

Village Montessori News

Volume 15 Issue 6

February 2019

February Calendar

- February 5th - February 19th
Lunar New Year Celebration
- February 5th - Chinese Banquet



- Feb 12th, President Lincoln's Birthday



- February 14—Thursday,
Valentine's Day Classroom Party



- February 18th - **School Holiday**,
Presidents' Day



- February 22 - President Washington's Birthday

A Month of History and Traditions

Lunar New Year begins on February 5th, through February 19th. On Tuesday, February 5th, the children may choose to have Chinese food at lunch time. A menu is posted on the bulletin board and you may sign-up in the office.

The children will learn about the traditions and celebration of lunar New Year.



American History

The children will have a wonderful opportunity this month to learn more about the United States of America.

They will learn about the life and presidency of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The children will learn interesting facts about our nation.



Valentine's Day

On Thursday, February 14th, the children will celebrate Valentine's Day. The children will have a great variety of art opportunities during the month and will plan a party in their classroom.

Children may bring Valentines to school to share with their friends. Please permit your child to sign



his/her name on the back of the Valentine.

Your child does not need to address his/her Valentines 'to' any person as they will deliver them individually to their friends in class.

Please watch the clipboard in the office, for your child's classroom, to sign-up if you are able to help with the party.

Your child's teacher will let you know the number of Valentines necessary for the class and any information specific to your child's classroom.

Honoring The Birthday of a Child

The preciousness of each of the children is truly appreciated by all of us.

On the occasion of a child's birthday, we have a very special way to celebrate. We offer the child a 'Birthday Walk'. This is a way to honor the child and mark the passage of time the child has lived

on the planet Earth.

The parents may send a photograph for each year of the child's life and may want to send little articles, personal to the child, such as baby shoes, a gown or hat worn by the child. A brief 'life story' is very welcome - telling when and where the child

was born and any significant events in his/her life.

A simple snack is welcome - (cupcakes, fruit, cheese & crackers, juice) but please, no 'goodie bags', party hats, 'favor boxes', balloons or flowers.



The Ladybug Class



Our little Ladybugs are an industrious group and are having a wonderful time exploring their classroom. They have been fortunate to have had many new activities in their room and show their pleasure and appreciation.

Following in the footsteps of the traditional New Year, comes the Chinese Lunar New Year. This has provided an opportunity for us to explore the culture and geography of China. The children have already begun enjoying making decorations for our classroom that introduce Chinese characters and art.

Celebrating love during the month of February is a



We will also discuss our American history, our civic duties and responsibilities and ways to be a good citizen.

good time to remind the children how unique they are and how much loved and appreciated they are. We are working on a Valentine card for which we will need your cooperation. Please watch for further instructions in the office, near our Sign-In Book.

This is also the month we celebrate the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We will offer the children books, stories and lessons to help them appreciate these two great presidents.

Flags are very interesting for the children. We are fortunate to have lovely flags of various nations for the children to enjoy. We are teaching the children the Pledge of Allegiance and the proper way to salute the flag.



Within the area of Sensorial exploration, there are many materials for the introduction to geometry. These materials are very popular with the children at this time. The children are able to work with both plane and solid geometric forms and readily learn the specific language related to the materials.

The Bumble Bee Class



Chinese New Year celebrations will commence on the fifth of the month. The children will have art activities to help them appreciate the traditions related to this event.



As the month continues, we will be learning more about our U.S. Presidents, from our first President, George Washington, to our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, up to our current president, Donald Trump.

Valentine's Day, On February 14th, is a cause for a great celebration. It

is one of the loveliest of our traditional holidays. We will have a class party, exchange Valentines and have many art opportunities for the children.

The celebration of Presidents' Day provides an opportunity to explore flags in general - learning the parts of a flag and learning about the flags of various nations and states of the United States.

Learning about the symbols that are shown on individual flags is very interesting to the children. This is work they love!

Throughout the class, the children are showing a great deal of industry and enthusiasm in their work. One of the most impressive elements is shown in how patient and kind the children are to one another.

An important part of the work in the area of Practical Life Skills is the work called Grace and Courtesy. The Montessori directresses, by ex-

ample, demonstrate poise, grace, patience and good manners. It is very touching to see the children gradually begin to display these same qualities in their interactions with each other.

