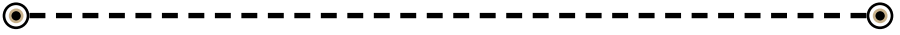




2011 - 2012

MONTESSORI SCHOOLS

vol. 28 no. 5



P A R E N T N E W S L E T T E R



Welcome back all new and returning students
of Meher Montessori School.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

www.mehermontessori.org

january 12



Every year the teachers plan some special activity in their classrooms to better acquaint the children with Dr. Maria Montessori. Dr. Montessori is the person who started the Montessori Method of education early last century in Italy. The children learn about Maria Montessori's life through photos, illustrations, stories and other memorabilia. Did you know that Maria Montessori was Italy's first female physician? Did you also know that Italy has produced stamps and money with Dr. Montessori's picture?

Holidays

There will be no school on Monday, February 13th and Monday, February 20th. The school will be closed for Lincoln's Birthday and Presidents' Day.



Graduating Students

Attention Parents of primary children who will be graduating in June! Now is the time to start making plans for your child for the next school year. In case you are not aware of it, we have a wonderful 6-9 year old classroom currently in its twenty-fifth year. We are very proud of this class and feel that every parent of a primary child who is graduating should consider this Montessori classroom for the next school year. To get a better idea about what goes on in this class, we invite you to make an appointment through the office to observe in Mr. George's classroom.

"We Are Montessori"

Visit...**"We are Montessori" on Facebook.**



Mrs. Thomas Class and Mrs. Wildhaber's Class

Happy New Year to all of our children and parents and welcome back after the holiday season. The children seem to be happy to be back and we are happy to be back with them. I'm sure you all had a wonderful and exciting holiday season.

The month of December just passed by so swiftly and now we are into a brand New Year. The couple of weeks before the holidays were kind of hectic but very exciting with all the preparations for our Christmas Program, holiday arts and crafts and a couple of birthdays in between. The highlight of our program was the children singing yuletide songs to the parents. Santa's surprise visit was an additional thrill and, of course also, the exchange of gifts, followed by a party in the afternoon. We would like to thank you dear parents for your presence at the program and the party, and for the special party food and items you

kindly contributed. We also would like to thank you for all the boxes and cans of food items you very generously donated towards the Food Drive for less fortunate people.

You sure made a lot of children and adults very happy this season.

Two of our children have been travelling out of the country with their families to be with grandparents and relatives. Landon Gray went to the Philippines and is back with us, Aaron Miao went to China and still hasn't returned



from a family vacation in China. On our return from the holidays we had four new children enrolled in our classroom. They are Olivia Torres (3.6 years old), Barclay Kang (2.7 years old), Austin Zhu (2.11 years old), and Francesca Arregui (2.7 years old). They are all happily settled down in their new environment and we are expecting another child to join us in the month of February. Our class is

growing slowly but steadily.

Happy Birthday to our December birthday celebrants who are Ryan Su, Danica Neri and Jake Li.

Our first School Shirt Day of the year will be on Friday the 27th of January. Hope we can continue our winning trend. Thank you dear parents for your continuous care and support towards our class. Once again we wish you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Love,
Mrs. Thomas
Mrs. Wildhaber
Mrs. Suh



**HELP OUR SCHOOL EARN
\$250 TO \$2500!**

It's easy! Just shop and log receipts from The Shops of Montebello from September 15, 2011 and May 15, 2012 to support our school. Bring receipts to Guest Services, located on the lower level in Center Court to earn ten points per dollar spent (five points for purchases made at JCPenney, Macy's and Macy's Home). All receipts are returned immediately.

Questions? Call 1-800-539-3273 or visit shopsatmontebello.com.

EXTRA CREDIT POINTS

Earn 50 points per dollar spent at these new stores September 15 - October 15:
Daniel's Jewelers, Express, Gap, Gymboree, Hollister, Justice, NY & Co., PacSun, Things Remembered, The Children's Place and Vans.

