

# VILLAGE MONTESSORI NEWS

Volume 15 Issue 6

February 2018

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

Our shortest month, February, is filled with some of our most enjoyable events. We will begin the month with preparations for Valentine's Day. The children will enjoy opportunities to make decorations and crafts to celebrate the day.

Each of the classes will have a **Valentine's Day** party in their classroom. Children may bring Valentine's for their friends and exchange them, however, we do not provide a class list for you. Simply allow your child to write his/her name on the back of the Valentine.

Please watch for a notice from your child's teacher to let you know if you need to send a bag for your child to collect Valentine's or if your child will make one in class.

Each teacher will post a sign

on a clipboard to let you know items needed for the children's party. If you'd like to help, kindly sign next to the item you are willing to provide.

**Chinese New Year** begins on Friday, February 16th, with our annual banquet. Please let the office know if your child will participate and if you prefer chicken or a vegetarian meal.

We celebrate the birthdays of President Washington and President Lincoln on Monday, February 19th.



## CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Our annual Chinese New Year Banquet will be held on Friday, February 16th, the first day of the New Year Celebration.

We encourage the children to come dressed in any Asian clothing that they may have.

In all of the classes, a buffet of Chinese foods will be offered for all of the children to enjoy. The menu will include Chicken Chow Mein or Vegetarian Chow Mein, fresh oranges, fortune cookies and milk.

All of the classes will be learning about the traditions



This is a national holiday and school is not in session.

During the month, the children will learn about the life and times of these two presidents.

**Groundhog Day**, on February 2nd, is an annual event to see if Punxsutawney Phil (the groundhog) will predict an early spring or a longer winter. The event is held at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, at 7:30 in the morning. So far, Phil holds an 80% accuracy rate.



### February Calendar

Friday, Feb 2nd

**Groundhog Day**

Wednesday, Feb 14th

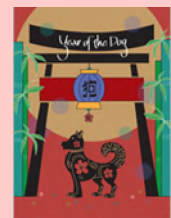
**Valentine's Day Party**



Friday, February 16th

**Chinese New Year**

**Banquet**



Monday, February 19th

**Presidents' Day Holiday**

**School is not in session**



## THE BUMBLEBEE CLASS



Practical Life skills are the first area that the child encounters in the Montessori children's house. These skills lay the foundation for all the work to come. The work enables the child to acquire better coordination, concentration, order, independence and social skills.

There are 'built-in' patterns of movement that prepare for reading, writing and mathematical work. The work permits the child to follow a precise sequence of actions and to analyze his movements to produce a desired result.

In this area are polishing exercises. Everything from glass to wood, silver, brass and copper is available to polish. This is a favorite activity for the children and we can see the shine on many objects in the room.



The celebration of the Chinese New Year is a source of great excitement. Through stories, books and lessons, we are helping the children appreciate the significance of this holiday. We are also teaching the children songs and making special art activities available for everyone.



We are looking forward to our banquet and to setting a festive table. We encourage the children to dress in Asian clothing, if possible. Red or gold are traditional colors of celebration so it is an option if your child does not have Asian clothing.

Valentine's Day is another opportunity to celebrate, to make festive art projects and to learn about a very revered tradition.

The children are welcome to bring a Valentine for each of their classmates on Wednesday, February 14th. Please be sure to mark the bag with your child's name so we can assist him/her in delivering the Valentines.

Each child will be making a bag in class and decorating it so he will have it to collect the loving messages he'll receive from his friends. Please watch for a sign-up paper on a clip board in the office if you'd like to contribute to our party.



## THE LADYBUG CLASS



The children are very excited to begin preparations for Valentine's Day on Wednesday, February 14th. We have special art opportunities for the children and are looking forward to our party and to exchanging Valentine's with our friends.

We will make a special bag at school to hold the Valentines we will receive from friends. If your child wishes to bring Valentine's to share, please send them to school in a bag with his/her name on it.

