

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

**WELCOME!**



Welcome to all the new and returning students  
of Meher Montessori School.

This is our 37th year of service to the children of the Los Angeles Area.

We look forward to a new school year full of excitement  
and enthusiasm for learning and discovery.

The start of the school year also kicks off our first fundraiser of the  
school year. Please help us by supporting this important event.

Adela Muñoz  
Director

[www.mehermontessori.org](http://www.mehermontessori.org)

september 09



**F**rom our School's founding in 1972 our mission has been simple and clear: Provide a Montessori School true to Dr. Maria Montessori's principles. Everything else flows from there: AMI Montessori teachers, AMI approved materials and methods...and a commitment to put the children first.

None of our Montessori teachers teaches as a hobby, pastime or merely as a job. Each one takes his or her work as a calling – a mission – of service to the children. Their commitment to the children comes from deep within – most would say as a service to God.

We have been busy this past summer sprucing up the school. Professional cleaners were here for days cleaning the carpets and windows. New materials were ordered. Old materials were repainted. New shelves were put in. It was quite a busy summer but we are excited and pleased at how beautiful our school looks. We hope you will agree.

Our classes have been buzzing with energy and excitement from day one. The children truly are happy to be back at school and our new students have quickly adjusted and are coming in with big happy smiles.



## OUR STAFF

We are very proud of our staff. We have the most experienced and dedicated AMI Montessori teaching staff in the Los Angeles area. Our teaching assistants, day care staff and other support personnel are excellent as well and many have been with our school for more than a decade.

Sri Lanka. In 1968 she founded the Montessori program at De Sales Heights Academy in Parkersburg, West Virginia where she taught for 11 years. Philomena later went to South Africa and established a Montessori school in Johannesburg. She then taught for 3 years in Hawaii before joining our staff in September 1986.



In our first primary classroom is **Philomena Thomas**, a 1963 graduate of the Good Shepherd Maria Montessori AMI Training Centre in

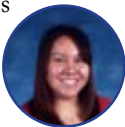


Philomena's full-time teaching assistant is **Ji Young Suh**. She is starting her sixth year as an assistant in Mrs. Thomas' class. Ji was with our school for many years as a parent. Her two children, Joon-Woo and



Erica are former students. She is a graduate of Ewha Woman's University in Seoul, Korea and received her Child Development Certificate from Patten University.

**Tatian Avila** joined us three years ago. Tatian assists in Mrs. Thomas' class. She is a former Montessori student. She is currently attending Pasadena City College, working on her Degree in Psychology, and she is planning on transferring soon. She completed her required Child Development courses at PCC.



In our second primary classroom is **Nichole Muñoz**. Nichole is with us for her ninth year. She completed her required Child Development course work at East Los Angeles College. This past summer Nichole graduated from The Montessori Institute of San Diego with her AMI Primary Teacher's Diploma. She is a teacher in our southern downstairs primary classroom. Nichole is also in charge of our School's web site.



**Cynthia Martinez** is an assistant in Ms. Muñoz' class and assists in our after-school primary day care. Cynthia is a very special staff member because this is her twenty-sixth year of service with our school. She started with us in



September 1984 when our Monterey Park facility opened. Besides having completed course work for her Child Development I certificate, she has completed a special two-week course on the Montessori Method for the paraprofessional.

**Anette Mills** started working at the Meher Montessori School in Monterey Park in 1992 as a part-time P.E. teacher. She has completed child development courses at East Los Angeles College. In 2001 she transferred to the Altadena Meher Montessori School to assist in the classroom and afternoon daycare. She returned to us three years ago. She is assisting in Ms. Muñoz' class.



Our third primary classroom is headed by **Maria Rivera**. This is Maria's eighth year with us. She is a graduate of Western Mindanao State University in the Philippines where she achieved two B.S degrees. One is in chemistry and the other in elementary education. In addition she has a Certificate of Specialization in Pre-School Education. She graduated from The Montessori Institute of San Diego this summer to earn her AMI Primary Teacher's Diploma.



