

# VILLAGE MONTESSORI NEWS

Volume 16 Issue 9

April 2018

## WONDERFUL NEWS!

Our playground is being renewed and getting a massive 'facelift'. After many years, it was due for an updated look.

The entire resilient surface and subsurface have been removed and new absorbent material is being installed to make a beautiful and safe playground for the children.

Each piece of equipment is being carefully deconstructed and restored to a beautiful 'new' condition.



The children have noticed that the trees have again sprouted their new leaves and are able to bring lots of shade to the play areas.

The children have been collecting tiny leaves that have sprouted and are able to name many of the leaves by their shape.



We are currently using the second playground, outside the Bumblebee and the Butterfly Classrooms, while the work is underway on the north playground.

We are fortunate to have a grassy area and plenty of



room for active games and play.

The children in the various classes alternate their use of the playground and are not outside during the times the workmen are engaged in the renovation.



## PARENT AND CHILD EVENING 4/19, 7:00P.M.

Thursday, April 19th, at 7:00 p.m., you are cordially invited to come, with your Montessori child, to learn more about how he/she spends the day.

Your child is eager to share some of the activities and the work he/she does in the

classroom. The children enjoy this time to share with you and are eager to show their work.

The staff will be present as hostesses only and are not available to conference during this event.

Please come and share this special time with your Montessori child. We respectfully ask that children who are not currently enrolled in Village Montessori Academy not attend. This is a special time to focus on your Montessori child.

### APRIL CALENDAR

April 1, Easter Sunday  
April Fool's Day



April 19, Thursday  
Parent/Child Evening



Please note:

Commencement Date has been changed from Friday, June 15th to Friday, June 8th.



## THE DRAGONFLY CLASS

The children in the Dragonfly Class are combining many skills as they work to learn about the States of the United States. They work with the Montessori Puzzle Maps to learn the name of the States and label the various puzzle pieces. They have the opportunity to color and label their own paper maps as well.



As they continue their exploration, they are learning the State Capitals, the State flowers and the state birds.

Another aspect of their work in Social Sciences is called the Land and Water Forms. This work helps them to learn about physical geography. For example some of the states border on lakes and other states are peninsulas or islands.

The children are learning about the formation of the Great Lakes and to identify the country's major mountain

ranges and lakes. The work is continued into learning the flags of the various states - all work the children thoroughly enjoy.



Music continues to be a source of great joy in the classroom. The bells and the keyboard are in continuous use throughout the day. The children enjoy exploring finding new music and songs to sing and to perform.

There is an on-going sharing of skills between the children as they teach each other songs and work together.

On the day of our spring party, many of the children were working to prepare the filling and the sandwiches. Some were peeling hardboiled eggs, some dicing the egg or stirring the filling. Others were making the sandwiches.

Two of the girls went to the piano and played a duet while they sang. Their voices were absolutely beautiful. It was such a delightful time to have shared with the children.

Thank you to all the thoughtful parents who made this event possible. The children appreciated the fruit, the strawberry milk ('Bunny Milk'), the milk, the eggs, bread and mayonnaise. The Easter Bunny was most appreciative of the candies. Although he hid them very well, those clever children managed to find a great many of them!

As the year progresses, we are delighted to see the advancement of the children in their ability to read, to write and to have the opportunity to explore the many areas available to them. Art, science, mathematics, music and literature are more accessible to them because they have established a foundation in learning.

We are looking forward to our annual Parent & Child evening on April 19th and to our Spring Program and Commencement on June 8th. The children are very happy to welcome you to share their enjoyment of their class.

## THE BUTTERFLY CLASS

Art is always a favorite activity for the children and one they readily take to. The children were able to make little chicks that combined several skills - using a triangle to form the body of the chick and then drawing and cutting an outline of their hands to form the wings. Controlling a pencil and using scissors properly are very challenging skills and are mastered after much practice.

The children learned about eggs and made their own, unique egg designs. The work with the Metal Insets helped to prepare them for working with an oval.

The Metal Inset work consists of two trays of Metal figures cut to show a

frame and an inset of the various plane geometric forms. The children learn very important skills with this work.



Prior to their work with Metal Insets, the children have previously worked with wooden plane geometric forms with the Geometric Cabinet. They learn the shape and the form of all the many pieces of the cabinet, including polygons, triangles, quadrilaterals and curvilinear forms, etc.