As this is the month dedicated to love, it is wonderful to see these displays of love and respect among the children.



The Dragonfly Room



Chinese Lunar New Year

This year is the year of the pig and we have already begun to celebrate! The children have been able to relate their regular work with the constellations to the Chinese Zodiac. It is great fun for the children to explore a different calendar and another New Year!

Valentine's Day

The children will need to prepare a bag to collect their Valentines on February 14th. We will be making Valentine Bags to collect our Valentines. The children will have a variety of art supplies to create their designs.

They have planned a party for the fourteenth and will post a list of items the children wish to have for their party. Please look for a clip board in the office if you'd like to help.

American History

During the month of February, the

children will learn about the lives of two of the most famous of our Presidents - George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. As they study American history, they will learn about the struggle for independence, the making of our flag and the efforts to preserve our nation. The contributions of all the various cultures, to make us one nation, will be explored.

Language and the Arts

Many of the children are now able to read biographies of people who made significant contributions to our lives. The children of this age are encouraged to read and explore the real world. They love books that give them facts and information and have no limit on what they find interesting!

In literature, the children have a good variety of books available to them. We will be reading the epic poem "Tsar Saltan", by Alexander Pushkin. The poem was dedicated, by the poet, to the composer, Nik-

ola Rimsky-Korsakov. It is a delight for the children to be able to 'tie together' a great poet and a great composer and learn that they are both from Russia.

A.A. Milne continues to delight the children, who now read his works on their own. Our next author is a return to the works of Beatrix Potter and her delightful stories of Peter Rabbit, and friends.

Even though the children are able to read now, it is still important to read to them. It will offer exposure to new language that is not in their 'everyday vernacular' and expose them to new genres of literature.

Music is alive in the room with the bells, the keyboard, percussion instruments, singing and movement to music. Some of the children's favorite composers are Antonio Vivaldi, Camille Saint-Saëns, Sergey Prokofiev, Gioachino Rossini and Aaron Copland.

The Butterfly Class



During the month of February the children will have many occasions to celebrate! First we will continue to celebrate Chinese New Year. This year is the year of the pig.

On February fourteenth we celebrate St. Valentine's Day. This will be an opportunity for some lovely art activities.



This is also the month to celebrate George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays. They are two of our greatest and most beloved Presidents. The children enjoy lessons, books and stories that help them understand the significance and sacrifice these great men made for the sake of our country.

The children are going to learn the

parts of the flag, the history of our United States flag and of our state flag.



Language activities are among the children's favorite activities. They are learning the phonetic sounds of the letters in cursive style. This prepares them for exploration with the various movable alphabets and permits them to compose their own words, phrases, sentences and stories, unaided.

Language work extends into the areas of geometry, botany, zoology,

geography, science, art, music and mathematics. Among their favorites are the Classified Card sets.

The children readily read phonetic words, phonograms, puzzle words and a wide variety of written language materials that relate to work they learned verbally at an earlier age.

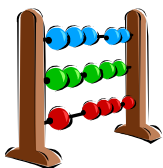
For example, the tickets to the color tablets, the plane geometric shapes, the geometric solids, and the various objects in the environment.

We are looking forward to the warmth of spring, the green hills, the budding flowers and the longer, warmer, brighter days.



Montessori Matters - Mathematics

The mathematics program in a Montessori setting is quite extraordinary. All of the lessons (presentations), given to the child are given as a concrete experience, graphically showing what is taking place in any given mathematical process.



Montessori classrooms use 'hands-on' learning materials that make abstract concepts clear and concrete. The child

can literally see and explore what is happening. It offers a clear and logical strategy for helping students understand and develop a sound foundation in mathematics and geometry.

The Montessori Math curriculum is based on the European tradition of "Unified Math," which has only recently been recognized by leading American educators. Unified Math introduces elementary students to the study of the fundamentals of algebra, geometry, logic, and statistics along with the principles of arithmetic. This study continues over the years, weaving together subjects that traditional schools normally ignore until the secondary grades.