**Michelle Gonzalez** (Samantha & Jacqueline's mom) joined our staff two years ago, as a substitute teacher



and a librarian. Last year she assisted full time in Mr. Page's primary class. This year she is assisting full time in Mrs. Rivera's class. Michelle recently earned her certificate in Child Development from Rio Hondo College.

Development course work at East Los Angeles College. Salena also works with the elementary children in the extended day care in the afternoon.



**Nancy Ramirez** is back at Meher Montessori School. She currently works part-time in Mrs. Rivera's classroom. She attends East Los Angeles College and has sixteen years experience in child care.



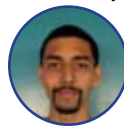
**Dave Harrod** is our 9-12 elementary class teacher. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology in 1970 from the University of Arizona. Shortly thereafter he took his AMI Primary Montessori Teacher Training in Los Angeles in 1971 (with Mr. Page!). He immediately traveled to Bergamo, Italy and took the AMI Montessori Elementary Teacher Training. After teaching for a number of years he went back to school and received a Master's Degree in Library Science from USC. Dave Harrod has been teaching at MMS since September 1986.



**Eugene George** is our AMI Montessori elementary teacher for the 6-9 classroom. Mr. George graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Arts degree and later traveled to Bergamo, Italy and spent a year taking his Montessori Elementary Teacher Training. Mr. George and Mr. Harrod, our 9-12 classroom teacher, took the training in Italy together! Mr. George has more than twenty one years' experience teaching Montessori elementary children. He taught for us for three years from 2000 to 2002 and returned to us in 2006 after a three year hiatus.



**Gabriel Gutierrez** is part of our staff for his second year. He completed his required Child Development course work at Rio Hondo Community College and is currently attending Cal State Los Angeles for further education. He is our part-time P.E. teacher during the day and works with the children in extended daycare during the afternoon. He is very familiar with the program being a Meher Montessori alumni himself. Both of his older brothers are also alumni of the school. He



**Salena Bayon** started with us in Spring 2000. She is Mr. George's assistant in our 6-9 elementary room. Salena completed her required Child

also works as a teaching assistant for Mr. Harrod's 9-12 elementary class.



**Gail Shaeffer**, is our former school director and has been with Meher Montessori School since 1984. Gail has many years of teaching experience, as well as 9 years' experience administrating at MMS. Gail has a B.S. in elementary education from Boston University, a California Elementary Teaching Credential, and is a graduate of the AMI Montessori Institute of Los Angeles. This year will be Gail's eleventh year as our art director. She works with staff members as well as children to bring more art into the school. Mrs. Shaeffer also gives special art lessons in the afternoon after school.



**Marta Ruvalcaba** works in the primary classrooms and with the primary children in the extended day care in the afternoon. She began working at Meher Montessori School as a substitute in 1992. Marta has many years of experience teaching at state preschool and childcare centers in El Rancho Unified School District and L.A. Unified School District. She holds a Children's Center Teachers Permit from the State of California and an A.A. degree. She is celebrating 31 years of service providing childcare.

Back again this year to help with the office work is **Kookie Chavez** (Evita & Eli's mom). She is in charge of all student records, county required student reports, payroll, human resources, the book fair, field trips and so much more.



Also back again is **Linda Joe** (aka Mrs. Yoshida - Taylor & Timmy's mom). She is in the office a couple of days a week. She is in charge of the school newsletter; and with her graphic arts background makes materials for the school. She also assists Mrs. Shaeffer with the after school art program.



**Adela Muñoz** is our School Director. She started with the school as a part time substitute teacher in September 1992 and became our assistant director in July of 1993. Adela worked for Montebello Unified School District as a reading lab specialist at one of their elementary schools while attending East Los Angeles College. Adela also worked for many years for the Federal Court as a civil clerk and a juror selection coordinator. After her third daughter was born, Adela returned to school and in 1995 completed the AMI Teacher Training at the AMI Montessori Institute of Los Angeles and holds an AMI Primary Teacher's Diploma.