The Year of the Dragon 2012



The Dragon is a creature of myth and legend. A symbol of good fortune and sign of intense power, the Oriental Dragon is regarded as a divine beast - the reverse of the malicious monster that Westerners felt necessary to find and slay. In Eastern philosophy, the Dragon is said to be a deliverer of good fortune and a master of authority. Therefore, those people born in Dragon years are to be honored and respected.

THE SIGN OF THE DRAGON

The key to the Dragon personality is that Dragons are the free spirits of the Zodiac. Conformation is a Dragon's curse. Rules and regulations are made for other people. Restrictions blow out the creative spark that is ready to flame into life. Dragons must be free and uninhibited. The Dragon is a beautiful creature, colorful and flamboyant. An extroverted bundle of energy, gifted and utterly irrepressible, everything Dragons do is on a grand scale - big ideas, ornate gestures, extreme ambitions. However, this behavior is natural and isn't meant for show. Because they are confident, fearless in the face of challenge, they are almost inevitably successful. Dragons usually make it to the top. However, Dragon people be aware of their natures. Too much enthusiasm can leave them tired and unfulfilled. Even though they are willing to aid when necessary, their pride can often impede them from accepting the same kind of help from others. Dragons' generous personalities give them the ability to attract friends, but they can be rather solitary people at heart. A Dragon's self-sufficiency can mean that he or she has no need for close bonds with other people.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DRAGON

They are innovative, enterprising, flexible, self-assured, brave, passionate, conceited, tactless, scrutinizing, unanticipated, and quick-tempered.

Ms. Muñoz' Class

Hello everyone and welcome to a brand new year. 2012 is upon us and so far the year has been a wonderful one. I hope you all had a fun and relaxing vacation and happy holidays. I'd like to thank everyone for the wonderful gifts I received. I felt much loved by all my students and their family. Also, thank you everyone who joined us for our Christmas party. It is always a fun event with lots of joy. The children always look forward to that special visit from Santa.

The children started off this year ready to work. I have many of my older children bursting with excitement with their reading. I have many children working hard on their sounds and larger numbers. It's always exciting to see the children so excited about learning.

This month we celebrated Sofia's 6th birthday. She is the first child to turn 6 in my class and we celebrated with a little treat. Happy Birthday Sofia.

On Monday, the 23rd, we celebrated Chinese New Year with a special lunch. We all enjoyed the yummy food that you wonderful parents brought. Thank you so much and I am glad that some of you were

able to join us for the party. The children decorated paper lanterns that we now have hanging in our classroom.

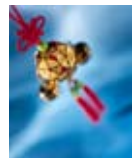
Next month we will be celebrating Valentine's Day. More information will be sent home as the time gets closer.

I am sad to say that last month we did not earn 100% for our School Shirt Day. Our next School Shirt Day will be on Friday, January 27th. Please help your child remember their School Shirt on this day. Thank you.

Last year the staff of Meher were lucky enough to attend the AMI Refresher Course that happens each year. Last year it was in Long Beach. It was a great experience and we learned so much. I am happy to say that a few of us will be attending again this year. This year's conference is going to be in Fort Worth, TX and I am greatly looking forward to another great learning opportunity. It takes place during one of our three day weekends in February.

I wish you all a great 2012.

Ms. Muñoz
Ms. Martinez



Mrs. Rivera's Class

Happy New Year to one and all! Let us welcome the year 2012 with vigor, peace and love for one another.

2011 was a good year where we were all blessed, had good health and good results in our school activities. We pray for another good year of prosperity to be bestowed to all administrators, staff, parents and children of Meher Montessori School.

Our Winter Break gave me a very relaxing time with the members of my family and grandchildren. Our Christmas tree was ready three days before Christmas we took a beautiful family picture with it as a background. Our New Year's Eve was exciting: nobody slept, everyone was wide awake watching the 2012 ball in New York via the T.V. descend. We all had a toast of champagne for good luck, health and prosperity. I am very sure that our parents, administrators, teachers, staff and children had welcomed the year 2012 with good wishes and cheers too.