Primary Mathematics

In the Children's House (Primary), the children are first introduced to the Red and Blue Number Rods. The rods go from one rod (measuring a decimeter) to the tenth rod, measuring a meter. The children learn to count, left to right, from one to ten. They learn to arrange the stair from one to ten, in order. The children learn to associate the quantity they can see with the name the directress provides for them. Later the directress presents the symbols of the numerals from one to ten - separate from the number rods. After adequate experience the child is able to associate the quantity with the symbol for the numbers.

The first lessons given to the child have to do with understanding the value of the numbers, associating the symbol with the quantity and learning place value.

The work in mathematics is divided into sections as follows: The Numbers one through ten; The Teens, eleven to nineteen; The Tens, 10 to 99; and The Golden Bead Materials, the numbers one through nine-hundred-ninety-nine, the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and work with fractions.

The Golden Bead Materials

The Introduction To The Decimal System, using the Golden Bead Materials, permits the child to experience the place values of numbers one through nine thousand. They begin to add, subtract, multiply and divide four digit numbers as small group games. Borrowing and carrying (regrouping) is introduced as the child is ready to be challenged.

The children can further their individual understanding of their work with the "Stamp Games". These boxes contain stamps that represent units, tens, hundreds and thousands. There are color-coded disks to represent zeros and skittles to use for division problems. A child can work individually, progressing at his/her own rate through the use of the stamp games.

The Board of Powers

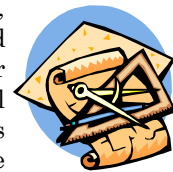
Parallel to this work, the child is given presentations with many other materials in the classroom. One of the most beautiful pieces of Montessori apparatus is the 'Board of Powers'. This is a specially designed frame that holds all the bead chains representing the numbers from one-squared through ten-squared and one-to-the-third-power through ten-to-the-third-power.

The materials consist of chains, bead squares of the numbers and

bead cubes of the numbers. The Squaring and Cubing materials permit the child to 'skip count' (counting by 2's, 3's, 5's, etc.). The child can readily see and experience that the short chain of 5 (5^2), when folded, forms a square with 25 beads. The child sees that $5 \times 5 = 25$ and $5^2 = 25$. Later the child can take the 'long chain' of five and fold it into five squares of five, seeing that $5 \times 5 \times 5 = 125$ ($5^3 = 125$). The child has five squares of five-times-five and can stack them, forming a cube of five. This shows the child that five to the third power forms a cube.

Other Materials

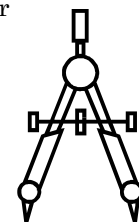
The classroom offers the child concrete experience with fractions, time, money, weight, measurement and exercises for memorization of all the basic math facts (+ - x ÷). The children have



materials such as Addition and Subtraction Strip Boards, Positive and Negative Snake Games (experiencing positive and negative integers), Small Bead Frame (quantities to 9,999) and the Large Bead Frame (quantities to 9,999,999), Dot Games for column addition, Memorization Charts for all the four operations, and Long Division with Rack and Tubes.

As the child matures, he/she is introduced to materials that lead naturally to what Dr. Montessori called the 'Passage to Abstraction'. At this stage the child is recording the work on paper and moving towards abstraction.

The work is beautiful for the child, as well as for the teacher and a joy to work with!



Village Montessori Academy - 2018-2019 CALENDAR


3 Labor Day - Holiday
13 Parent Night



SEPTEMBER 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

MARCH 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

15 St. Patrick's Day Party
17 St. Patrick's Day




8 Columbus Day
31 Halloween Party




OCTOBER 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

19 Good Friday - Spring Party and Egg Hunt
21 Easter Sunday




12 Veterans' Day
22, 23 Thanksgiving Holiday




NOVEMBER 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

12 Mother's Day
27 Memorial Holiday




14 Winter Program
24,25 Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
31 New Year's Eve



DECEMBER 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

16 Father's Day
14 Commencement Ceremony and Spring Program



01 New Year's Day
21 M.L. King Holiday




JANUARY 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JULY 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

4 Independence Holiday



18 Presidents Holiday



FEBRUARY 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

AUGUST 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

28, 29 Teacher In-Service Days (School is not in session)