**John Page** is the Founder and Executive Director of our School. He founded the Meher Montessori School in Altadena in 1972. He taught there, as well as administrated, until 1982 when he started an affiliated school in Alhambra. Then for the next 2 years he taught in Alhambra, as well as doing its administrative work, until starting our Monterey Park School.

“This year I do not have the classroom responsibilities I have had for the last six years, as I have turned over my primary classroom to the able hands of Mrs. Rivera and Mrs. Gonzalez. I have completed my second summer of Elementary Montessori Teacher Training at the Montessori Institute of Milwaukee. At the end of next summer, my third and final at the Institute, I expect to return to Meher with a new teaching credential for children 6-12.

The training that I have been receiving for the past two summers is truly exciting. The Montessori vision of educating elementary age children is to give the children the universe as their field of study. Elementary education in Montessori is called ‘Cosmic Education’ wherein the field of study is the entire universe. By contrast in Primary, the field of study for the children is learning all about the world around them.

The primary child is mostly interested in collecting information: what, what, what. Whereas in the elementary, the children’s interest begins to shift to the *why* of everything. Therefore in

Elementary Montessori we start with the cosmos and work our way down. We want to excite them as to the magnitude of the universe and to the important role they play in its ongoing drama.

The Elementary program has its foundation in the 5 Great Lessons. The first is called, ‘God With No Hands’ and tells the story of the creation of the universe. The second is entitled, ‘The Coming of Life’ and tells the story of how life came to the earth after its creation. Next are ‘The Coming of Human Beings,’ ‘The Story of Communication in Signs,’ and ‘The Story of Numbers.’ So we move from the creation of the universe and our earth to the coming of life on earth. Then we talk about the coming of human beings and finally focus on their two main accomplishments: literacy via the development of an alphabet and numeration via the story of numbers.

Dr. Montessori believed that the mind is moved by a power within. It is that force that we want to touch and ultimately inspire. She remarked upon the nature of the mind of the elementary child, ‘The mind of the child is found to be at this age on an abstract level. He is not satisfied with a mere collection of facts; he tries to discover their causes. It is necessary to make use of this psychological state, which permits the viewing of things in their entirety, and to let him note that everything in the universe is interrelated.’

I also hope to make some short movies with the older children later on this year. We’ll see what develops.”

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## Mrs. Thomas' Class

We would like to welcome all our new children, the continuing children and also all of our parents and wish them all the best in the coming school year. Hope all of you had an exciting and restful summer.

This summer Mrs. Suh went on a trip with her two children to her native country Korea and shared with us a lot of exciting stories about their tour of the country. Mrs. Suh also shared the pictures of her trip with the class and shared her experiences. Thank you Mrs. Suh for the lovely presentation. She is continuing her 6th year with us. Ms. Avila, who was my afternoon assistant last year, is returning to our class as full time assistant. Both of them are very happy to be back with us and the children and I am very glad to have them with us again. We are on our way to another fruitful year with these wonderful helpers.

This is my 23rd year in the same classroom and I've been so fortunate to have parents who are so helpful and supportive. I'm looking forward to another great year with your help and fervent trust.

This year we have an enrollment of 26 children in our classroom, 10 new and 16 returning children. The first day

of school went off smoothly. Every returning child looked so happy to be back at school after a long summer vacation. They mingled around with their friends and went to work right away. We had just a couple of the new children who had a few tears; soon they settled down and our class is functioning very well.



The new children are David Alveño, Xaria Calzada, Ahilan Hatti, Vinci Lam, Elden Lo, Kyle Ly, Julian Rodriguez, Alyssa Romero, Matthew Tesoro and Mateo Valdez.

Our first School Shirt Day for the year was Friday the 25th. We have been winners for several continuous years. We continue to have great success on School Shirt Day. Thank you dear Parents for showing school spirit by helping your child wear the school shirt on that day.

Thank you dear parents for your generous support at the school fundraiser. We were able to purchase many new materials and replace some in our classroom. We appreciate your generosity.