We are curious to see if Punxsutawney Phil, the famous groundhog from Gobbler's Knob, in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, will see his shadow on February 2nd. If he sees his shadow, he will go back to hibernate for six more weeks until spring comes.



We will also celebrate Chinese New Year on February 16th, with a feast and festivities. The children are looking forward to learning about the traditions associated with the New Year.

President's Day, on February 19th, is a National Holiday and we hope the children enjoy a day off. In class we will be discussing both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

The younger children in the class are very busy exploring the many practical life exercises and the sensorial materials available to them. This important work is very attractive to them and they enjoy it very much.

The older children are eagerly working with the movable alphabets, composing words on their rugs. They enjoy learning to form their letters on the chalkboards and are eager to write.

Another favorite activity is the work with the Golden Bead Materials. This is critically important work and introduces the children to the decimal system. It shows place value and the four mathematical operations of +, -, x and ÷.



# THE BUTTERFLY CLASS



The children are very eager to begin making their Valentine decorations and art activities. They are very excited to exchange Valentine's and have a party.

The children are most welcome to bring a Valentine for each of their friends on February 14th. Please put them in a bag marked with your child's name.

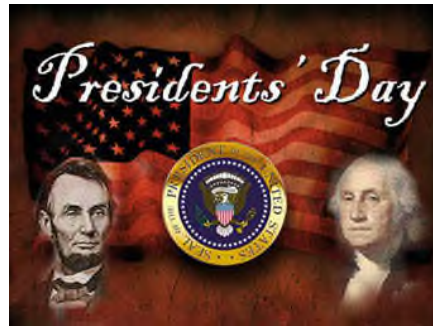


We will make beautiful bags in class to collect the Valentine's the children will receive from their friends.

In the area of cultural studies, the children are learning about the United States and the capitol cities of each state. Each state and capitol have interesting facts and features that the children can enjoy learning about.

This work will be extended as we learn

about two of our most important presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We will discuss their places in the history of our country and the reason we celebrate President's Day on February 19th.



We are looking forward to our annual Chinese New Year feast on Friday, February 16th. The children will have the opportunity to use their Grace and



Courtesy skills as we prepare the tables and the room for a feast. The children are learning to serve

themselves 'buffet style' and to eat with gracious manners.

It is especially rewarding to see the patience and kindness the children extend to one another. Many of the older children help the younger children and have begun to teach them spontaneously.

This is the fertile ground where leadership, responsibility and empathy can grow.



# THE DRAGONFLY CLASS



The children will continue to be very busy during the month of February as we have many areas of exploration to pursue.

Valentine's Day is one of the children's favorite holgo back to idays and will be a wonderful event for the class. We will learn about the origin and the traditions associated with this lovely day to express our love to one another.



In their exploration of art, the children have been learning about abstract art and trying their hand at art in the style of Wassily Kandinsky, a Russian artist. They are enjoying experimenting with abstract art.

The children are also learning about the prolific work of Edgar Degas, a French Impressionist artist. If you are able to take your child to the Norton Simon museum, in Pasadena, there is an exceptional exhibit of his sculptures, paint-

ings and drawings.

One piece of sculpture that the children will readily recognize is called 'The Little Dancer' and is on exhibition there.

The garden is also a beautiful place to explore. Additionally, they have a lovely book store with a special children's section.

We will continue to learn more about the establishment of our United States we explore the American Revolution and the role George Washington played in the establishment of a nation.

We will also learn about the life and the contributions of Abraham Lincoln to the preservation of the Union. Both Lincoln and Washington shared ex-



traordinary character, courage and a willingness to lead.

Chinese New Year is a cause for celebration and will begin with our annual New Year Feast! We will discuss the traditions and ways of observing this event.

The celebration of the New Year ties in the movements of the moon, the earth and the sun. It also introduces the complexity of creating a calendar. This is interesting to the children because they are learning to tell time, to understand the months of the year and the days of the week. It is fascinating to them to know that different cultures can use different calendars.

The children are also studying measurement, the clock and our monetary system. It is challenging work but they are dedicated in their studies.

We will have a bit of fun learning about groundhogs and the traditions of Groundhog Day.



## THE MONTESSORI BEAD CABINET



One of the most attractive and inviting features of a Montessori classroom is the Bead Cabinet. It attracts adults as well as the children, wanting to reach out and touch the shimmering glass beads.

The bead cabinet consists of a custom made wooden frame and chains, bead squares and bead cubes. The chains are displayed in a vertical manner. The cubes and squares are displayed horizontally on narrow shelves. The top shelf spans the width of the frame and houses twenty little boxes that contain color-coded arrows that are used in the lessons.











The work is essential to the Primary classes but is so astonishing it can be used in the Elementary, Secondary, and even collegiate and post-graduate work. The applications in mathematics are innumerable: skip counting (counting by 2's, 5's, 7's, etc.), multiplying, squaring, cubing, manipulating polynomials, and exploring base systems beyond base 10.

The beads are usually made of glass although plastic beads are sometimes used. The colors are important as they continue a color-coded system introduced to the children in earlier work.

The colored bead stair was first encountered by the child when he/she was learning the teens, from 11 to 19. Later, the child worked with the colored bead bars with the two Snake Games (positive and negative integers for addition and subtraction).

The squares of the numbers are these

### Montessori Beads

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  |  |
| 2  |  |
| 3  |  |
| 4  |  |
| 5  |  |
| 6  |  |
| 7  |  |
| 8  |  |
| 9  |  |
| 10 |  |

bead bars bound by copper wire into the shape of the square of the single bead bar.

This square of five corresponds to the short chain of five and the chain can be folded to show it is identical to the square of five. The tickets that correspond to the short chain are laid out in linear fashion to permit the child to count from one to twenty-five, by fives.

At first the child learns to work with the short chains and the single square that corresponds to the chain they are working with. The work has special mats that are long enough to permit the full extension of the chain.

On the bead cabinet the child sees that each chain has squares that match the number of the chain. Thus the five chain has a short chain and a long chain and five squares of five. The five squares of five correspond to the materials that show five to the third power or five cubed. The corresponding long chain of five is five times five times five or  $5^3$ . The actual cube of five is on the same shelf as the five squares of five.

When the child works with the short chains they bring to their rug a tray with the short chain, the corresponding box of arrows (tickets) and the square of the number they are working with. The first thing the child does is to fold the chain carefully, seeing that the folded chain matches the square of the number they are working with.

As they progress and work with all the various numbers between one and ten, they are able to work with the long chains, the numbers cubed.



For this work they bring the mat, the long chain, the tray with the squares and the cube of the number and

the corresponding tickets. The chain is first extended and then carefully folded to show it is composed of individual bead bars and can be folded to show the folded groups of the squares of the number. The corresponding squares are laid beside the folded squares and then stacked to show that they become the cube of the number they are working with.

The long chain is then extended to its full length and the child places the arrows, counting and moving down the chain until the full length has been ticketed. At the point on the chain where the number is squared a square is placed beside the chain. At the very end of the chain the child places the cube.

The first two chains the child works with are the hundred chain ( $10^2$ ) and the thousand chain ( $10^3$ ). The child first learns linear counting, counting one-by-one. They are not asked to write the numbers but if they ask and want to write, they are offered narrow paper, like adding machine paper.




Later, the children learn 'skip counting'. This is counting by twos, threes, fours, etc. They can also practice regressive counting or counting backwards by a specific number.

All of the chains directly correspond to the multiplication tables that the child needs to understand and to put to memory. This work is also preparing for squaring and cubing, polynomials, base systems, geometry, and vocabulary.


# 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  
**15** 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



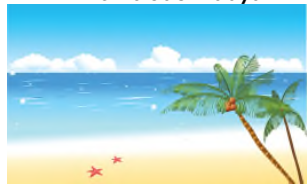
JULY 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**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	