

## **JUNE 1 - TENTATIVE OPEN DATE!!!**

**Stay tuned for more information. We plan to reopen on Monday June 1. We will open under the childcare exemption for essential services and provide Montessori Education childcare for both Primary and Elementary students with our regular Montessori staff and curriculum.**

## **News and Updates From Meher Montessori With Reports From Staff and Administration**

May 8, 2020



### **Hello to all of our Meher Families.**

**D**uring this challenging and unprecedented time in our country's history, many of us have been faced with challenges and events that we never thought we would have to deal with. Dealing with all of the "grown-up stuff" that we must overcome is difficult enough, but the care and worry for our children makes all of this even harder. I hope through all of this dark smoke, you have been able to stop, slow down and just be.

Especially during the time spent with your children. They know and can feel deeply that something is wrong and that things are not normal. So giving them slow, joyful, focussed attention

will really make a difference in keeping them in a place of calm, peace and security.

Our School has met many challenges in its history, just like so many other schools that have been around for as long as we have. But no one can prepare for something like this. We are navigating through something that has no protocol and with our school being small, the resources that other large institutions have isn't something that we had to immediately fall back on.

We are excited to return and we are working hard on our plan for reopening. A tentative June 1st date is where we are now. We are fortunate to have all of our Montessori head teachers returning through the end of July and will incorporate our full Montessori instruction into an official child care program. There will be no formal summer school program (with swimming and all) this year as it is subsumed by our regular Montessori Program. Details about our August program and the beginning of our regular school year will be forthcoming in months to come.

There are specific rules that we must follow when we open June 1, and we will make sure that we can meet those requirements 100% before our children return. More information will come soon on what will transpire daily at our School and how things will be done. Also, information on fees and schedule as well as a request for confirmation on your child attending. We know not all of our families are ready to return but for those that are, we need to have an idea of how many to expect so that we can plan our day according to the new requirements.

We are happy that many of our children will be able to return to something that they love and enjoy and that we can start the process of returning to one aspect of our lives that stopped so abruptly. We, the Meher Montessori School staff, will do everything we can to help you feel as safe and secure as possible while your child is with us.

Peace and love to you all.  
Adela Muñoz



## **A Report From Mr. Mindes**

**H**ello All! I hope everyone has developed a routine that includes work, play, and everything that keeps you happy, active and well rested! I want to thank all the students that have sent me their work ... it always makes me smile when I see in my inbox an assignment or comments sent from a student.

With all the extra time at home, has anyone been able to do that one thing that has been in the back of their mind, but just never seemed to have the time to do? Well, I really had to narrow down my decision of what to do. Let me itemize my thoughts.

- The thought of Andrew and Andy inspired me to want to fix all those things around my place that need to be tended to.
- The thought of Brandon inspired me to study history (of course)- a time period, or part of the world, of which I was not well-versed. I settled on reading a historical novel on the American Revolution.
- The thought of Francesca, Geanna, and Ayushi inspired me to reread about all the Greek Gods and sit down with a good book. And, believe it or not, take out some of my old college math books ... even though these three sometimes complain about math, secretly I think they enjoy learning it. Naturally, mentioning math, I have to add TJ to this list.
- The thought of Alik and Ezio inspired me to read up on teaching programming when we get back ... these two - always wanting to write software!
- The thought of Kaya, Naya, and Jude inspired me to want to take drawing lessons and make art projects or do science projects. They also inspired me to take finally pick up my guitar again after many years ... the three of them being musicians.

Finally, the thought of Destiny, Francesca, and Joyce inspired me to want to start writing (or telling) stories.

So much to do! Lately, another thing I have thought to do, after hearing teachers speak about their experiences with Google Classroom, is to learn

how to use it. It seems like it will make easier communication much easier while we are sheltered in place. Please bear with me next week as I begin to use it! Hope to see everyone soon.