Love,  
Mrs. Thomas  
Mrs. Suh  
Ms. Avila



## Ms. Muñoz' Class

Welcome parents and children to our 2009-2010 school year. I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing summer. My summer was extremely productive and rewarding. As many of you know, I, along with Mrs. Rivera and Ms. Wildhaber of our Altadena school, have been working very hard for three summers at The Montessori Institute of San Diego. This last summer, after many late nights studying and both oral and written exams, all three of us passed our course and graduated on July 6th with our AMI Montessori degrees in Primary Education. It was a beautiful ceremony on the USD campus. A group of our fellow graduates were actually from Taiwan and learned everything with the help of a translator. Our Taiwanese friends sang a beautiful song about friendship in both their language and English. During our oral exams we had three different examiners. They were sent by AMI and all came from different parts of the world. Graduation was one of the proudest moments of my life and I'd like to, once again, thank all of you parents and my fellow staff members for all the love, support and congratulations you have given me in the last two years. Also, a huge "Congratulations" to Mrs. Rivera and

Ms. Wildhaber.....We did it!

Now let's move on to the new school year. First of all, Ms. Cynthia Martinez and Ms. Anette Mills return as my wonderful assistants. I've known these women for a long time and I feel very blessed to have their support. Both the children and I feel the love and happiness they bring to the classroom everyday.

Towards the end of the summer we completely redid the classroom, with new shelves, rugs, and a lot of beautiful brand new material.

On the 8th of September our returning students walked into the classroom with wide eyes and smiles on their faces. One child walked into the class and all she could say was "wow."

They all came back to school ready to be back and excited for new work.

At the end of our first week back we celebrated Nirali's 4th birthday with pizza and cupcakes. Thank you to her parents.

On the 14th we had three new students start. The three girls came in smiling and ready for their new adventure. They transitioned into the class perfectly and it already seems as if they have always been here.

Everyone has received a packet about our Innisbrook fundraiser. All of the shiny new material that you see in our classrooms is a result of these fundraisers. Please support

School Shirt Day • Friday, September 25

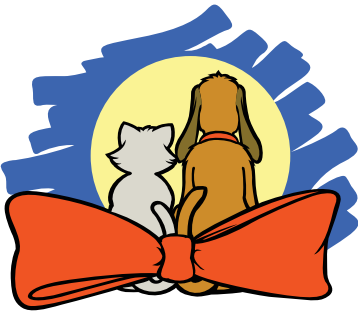


our school. Even selling one item helps.

As a reminder, the last Friday of each month is School Shirt Day. Help your child show their school and class spirit by wearing their school shirt to school on this day. It is always such a beautiful sight to see all of the children running around the playground in their school shirts.

I wish you all a wonderful October and once again, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to see me before or after school in the classroom or to contact me through e-mail at [NMunoz@mehermontessori.org](mailto:NMunoz@mehermontessori.org)

Thank you  
Ms. Muñoz  
Ms. Martinez  
Ms. Mills



welcome

**WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T LOOKING**  
by a Child

"When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favorite cake for me and I learned that little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking I heard you say a prayer, and I knew there is a God I could always talk to and I learned to trust in God.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you give of your time and money to help people who had nothing and I learned that those who have something should give to those who don't.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I felt you kiss me good night and I felt loved and safe.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked at you and wanted to say, Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking."

Each of us, parent or friend, influence the life of a child.

## Mrs. Rivera's Class

Dear Parents,

Summer time is almost over and Fall is around the corner. Back to school days have started and we welcome back the old and new children in our class. The continuing children in our class started a week earlier on September 8th then the new children started on September 14th. Our new children came to our class with their parents on Friday the 11th of this month in order to get a peek into the classroom. They met their teachers and classmates. The children who were assigned to show the new children around were happy and got to converse with them a little. We were all excited to have them. The new children in our class are Corissa Lepe (Ethan's a former students sister), Sophie Tao who is going to be 4 years old next month, and Aiden Humphreys who turned 3 years old in July. These children have made friends in the class as well as with some other children in the other primary classes.