Everyone came back to school on January 9, as I excitedly stepped into my classroom; I saw 3 goody bags sitting on top of our classroom cabinets and my mind slipped back on the time we had our "Christmas Party!" It was a joyful and exciting one. Our children had their pictures



taken in front of our live miniature Christmas tree which was given to us by the Kaneko-Grun Family. "Elf Hats" were compliments of Luis and

Carol Cadena and made the children smile with gusto and look adorable. During lunch the children had "pizza" with fruits and a pouch of juice. This was provided by the administrators of the school for having won 100% School Shirt participation last November.



In the afternoon after 1 pm the children sang 4 beautiful Christmas carols to their parents and Santa Claus, and feasted on foods prepared by their parents. We thank all our dear parents

for taking the time to be with us during our Christmas celebration and helping us to set up and clean up. The children were very happy and left school with their goody bags filled with exciting things to open on Christmas Day. I, Mrs.

Gonzalez and the children in our class are very grateful for the special goodies that some children brought in on that day and the gifts that our dear parents have given us on that memorable day. Your generosity and kindness are highly appreciated. Once again, "Thank you very much!" Mrs. Gonzalez did a very good job in helping the children decorate their goody bags and also in directing some parents to prepare the classroom for the occasion. She is a talented, smart and humorous person that knows the in's and out's of managing the classroom in order for the children to be busy in their work. I am lucky to have her with me in class.



**A PRESENTATION FROM
SOME OF THE CHILDREN FROM
MR. GEORGE'S CLASS**

I read a brief history of the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the children and gave them reasons why the entire nation honors and celebrates him on January 16th. They know now that he has been one of the country's most dynamic leaders in the fight for "peaceful equality of all men." He had a "dream" and I read to them a part of his speech. A number of questions were asked by the children, and they themselves figured out simple answers. They went home that day bringing a copy of Dr. Martin Luther King's photo to

color.

Our December celebrants are: Alexis Bodner who turned 5 on the 12th, Sarah Lin - 5 on the 28th and Luke Littlefield - 4 on the 24th. Our January celebrants are: Enzo Chavez who turned 5 years old on the 7th, Adrian de Dios - 6 on the 15th, Evan Soto - 6 on the 10th and last but not the least, Sachiko Kaneko-Grun- 6 on the 28th. To all the celebrants, may you have many, more happy birthdays and fulfilled wishes come to your life.

We had a 100% School Shirt Day participation last December and are looking forward to another one this Friday, January 27th. Since the beginning of this school year

we have maintained a constant achievement. May we continue this: please mark your calendar for this special date and help your children wear their School Shirt. Thank you so much in advance.

We will have our "Open House" Saturday, the 28th of January, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please bring your friends and relatives to see our school. A flyer has been sent out regarding this day.

I would like to thank Mrs. Ruvalcaba for her helping hands in assisting us with the exploration, motivation and capture of the

children's mind to make a special event come alive.

We celebrated the "Chinese Lunar Year" with a luncheon on Monday, January 23rd. "Happy Chinese and Korean New Year to one and all!!!"

With all our love,
Mrs. Gonzalez, Mrs. Ruvalcaba
and Mrs. Rivera



Mr. George's Class

Our class has been mastering the routine of follow-up work. In history my 3rd year students have completed five sheets on the Aztecs. They have eight more question, answer and drawing sheets to complete. The Aztecs of Mexico ruled a vast empire which stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Within this huge area, there were thirty-eight provinces, inhabited by people who were serfs to their Aztec masters. These serfs had to send their best crops, manufactured goods and luxuries as tribute to the Spaniards who introduced ships, canon, guns and horses...never seen before by the Aztecs.

Also in history my second year students are learning about the

Ancient Greeks. They learned about the Olympics, Greek soldiers, Greek Democracy, and Greek culture. The children matched the story cards to the pictures, drew the map of the Greek Empire, named the events of the Olympics and wrote the learning activities of boys and girls. A lot more will follow.

In math, most of my second year students have mastered dynamic (\times) multiplication and a few have gone on to dynamic (\div) division. My third year students are on fractions and pre-algebra. My newcomers are working at their own pace. Some have advanced to dynamic (\times) multiplication.

In geography, my newcomers have had a lesson on "the Desert" with matching and a follow-up sheet. Groups two and three had a lesson on the Physical Regions of the USA and completed a follow-up sheet.

