

VILLAGE MONTESSORI NEWS

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June 2018

A TIME FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

On Friday, June 8th, a wonderful group of children will join together for a commencement ceremony to mark their passage from Village Montessori Academy to elementary school.

It is a bitter-sweet event in that it marks a significant transition from the Montessori children's house to the wider and bigger world. We have known many of these children since they were just hatchlings.

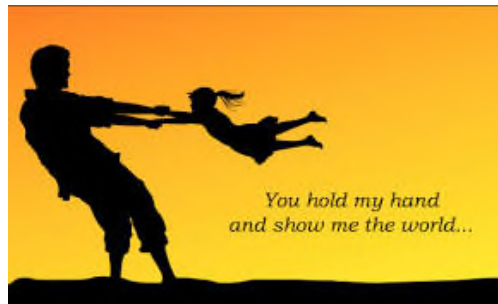
We use the term commencement for the ceremony, as it conveys a concept of a beginning rather than an end. They children are now ready for the challenges that lay ahead of them. They have prepared for their future by laying down an extensive foundation to build upon.

They have established the skills and qualities that will carry them to their next level, confidently and with the social and academic essentials required.

The Dragonfly class, made up of both Kindergarten as well as Transitional-Kindergarten children, will also present a lively tropical program called "Polynesian Paradise", for their families.

After the formalities and the performances, the families and the children will gather together on the patio for refreshments.

We deeply appreciate the commitment of the parents and grandparents who saw the immense value in allowing their child the opportunity to complete the full Primary Montessori program,



the kindergarten year. These children were able to derive the greatest benefit from their work in Montessori by being permitted to complete the program.

Fathers Day, Sunday, June 17th. We sincerely wish all the fathers and grandfathers a very restful, relaxing Fathers Day. Your importance to the children is valued beyond measure. Your leadership and example provide a road-map for your child to follow into the future.



SUMMER MONTESSORI PROGRAMS

Our summer programs begin the first week of July and continue through August. Each week offers the full Montessori primary program with the addition of weekly special events and activities.

The summer activities fee includes all the special

events and activities that have been designed to make the weeks more enjoyable for the children who attend the program.

We have found that the children who participate in the summer program are able to not only maintain

the skills they acquire during the academic school year, but actually advance and acquire new and more sophisticated skills.

Please stop by the office for more information and for an application form. Registration is due by June 29th.

Special points of interest:

- Commencement, Friday, June 8th



- Fathers Day, Sunday, June 17th



Friday, June 29th, Registration Form for Summer Program due!

THE DRAGONFLY CLASS

Spring Program and Commencement

The Dragonfly Class has been very busy preparing for their commencement program and their spring performance. They selected the theme, the music, costumes and the parts they'd perform. We were truly delighted to find we have a very talented group of children. We have dancers and singers that are brave and willing to give their all for the good of the performance.



The children's interest in Polynesian cultures has led to an interest in learn-

ing more about different islands and cultures who live on islands. They like to find the names of islands on maps and learn more about the people who live there.

An extension to the study of tropical islands has been to follow the eruptions of the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii. The children are enjoying a variety of opportunities to learn about the types of volcanoes and the features of a volcano.

In the area of language arts, the children have shown a great deal of progress. All of the children in the class can read at a book level and have established good foundations for reading. The art of story telling and story writing is alive and well in the Dragonfly class. One of the children's favorite activities is to write and illustrate their own stories. They are so lovely and a joy to read.

On their own, the children have begun

to create small books. The topics of the little books vary from geometry to parts of speech, types of reptiles, the constellations, etc. Each little book is assembled by the child and given a cover of the child's own choosing. One of the books showed all of the things in the classroom, with labels and lovely illustrations. This work mirrored a Montessori lesson called "Objects of the Environment".

The children have been preparing for their spring program and commencement ceremony. They have been amazingly cooperative and we have discovered that we have many very talented children. They learn their songs and dances quickly and show a lovely willingness to work in harmony, towards a common goal.



THE BUTTERFLY CLASS



This month the Butterflies will continue their work and their exploration of the classroom. We are looking forward to creating a very special project to present to our fathers for Father's Day, on Sunday, June 17th.



We will be learning poems and songs that remind us of how important fathers are to their family and how much they are loved. The older children enjoy writing stories about their family and love to include their daddies

Two of the things that I see in the class are very impressive to me. First, I see a group of individuals who are able to work, not from the anticipation of external rewards or from a fear of negative consequences, but purely from their own intrinsic desire to work and learn.



The work is offered to them, they are shown how to use the materials and shown the purpose of each activity. They are provided with the language related to the work and with a means of independently gauging if they are achieving the desired result. And then they are left to work with the activity for as long as they desire and to repeat the work if they wish. They determine when they are finished and when they wish to exchange the work for another activity. This independence is a delight to observe.

The second element that is so impressive to me is the ability of the children to work from their own intrinsic motivation. They are not seeking praise or a reward or an award. They are doing an activity purely because it's what they want to do. They are not pressured or forced to do it. It is just what they love to do.

The atmosphere in the classroom is very positive and we see a collaborative element to their work. Children readily help one another and encourage their classmates. Children who are not in competition are free to support and give confidence to a peer.



THE LADYBUG CLASS



The Ladybugs are maturing and are able to work with more advanced activities. They are enjoying their work very much. It is very rewarding to see that children, who just a short time ago, needed so much help, now able to function independently and with greater confidence.

In the area of Practical Life skills there is a section called Exercises for Grace and Courtesy. This work is intended to give the child the skills and the opportunity to learn respectful behavior, manners and social skills. The lessons are given in both a collective lesson and in individual lessons as necessary.