The children love to sing songs during our circle time. The songs that are their favorites are entitled "Circle Time" and "The World is a Rainbow." The second song is our class theme song for the school year.

The children were amazed to see some new materials placed on the shelves for them to work with. These materials are found in the practical life and sensorial area. They are made possible because of the funds raised last year. Speaking of fundraising, we are currently having our "Innisbrook" fundraiser event. To our parents, families and friends, please support our school by helping your children with their fundraising efforts.



Parent Night was on Thursday, September 24th at 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. I hope my dear parents got to know one another more and

will work together for the success of our children to grow intellectually, independently and confidently in their life.

It is always the school's tradition to wear the school shirt every last Friday of the month. This last Friday on School Shirt Day, we had 100% class participation and therefore will get a pizza party or ice cream sundae party.

Thank you so much!

Mrs. Rivera  
Mrs. Gonzalez  
Ms. Ramirez



A song for you and your children to sing:

**The World is a Rainbow**

*The world is a rainbow  
That's filled with many colors  
Yellow, black, white and brown  
You see them all around  
The world is a rainbow  
With many kinds of people  
It takes all kinds of people  
To make the world go round*

*Now you be you and I'll be me  
That's the way we were meant to be  
But the world is a mixing cup  
Just look what happens when you  
stir it up*

*The world is a rainbow  
With many kinds of people  
And when we work together  
It's such a sight to see  
The world is beautiful when we live in  
harmony*

*La, la, la, la (5 times) fade away*



Once the first gate is closed  
**PLEASE DO NOT ENTER**  
from the Exit gate! It is very  
dangerous for the out going  
cars and people inside the  
gate.

Thank you.

**NOTICE  
TO  
PARENTS**



**Innisbrook  
Fundraiser**

**Friday,  
September 18  
to  
Friday,  
October 2**

**Please Help  
Support Your  
School!**

## Mr. George's Class

Dear Parents,

It is so nice to see so many returning students in the lower elementary class.

Mr. Page has helped by presenting the God With No Hands and the Coming of Life lessons. Great Lessons Experiments were presented with the former. The Volcano and the Black Strip will come shortly. Most everyone papier mached and painted the newly made volcano.

The oldest group has enjoyed the study of the Middle Ages with emphasis on the Dark Ages. Castles, serfdom and knights were the centerpiece of the presentations. You can see their artwork of shields outside the 2nd floor office.

Geometry has been presented to the first and second graders. Angles, triangles and polygons have been presented as well.

The older group has been working on the newly made Vertebrate Chart. They have been studying the Phylum, Classes and Orders of the Vertebrates. We covered Birds and Mammals.

Miss Bayon has been a great help. She is very dedicated to the needs of the children.

Sincerely,  
Mr. George  
Ms. Bayon



## Mr. Harrod's Class

From the children in Mr. Harrod's Class:

Welcome back to school everyone, we all hope you had a great summer vacation. We have a lot of things to write about. Enjoy.

The library opened on September 18th. The librarians gave out balloons to each child who came to the library.

We went to our first field trip to the Tree People on Thursday, September 24th. We learned how to take care of trees and learned what we can do to recycle.

On Thursday, September 24th, we had our Back to School Night. The parents who came were allowed to bring their children as long as they were occupied with their games or books.

A list of feelings on our return back to school:

Izzy is glad to be back.

Sofa thinks it's kinda good.

Gaby is happy and glad to see friends.

Taylor still wants it to be summer.

Renae thinks it's okay.

Andrew feels good about coming back.

Anthony thinks it's great.

Adriel feels refreshed.

Tommy feels nervous.

Dana thinks it's so-so.

Travus feels nervous.

Xavier was nervous but isn't anymore.

Nathaniel doesn't know what he feels.

Mr. Harrod umm is disappointed vacation is over-challenged-exhilarated.

Norma is glad that the children are getting better at Math.