Mr. Barrameda has done a stellar job in presenting experiments in physical geography and botany. I see excitement among the children who have done personal work with the plants. Ms. Bayon gets a lot of credit of being "the glue" to the class. She maintains control of the class and sees that everyone is working and completing their assignments. Thank you Ms. Bayon.

Sincerely,
Mr. George
Mr. Barrameda
Ms. Bayon



Mr. Page's Class

We've been working with a number of children with calculating **square roots**.

In Montessori we always have an integrated approach wherein there are numerous foundations laid in preparation for the next lessons. In this case, the children's extensive previous use of squaring, cubing, binomial and trinomial materials serve as wonderful mental preparation for exposure to the principles and calculations involved in finding square roots.

They first use various specialized Montessori materials and gradually work their way to abstraction with full understanding.

Also, we are strengthening foundations in math by working with students on long division, factors and multiples, and fraction equivalencies as well as simple operations with fractions.

Another exercise that is getting a lot of attention in our classroom is what we call **Interdependencies of Human Beings in Society**. We need to help the children in our classes

reflect on how interdependent people are with each other. We have sets of cards which when given in a lesson illustrate how interconnected we are not only with our immediate

family, friends and classmates, but also with others who produce goods and services that we use. One of the goals in Montessori elementary is for children to develop gratitude and

thankfulness to God and for those who have gone before us.

These Interdependencies exercises also lead into the purpose of government, taxation and economic geography.

In Language, there has been an upsurge in work in the classroom with the **Logical Analysis** materials. The primary purpose of these materials is to help the children think clearly and

increase clarity in verbal and written expression. This also helps the child understand

the structure of their language.

In addition, we want the kids to think about where and how spoken language began. During our morning lessons, we introduce the many theories that have been proposed by linguists about how spoken language came to be. The kids are intrigued

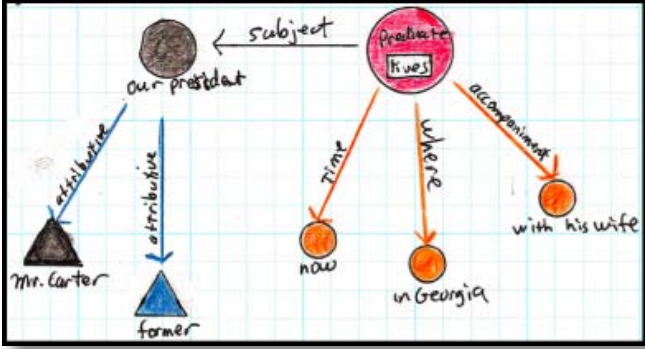
$$\sqrt{54756} = 234$$
$$2^2 = 4$$
$$2(2 \times 2) = 12$$
$$3^2 = 9$$
$$2(2 \times 4) = 16$$
$$2(3 \times 4) = 24$$
$$4^2 = 16$$

**IN MONTESSORI WE ALWAYS
HAVE AN INTEGRATED
APPROACH WHEREIN THERE ARE
NUMEROUS FOUNDATIONS LAID**

by the names like Bow-Wow Theory, which supposes spoken language came from imitating sounds in the environment, and the Pooh-Pooh Theory that language came from the expression of emotions. We give

them. The children are ripe for hero worship so we give them stories that illustrate high ideals coupled with valiant behavior.

We are continuing our morning lessons on the history of North America and European exploration of the New World, and we are relating it to the fundamental needs of humans which drove people to behave the way they did, such as looking for a faster trade route to Asia



the students these theories and then ask each of them to think about what makes sense to them for where spoken language came from.

Read Aloud – In our Read Aloud time after recess, our new book is the **Mahabharata for Children**. This is a children’s version of the classic Indian mythological saga. Because the children are used to myths and tales from Western culture, they easily understand some of the dynamics in play in this many thousand years old tale from India.

The myths and sagas we read them always have heroes. The heroes must overcome adversity, develop needed internal resources that build and enhance their characters, and cooperate with their brothers and sisters in the classic quests we read

(fundamental need: transportation) and battling going on between the explorers and natives (fundamental need: defense, nourishment). It also serves as practice for the children in note taking.