They expand this work with three sets of cards that help them transition from concrete to abstract visualization. They learn the language and learn to identify the shapes from the cabinet and to relate them to objects in their environment that have the same shape.



Parallel to this work, the child learns to grasp the writing instrument properly and to use a light touch in writing.

## THE LADYBUG CLASS

The Ladybugs are an industrious and energetic group and are having a delightful time in class. They are obviously very happy as they explore their environment.

Practical Life skills are one of the most important proficiencies that the children need to master in the classroom. The opportunity to analyze and improve their gross and fine motor skills gives them a great advantage in moving forward in the class as well as at home.

The Practical Life activities are divided into specific areas that meet the various needs of the young child. None of the work is redundant and each exercise meets a critical need of the child.

Some of the work is to help refine the child's gross or fine motor skills. Learning to act independently and to care for himself gives the child a great deal of

self-esteem and freedom. When he has learned to pour himself a drink or to button his own jacket he feels empowered and independent.

The children learn to be responsible and to respond to a mishap without being upset. When a child spills something, he knows where the brush and dust pan are and how to use them. He knows he won't be scolded and that he can take care of the situation on his own.



Built into many of the lessons in Practical Life and Sensorial work is a left-to-right and top-to-bottom pattern that helps to prepare for reading, writing and mathematics.

An important skill the child learns is to use an orange stick with a cotton ball attached to apply polish to silver, wood, glass, brass or copper. The way the child grasps the orange stick is preparing the hand to grasp a pencil later on.



Other important aspects of this work include the ability of the child to freely and independently choose and complete an activity with order, concentration and success. All skills that will carry over as he continues to expand his exploration of the world.

## THE BUMBLEBEE CLASS

Our little bumblebees are literally 'busy as bees' as they work and play and explore. It is very evident that they are happy and working with a very positive energy.

The children have shown very impressive progress and especially enjoy two areas of the classroom - the math and language areas.

In their preparation for exploration of mathematics, the children have shown the benefit they derived from the Practical Life and Sensorial work.



A subtle but essential aspect of their work with the Sensorial materials is that many of the materials possess a repetition of ten and a left-to-right/top-to-bottom direction. This is the pattern necessary to work with a base ten number system and with mathematical operations.



The children have begun work with the Golden Bead Materials and are delighted to be able to work independently. The children have learned to associate the quantity with the symbols for numbers one through 9,999. They can bring trays of numbers with the corresponding quantities, forming four

digit numbers. They can act as the 'teacher' and count the amounts their friends bring them. As they progress in their work they can team together to carry out operations of +, -, x and ÷. For a long time they have no written work and later are able to transition to Stamp Games and work independently and will write their equations and answers.



The children have established a firm understanding of Place Value and the rules of mathematical operations.



**VILLAGE MONTESSORI ACADEMY**

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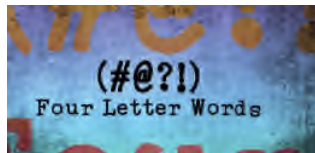
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*"We're Building a Better World,  
One Student at a Time"*

"Any child who is self-sufficient, who can tie his shoes, dress or undress himself, reflects in his joy and sense of achievement the image of human dignity, which is derived from a sense of independence. "  
- Maria Montessori -



## A MATTER OF WORDS....



Is work a four-letter word? It certainly has four letters. And for many of us (present author not included) work does carry with it all the baggage of the traditional reference to four letter words, specifically profanity. Many people are in jobs they do not find value in.

I recently heard the former CEO of Baxter say he no longer uses the phrase work-life balance. "If you aren't living at work, you have a big problem." He now uses the phrase life balance. It's all part of life.

I have been reflecting recently about what words we use with our students at school when helping them re-engage in an activity that they have already chosen or helping them to latch on to something new.

And I have decided that work is not always the word I want to use. Instead, I have suggested to our staff that we start considering asking our students either what they would like to learn or how they would like to make a contribution (or help the class). I think that both of these expressions are far closer to the experience that our students can relate to and be inspired by.


What words do you use at home? Do you ask your child how he would like to help? What he would like to improve? What he would like to make more beautiful? If he would like to persevere a little longer on a challenge with which he is asking help?

I think these words matter. They are one of the places that we can impart our values to our children. It is subtle, but it is the language that we use with our children that will contribute to the construction of their character.

By Wendy Calise  
Director, MTIPS


# 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	