Mr. Harrod's daughter Norma who is an alumni, will be helping in Mr. Harrod's class. She helps Mr. Harrod by checking our Math.

We are continuing physical education. Our P.E. coach is Coach G. Everyone was happy to have Coach G back.

We still have our turtles Crush, Squirt and Bobby. They are doing fine and they are very healthy. The turtles were happy to see you during the Back to School Night.



For every month we need drivers for our field trips. Parents from Mr. Harrod's class and parents from Mr. George's 3rd graders need your help to drive us to our educational field trips.

On the first day of school, we started grammar and the countries of Europe. During the summer they moved the books around, and now we have a miniature library in our class.

Written by the children in Mr. Harrod's Class. Gabriella Foreman, Isabella Alvarez and Sofia Huh

P.S. We have a silent area in our room for reading with new bean bags.

### TREE PEOPLE FIELD TRIP



## After School Art Class

After school art class is a place where the children's creativity is highly valued and strongly encouraged. Our goal is to create an environment where the children really have a lot of fun doing art and through their art experiences, they develop a love for art that they will have throughout life.

The first six-week session for these after school art classes began on Tuesday, September 22nd. We have two classes, one class is for younger children who are five through six plus years and an older class which is for six to twelve year olds. Children of these ages are the most ready for the skill building activities and the concepts presented in our after school art class program. These activities will be fun while helping children to enhance their drawing skills, painting skills, observational skills and to unleash their creativity and other artistic skills.

Here are some of the areas that the children will be concentrating on in art class during this year. We will raise the question "What is Art?" So, we can all be more aware of the part it plays in our lives. We will start with line drawings. They will work with the color wheel, warm and cool colors, contrasting colors. They will paint with tempera and watercolor paints, as well as learn to use a variety of other materials to make their art.

Through all these activities, they will refine their small motor skills and develop greater concentration.

The older children will focus on all of the above with special emphasis on developing their more advanced drawing skills (drawing is the foundation for doing so many things in art). They will start this year by doing "still life" drawings. As the children's understanding develops, advanced art lessons may include making drawings look three dimensional through perspective and shading.

All the children will work with paints, clay, collage, pastels and some new materials during the course of the year, as well as, receiving an introduction to the well-known artists throughout history and their masterpieces.

We have lots that we hope to do in art class this year and we anticipate that it will a great opportunity for the children to enjoy themselves by getting to know and do art.

If you would like your child to join this six-week session of art classes, please let Mrs. Munoz know as soon as possible.

Gail Shaeffer and Linda Yoshida



## Primary Daycare

Welcome back friends! We hope you had a restful summer and are ready for another great school year!

Our daycare program consists of snack time, story time, arts and crafts time and various child selected play areas for example table/floor toys, computer center/listening center (books on CD's), library center and game time (board games).

Sincerely,  
Afternoon Primary Daycare Staff

## Elementary Daycare

Welcome back to all the returning students. I hope everyone had a great summervacation. Daycare time starts at 3:00 p.m. As we enter the daycare room - children are served a healthy snack. Some children choose to do their homework while others use this time to play and socialize with their friends.

There are two shelves with games and constructive toys to play with. We have an art shelf for children to show their creativity. Also, there are two computers with educational games.

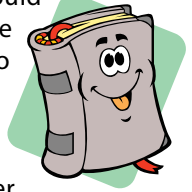
On Friday's children may bring movies to share with the daycare. NOTE: Movies must be rated "G".

Thank you.  
Ms. Bayon and Coach "G"

## Library News

### New Additions to the Library

Hello Meher Families. We are Doug and Willetta Lew (Jasmyn's parents) and we would like to welcome everyone back to school. We would like to officially announce that we are now



running the Meher library and have a lot of ideas to make it even better. We will be holding bake sales periodically to help raise money to buy new books and equipment. The library opening on Sept. 18th was a huge success. We had a lot of children check out books as we gave balloons away. As some of you might know, Rosa Pinuelas's son, Vicente, has graduated and moved on to Waverly School. She has brought some wonderful ideas to Meher and we would like to continue those ideas such as the TV challenge. We are looking forward to a great school year. The library will be open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. We hope you all can come up and visit us soon.