This month, four of our students went on an outing to culminate their research project on the world of fish. Ms. Tenold and two of the children’s relatives (Mrs. Cadena and Alyssa Barnuevo’s aunt) accompanied them to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach where they went on a private Behind-the-Scenes Tour, asked questions and took notes, and spent time petting and learning more about sharks, rays, and jellyfish. They will write-up their notes in a report format to add to their previous research that they started

ONE OF THE GOALS IN MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY IS FOR CHILDREN TO DEVELOP GRATITUDE AND THANKFULNESS...

in September.

Ms. Tenold kicked off the New Year with a trip to Milwaukee, WI for a seminar at the Montessori Institute of Milwaukee where she is training to become a certified elementary Montessori teacher. She spent four days there over the Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend to attend class, practice with Montessori materials, and turn in completed assignments.

We are continuing lessons in Botany on the functions and behaviors of each part of a plant. We planted radish seeds in a covered basket that we hung outside our classroom and once the roots have grown, we will uncover the basket and the kids will observe the behavior of the roots when exposed to the light. We've also given lessons on other functions of roots: roots hold the plant to the ground and roots hold soil. In these lessons the students tug on plants to feel how they fight to be pulled up and they dig up roots to see how the roots hold onto so much of the soil, and the we discuss the purposes of these functions. Simultaneously, we are giving lessons on seeds. Seed Dispersal was the most recent lesson in which peaches, strawberries, dandelions, and a coconut were brought in to use as examples of different methods that plants use to move their seeds around naturally. These lessons on seeds, roots, and leaves will continue, and we will add in lessons on flowers and stems.

Additionally, Nicholas' mother has been coming in each month and providing the class with beautiful decorations for the bulletin boards we put on the outside of our classroom doors. This month the children decorated their boards for Valentine's Day with pink, purple, and red hearts and ribbons. It is fun to see each individual's creativity and also see them learning skills in cooperative group work.



HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!
2012
YEAR OF THE DRAGON



ALTADENA NEWS

JANUARY EVENTS

HAPPY NEW YEAR! – Wow 2012, how the years pass so quickly! I hope you all had a wonderful break and now with the New Year comes new beginnings. The children are all so happy to be back into their little Montessori environment. They are energized and ready for plenty of new lessons. I hope we can keep up with all this energy.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND PARTY – Thank you so much to Shauna Bigby (Avery's Mom) who helped with Kwanza and helped the children make their Kwanza placemats. A big Thank you to Crystal Morales (Sol and Jaz's Mom) who read the "Gingerbread Girl" to the children and left special gingerbread ornaments for the children to make for their Christmas trees.

The biggest thank you goes to Michael Cook (Malcolm's Dad) who played Santa at our Holiday party. He was fantastic and even his Son did not know that Santa was his Dad. The party was a great success with the help of my great assistants, Miss Avila and Miss McCray.

NEW STUDENT – Our Montessori School would like to welcome Azara Kumar who is three years old to our Montessori family!

MARTIN LUTHER KING – The children have been learning about the great Martin Luther King and how he changed our world. A few of them had something special to say about how they could change our world.

Ellis – "Be kinder to people."

Andri – "Always share and when someone falls don't laugh at them."

Sol – "We should all stay together."

Jaz – "We need to change the rules and be loving and kind."

Teo – "Be nice to people."

Amara – "Always share."

Avery – "Help people."

Harrison – "Have responsibility."

Our School was closed to honor this wonderful man on Monday, January 16th.

OPEN HOUSE – The School will have an Open House on Saturday, January 28th between the hours of

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please tell any friends or relatives that if they sign their child up that day they will waive the \$250.00 application fee and remind them that this is an A.M.I. accredited Montessori School.

SCHOOL SHIRT DAY – We will celebrate our School by wearing our School Shirts on Friday, January 27th. If we have 100% then the School will receive a special treat!!



SONYA, SANTA AND MALCOLM



**CRYSTAL MORALES (SOL AND JAZ' MOM)
READ THE "GINGERBREAD GIRL"
TO THE CHILDREN.**



**SHAUNA BIGBY (AVERY'S MOM)
WHO HELPED WITH KWANZA**

"I HAVE A DREAM THAT MY FOUR LITTLE CHILDREN WILL ONE DAY LIVE IN A NATION WHERE THEY WILL NOT BE JUDGED BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER. I HAVE A DREAM TODAY!"