Some of the lessons involve how to greet a person, how to excuse oneself, how to offer or decline help, how to shake hands, how to apologize, how to interrupt and other social skills. These



lessons are very important to help a child learn what is socially acceptable behavior and to learn how to show respect for others.

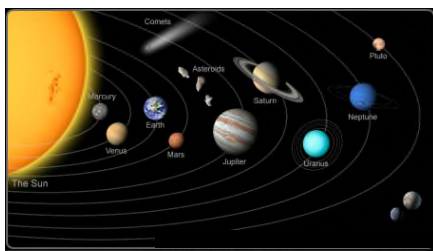
Lessons on how to speak with respect for others and to be thoughtful in social interactions are repeated often. The most important lesson, however, is the way the teachers and staff interact with the children. When the adults model the expected behavior with consistency and poise, the child has a greater likelihood of emulating the behavior.

We are looking forward to preparing a nice surprise for all the daddies for Fathers Day.

With summer coming very soon, we are reminding parents that sandals must have closed toes and a strap around the heel.



THE BUMBLEBEE CLASS



The Bumblebees are currently learning about our place in the Universe and about our Solar System. It is great fun to learn the names of the inner and outer planets and to learn new vocabulary. The children enjoy the work and show a desire to learn more.

We will continue the work by learning about our nearest satellite, the Moon. We will also learn to sing the Moon song, just for fun.



Moon Phases

Throughout the classroom we see the industry and the dedication of the children as they work and explore their environment. The independence and confidence they exhibit is very exciting.

One of the most important skills we attempt to foster in the young child is the ability to make a decision to choose and complete a purposeful task. The skill is painstakingly fostered from the first lessons the Montessori Directress offers to the child.



Although obedience is also a necessary quality, the child also needs to experi-

ence self-determination. The young child is offered appropriate presentations from the Directress and then is free to choose what he/she will do from a variety of activities. This permits the establishment of responsibility, concentration and independence.

The art is to be sure the presentation is one that will engage the child and one that the child has a likelihood of success. If too challenging, the child will be frustrated and if too simple, the child will be bored.

In looking about the classroom, we see children who are peacefully occupied with self-chosen tasks. The atmosphere is one of quiet industry.

Work continues in all the areas of practical life, sensorial, math and language. Singing, stories and poems are always a favorite activity for the children as well as the teachers.



THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A ROLE MODEL

All of us, as adults, whether consciously or unconsciously, become the role models for our children. What they model is determined by the amount of exposure they receive. Those who are most present in their environment will usually have the greatest influence on the child.

Dr. Benjamin Spock, a world renowned pediatrician and author, published a book that reflects the wisdom of his accumulated experience: *A Better World For Our Children: Rebuilding American Family Values*.

Dr. Spock was interviewed by a journalist at the time his most recent book was published. His thoughts were very reminiscent of Montessori philosophy, expressed in new words:

"I think the most important value by far is to bring up children excited about helping other people, first in the family and then other people outside. More than anything else, children want to help - it makes them feel grown up. That includes simple things like being able to set the table. Parents say, 'Oh, I can do it quicker myself,' but that misses the point. Children should be encouraged to help, to be kind and loving to other people. values that

I think these are the spiritual values that are quite obvious, but we're not paying enough attention to them.

So many kids are brought up to think of themselves first. I've heard fathers say to their sons, 'You're in the world to get ahead, kid.' I want to demystify the idea of spirituality by showing that it comes down to specifics, such as helping your parents at home, or managing how you can grow up to be a helpful person to the world, rather than focusing on making a big pile of dough, or achieving some position in a company.

Anthropological studies from all over the world show that children can be taught any set of values that their parents and their group truly believe in. If children worship material success rather than truth or compassion, it is because they have absorbed those values from others. We should not let children grow up believing that they are in the world primarily to acquire possessions or to get ahead. If we give them no spiritual values to live by, they are wide open to the materialism pounded in by television programs, music videos and other commercial hucksterism."

In the Montessori Primary classes there is a three year age span, providing an opportunity for the children to learn compassion, empathy and responsibility for others. Each child has the opportunity to experience being 'the first child, the middle child and the youngest child. The child gets to experience being the youngest child to the eldest child.




In this atmosphere, generosity and responsibility are able to thrive. Children are not competing against one another for grades, ribbons, trophies or accolades. They are all moving along a course of exploration and learning and each is able to attain his/her own individual 'personal best.'

Parents, as the primary educators of their child/ren, have an enormous impact on what values and attitudes their child acquires. The teachers and staff are here to support the good values that the child will carry with him/her into the future. These values become part of the child's very being.


VILLAGE MONTESSORI ACADEMY – 2017/2018 Academic Calendar

1 No School - Teacher Day
4 Labor Day Holiday
5 First Day of School
14 Parent Night




SEPTEMBER 2017						
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

11 Daylight Savings Time
16 St. Patrick's Day Party




MARCH 2017						
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

9 Columbus Day
31 Halloween Parade



OCTOBER 2017						
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 1 Easter Sunday
April 19 Parent & Child Night




APRIL 2017						
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					

5 End Daylight Savings time
10 Veterans Day
23,24 Thanksgiving Holiday



NOVEMBER 2017						
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		

13 Mother's Day
28 Memorial Holiday




MAY 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		

15 Winter Holiday Program
25, 26 Christmas Holiday




DECEMBER 2017						
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						

17 Father's Day
08 Commencement Program




JUNE 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

1 New Year's Holiday
15 M.L. King Holiday



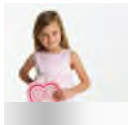
JANUARY 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

4 Independence Holiday




JULY 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				

14 Valentine's Day
19 Presidents Holiday



FEBRUARY 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			

30, 31 Teacher In-Service
 Non-student days



AUGUST 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	