The Lews





## ALTADENA NEWS

**WELCOME BACK!! – It was so good to see all of our returning Montessori children. I can't believe how much they have grown over the summer months. The children are happy to see one another and to work with their beloved Montessori materials. The School had an orientation on Friday, September 11th for our new Montessori children and parents at 2:00 p.m. The new children got a chance to meet their teachers, make new friends, and see their cubbies. We had refreshments on the playground.**



**STAFF** – The Montessori Staff is ready for another wonderful year of serving your child. Question – What did the teachers do over the summer?

**Mrs. Hyde** – “I celebrated my 40th wedding anniversary and my husband's retirement from 38 years of teaching.



We had a great party with friends, relatives, and neighbors. The summer ended with the terrible fires of Altadena and we were evacuated for two days. The house is fine thanks to our wonderful fire fighters!!!!!!!”

**Miss Wildhaber** – “This summer I completed my AMI primary training.



While I love the weather in San Diego, I was very happy to return home to my husband and (suddenly) very protective dog.”

**Miss McCray** – “During the summer I had a wonderful vacation with my family and relatives who were visiting from Ocean City Maryland. We had an enjoyable time showing them around the city and various places.”



**Miss Avila** – “During my summer vacation I took care of my Mother in Mexico and I even had time for a little R and R. I returned and did



August day care until School started. Glad to be back and see all my friends.”



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**GYMNASTIC DEMONSTRATION**

– All children participated in a gymnastic class on Monday, September 21st at 12:00 p.m. up in our gym. The regular classes will resume on Monday, September 28th at 12:00 p.m. Flyers for registration will be in the sign-in book on the coat rack.

**DANCE DEMONSTRATION**

– All children participated in a dance demo on Tuesday, September 22nd at 12:00 p.m. up in our gym. The regular classes will resume on Tuesday, September 29th at 2:00 p.m. Registration will be in the sign-in book on the coat rack.

**BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT SCHOOL**

– We had quite a few birthday parties last year that consisted of a jumper at School. This year we would like to keep it simple. If you want to have a birthday with a jumper we ask you to please have it at your home. The birthdays this year will consist of either ordering lunch for the classroom or a simple snack for everyone.

The birthdays will be only on Fridays and we will celebrate on the playground at 12:00 p.m.

No exceptions – Thank you!

**BLANKETS AND A SHEET**

– Remember if your child naps at School he/she will need a blanket

and sheet that is marked with your child's name. Please bring it on Monday and take it home on Friday to clean unless your child has an accident.

**IMMUNIZATIONS**

– If your child has had new immunizations over the summer I need to know so I can update their file for the State. Be sure you have signed all the necessary papers and if you have any questions please talk to Mrs. Hyde.

**INTERRUPTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM**

– If you have any questions regarding the School or your child and you need to talk to Mrs. Hyde, please do not come into the classroom during the school session between 8:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. This is the time that the teachers devote to your child. Mrs. Hyde is available for questions 7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. – mornings and 2:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. afternoons. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

**EXTRA CLOTHES**

– Please check your child's box in the bathroom to see if it is in need of extra clothes. Your child should have two sets of underwear, shorts, socks, and t-shirts at all times. Thank you again!

**SCHOOL SHIRT DAY**

– We had our first School Shirt Day on Friday,

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September 25th. This day is to honor our A.M.I accredited Montessori School. If you need to purchase a t-shirt or a sweatshirt they will be on display in the day care room. We will be having School Shirt Day the last Friday of every month. If we have 100% participation then all children will receive a treat! Please support our school.

**FUNDRAISER** – We had our annual fundraiser starting Friday, September 18th and ending Friday, October 2nd. Please support our school!!! The money we receive will support all the wonderful activities

and materials we have at our little Montessori School. Thank you in advance for your participation.