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
(1929 – 1968)**

ALLERGY KILLS VIRGINIA GIRL AT SCHOOL

BY MATT SMITH AND TRISHA HENRY, CNN

UPDATED 10:35 AM EST, FRI JANUARY 6, 2012

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

First-grader Ammaria Johnson died of a suspected peanut allergy. The school called 911 but had no drugs to treat her, firefighters say. Keeping kids safe at school takes "education and preparedness," an expert says.

(CNN) — The death of a 7-year-old Virginia girl from a suspected peanut allergy at school has raised questions about how prepared school officials are to handle sudden reactions in children.

First-grader Ammaria Johnson died Monday after breaking out in hives and complaining of shortness of breath at recess. School authorities called paramedics after she was taken to the nurse's office, said Lt. Jason Elmore, a spokesman for the Chesterfield County Fire Department in suburban Richmond.

"From what we understand, she possibly had gotten something outside," Elmore said. The clinic had no medication to give her and called 911, he said.

"It's very straightforward. There is no magic to this," said Maria Acebal, the head of the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network. "It's just proper education, how to recognize it, and how to treat it."

Acebal said 8% of American kids -- including one of hers — have food allergies.

Girl with peanut allergy dies at school.

"When consequences can be life-threatening, then you've got to have

schools prepared for an allergic reaction," she said.

Shawn Smith, a spokesman for the Chesterfield County school district, said administrators have extensive guidelines for treating students with severe allergies, and details of those guidelines were sent to parents last year. Parents have to provide any prescribed medication to the schools, along with a one-page form authorizing them to administer it in case of an emergency, he said.

"When any or all of the resources are not provided, the public health nurse makes contact with the family in an effort to obtain the necessary medication," Smith said in a written statement to CNN.

One common treatment is the use of an epinephrine injector, a penlike device that administers the drug for a severe reaction. Those have to be prescribed by a doctor, and the school had no such device for Ammaria, Elmore said.

The girl's death remains under investigation, Chesterfield County police spokeswoman Elizabeth Caroon told CNN. Caroon said the body has been turned over to state medical examiners for an autopsy, but it was not clear whether that procedure had been performed Wednesday.

"It's absolutely doable to keep kids with food allergies safe at public school, but it requires education and preparedness," Acebal said. Ammarie's death "just underscores the need for all teachers to have the basics of food allergy safety as part of their orientation and continuing education. ■



After School Art Class

On Tuesday, January 24th, we will complete class number six of this cycle. Our theme for these classes will be associated with the Chinese New Year. A make up class will be held on January 31st. During that week the flyer announcing the next six week cycle will be sent home. The new cycle will start on February 7th.

All our best wishes for a Very Happy 2012!

Gail Shaeffer & Linda Yoshida



Update on Ms. Mills

As many of you know, Ms. Mills was not able to return this school year due to health issues. We are happy to report that her back surgery in November was successful and she is on the road to recovery. We are uncertain at this time when her return date will be. It all depends on the speed of her progress during physical therapy. She sends a big thank you to all of you who have been concerned. The children and staff are looking forward to her return.



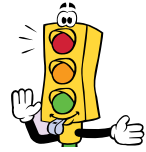
Primary Daycare

Welcome back from Winter Break! Wishing you the very best in the coming New Year!

Our group is learning to play new outdoor recreational games like Red Light / Green Light, Hop Scotch, Musical Hot Potato and other games.

We will continue with our afternoon storytime, music and movement time.

Thank you.
Mrs. Ruvalcaba



Elementary Daycare

Hi there!

We have been enjoying our afternoons in the Library. Some of the children have read these books...

Carlo – Diary of A Wimpy Kid
Chayse – Barbie
Sonny – Pokemon
Alyssa – Macaws
Carlos – Dinosaurs

Thank you,
Ms. Bayon



UPPER ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



CAROLING AT THE
MONTEREY PARK
CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL

