLUDE YOUR CHILD IN DAILY LIFE

Set up spaces for them to be included; to have success; have conversations, incorporate beauty + nature in every day life
Empowers the child, teaches them skills, and they feel valued

HANDS ON LEARNING

Rather than just telling your child the answer, find ways to let them make discoveries for themselves
For a baby, allow them to explore the world with hands and mouth; for a primary kid it may be going to the observatory to learn about the stars

ACCEPT YOUR CHILD FOR WHO THEY ARE

CELEBRATE WITH MODERATION

Kids don't need you to be their cheerleader telling them they are great. But they love to hear that you noticed their efforts
eg, "I'm excited for you"

IN DIFFICULT TIMES

- Give empathy for all those big feelings
- Step in before it escalates
- Help them calm down
- Then help them to make amends

It's not easy to allow all feelings, but they need to come out.

Thank you for supporting our Community service project each month. During the last week of October, we will be collecting children's jig-saw puzzles. (The Dollar Store always has a nice variety.)



Montessori Practices

Toddler Group

- toileting
- language activities
- food preparation

Primary Group

Practical Life

- The Practical Life Scope and Sequence is designed to help children develop concentration, coordination, independence and a sense of order.

Tool



The Dressing Frame is a Montessori Tool to help teach many skills:

- Button frame with large buttons
- Button frame with small buttons
- Snapping frame with snap fasteners
- Hook and eye frame
- Buckling frame with buckle and strap (leather)
- Bow tying frame
- Shoe lacing frame (leather)
- Zipper frame

Elementary Group

Practical life activities hold a new purpose, and fulfill new needs, for the elementary child. Cosmic education gives the child a deep understanding of his purpose in the universe. He develops an understanding of interdependency, and the sense of gratitude and responsibility that comes from that. Before, the activity of washing the leaves of classroom plants helped him develop himself. Now, the child is ensuring that the stomata do not become blocked from dust, which would prevent transpiration. Care of the environment now fulfills the need to give gratitude, responsibility, and respect. Fulfilling these needs also expands beyond the classroom, into the community, in the form of excellent citizenship and community service.

"The aim of an education indicates the desire to contribute to the good of all, to share in this cosmic goodness." Maria Montessori