**NEW CHILDREN** – We would like to welcome the following new children to our Montessori School – Grayson Ahmed, Natalia Dugas, Colin Douth, Jaz Johnson, Sol Johnson, Ellis Mistrano, Anabel Mastrabuono, Amara Mercado, Nizam Nama, Emmett Reibel, Vera Reibel, Robert Torbitzky-Przekop and Aleksandra Ward.

**BIRTHDAYS** – Ryan McCulloch and Anabel Mastrabuono.



“My vision of the future is no longer of people taking exams and proceeding on that certificate from the secondary school to the University, but of individuals passing from one stage of independence to a

higher, by means of their own activity, through their own effort of will, which constitutes the inner evolution of the individual.”

—Dr. Maria Montessori



## ANY PEOPLE LOOK FAMILIAR?



MISS E. COLMENERO  
DIRECTOR

MONTESSORI INSTITUTE OF LOS ANGELES  
GRADUATION JUNE 1972

Answer to come in our next issue!!!

## Medication For ADHD And Elementary School Achievement

Almost 8% of U.S. children have been diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and just over half these children take medication to treat their ADHD. Children with ADHD frequently have low academic achievement, and to learn more about whether medication use for ADHD improves academic performance, researchers studied a sample of about 600 children who were followed from kindergarten through fifth grade.

The authors found that among children with ADHD, those on medication had better math scores on standardized testing than their unmedicated peers, and children who were medicated for a longer duration had even better scores. Reading scores also were better among the medicated children. While the researchers note these gains in scores among the medicated children, they also point out that "this gain does not eliminate the achievement gap between children with and without ADHD." (*Scheffler RM et al; Pediatrics, May 2009, pp 1273-1279*)

**COMMENT:** There is controversy over whether parents and doctors are prescribing ADHD medications simply to control hyperactive children or whether, in fact, the medications actually benefit the children's behaviors in ways that allow them to concentrate on their school work.

This study certainly suggests that medication use is linked to improved school performance, but the authors don't offer proof that it's a direct effect of the medications. The problem is that some of the unmedicated children might have tried the drugs but had side effects that prompted them to stop them. On the other hand, medicated children may have received more coaching at home or other kinds of support that might have contributed to the benefits that were found among the medicated children.

Still, these authors found some real improvements in ADHD children who received medications for their condition, and we agree that more research needs to be conducted to see just what it is about the medicated children that helps their school performance.

—**Child Health Alert**

**SCHOOL CENTS STARTS  
SEPTEMBER 15TH AT THE**

**MONTEBELLO TOWN CENTER**

**DOUBLE POINTS FOR ALL RECEIPTS LOGGED BY  
SEPTEMBER 30!**

**COURT IS IN SESSION**

**WE'RE GIVING 50 POINTS PER DOLLAR SPENT IN  
CONSTRUCTION ZONE FOR STORES LOCATED IN CENTER  
COURT AREA NOW THROUGH END OF CONSTRUCTION.**

**LOWER LEVEL**

**BLISS  
THE BODY SHOP  
COACH  
CUBANO CIGAR & GIFTS  
MAKE A FRIEND WORKSHOP  
PHILIA SHOES  
SEE'S CANDIES  
SPORTS ONE  
STARBUCKS  
TEMPTATIONS**

**UPPER LEVEL**

**ATZLAN  
BROOKS SHOES FOR KIDS  
GYMBOREE  
KAY JEWELERS  
LIDS  
MY BETTY BOUTIQUE & SALON  
NINE WEST  
SUNGLASS HUT  
ZALES**



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

To help, bring your original Montebello Town Center receipts dated between September 15, 2009 and May 15, 2010 to the Guest Services Center located in Center Court near Macy's Home.

Schools receive ten (10) points for every dollar spent at any store, restaurant, eatery or vendor cart at Montebello Town Center (purchases made at JCPenny, both Macy's stores receive five (5) points). All receipts are returned immediately.

View current point and flyer information online at [www.montebellotowncenter.com](http://www.montebellotowncenter.com) or for additional program information call (800) 539-3273.