### **A report from Ms. Tenold**

**O**h yes, there is news from Claire's mom. They are relocating to Calabasas for family reasons and therefore will have to switch to a school out there. They have been with Meher for 5 years, and I had Claire for two years. She grew a lot and was so much fun and very curious and energetic. Claire enjoyed writing stories and being with the other children. We will all miss Claire a great deal and wish her well in their family's move and in her new school.

Oh I forgot to say that parents have been asking me about workbooks and I searched through for some good ones and have been sharing those. And I love the photos of Rosie in summer camp at the Page House !



### **A report from Ms. Lopez**

**I**'ve been sending the kids weekly YouTube videos of me reading a story to them. Many parents have reached out and sent me videos and pictures of the things they're doing at home such as the kids making pasta, learning how to ride their bike and scooters, practicing their reading/ writing and math. I asked the parents as well to participate on April 24th which would've been our School Shirt Day. It was great receiving pictures of the kids in their shirts. Currently, I'm planning to have lunch with the children via zoom. I'll do 3

separate calls on 3 different days to enjoy lunch with them, depending on their year. I'll be sending that email out soon. Can't wait to see everyone again.

May Birthdays-Happy Birthday to them!

Santi Ortega (5)- May 13

Julian Diaz (6)- May 17

Katelyn Diep (5)- May 28



**A report from Mrs. Rivera**

**D**ear Parents and children - How are you all doing? I do pray that you're all doing well, and staying safe at all times.

Missing you all so much especially the children's interaction with one another in the prepared environment, their laughter, songs and work. I do believe that soon this pandemic will weaken and we all can go back to school at Meher and have a regular school schedule where everyone can move freely and

happily!

For me and my family; we are all doing well and helping one another to stay safe and healthy every day. We continue to wash our hands and elbows constantly with soap and water. Then sanitize as much as possible. I keep myself busy by helping out to take care of our seven months old baby boy, Joshua. Most of the days I cook for my family .and there are times too that other members would volunteer to pick up food at Panera! I walk in the park (with my mask on) at least twice a week to bring in natural Vitamin D. My Zumba exercise gives me energy for the whole day and most of all it burns my calories out!. To end my day, I browse my emails and read topics that are interesting and educationally good to share.

Last Wednesday, April 22nd was "Earth Day!" Earth Day is an annual global event, observed every 22nd of April celebrating the environmental movement and raises awareness about pollution and ways to maintain a

clean habitat. Celebrating it serves as a conscious reminder of how fragile our planet is and how important it is to protect it

**There are 10 simple ways we can celebrate it** and get used to doing it for the rest of our lives (if possible): leave the car in the garage, practice yoga outdoors, recycle, insist on a reusable coffee cup, unplug the T.V., get planting, use earth-friendly cleaning products, bring your own grocery bags and be a vegetarian for a day! Are there any more great ideas you can think of to help protect and keep our planet earth clean? Feel free to think about it and during your free time at home; where in you are not helping your mom and dad in some task, **draw a picture of our planet earth and color it !** You can ask your mom and dad to help you with this challenge and the materials needed for this simple project. Or you can be creative and use any materials and means to show a picture of our planet earth. You have the entire week, from Monday, April 27th to Sunday, May 3rd. Ask your mom or dad to take a picture of you holding the planet earth, and remember to smile! Then your parents will send it to me by email. Isn't that fun? I will show my planet earth through one of my video clippings. **Good luck and have fun children! Remember that it is not only our responsibility to maintain a clean environment and a safe planet to live in but also to be a clean person; in body, mind and health. When we have all these qualities in ourselves, the world is a better place to live in. Never will it be too late to take care of our planet, so let us continue to reuse, reduce and recycle at all times!**

I came across this interesting topic that was sent to me by the Montessori Institute of San Diego; I would like to share this with my parents. I do hope you'll find this interesting and informative, and will be able to apply it to your children. In class, we teach these four areas: Practical Life, Sensorial, Language and Math. The topic has to do with the language area; to understand that words are made up of sounds and then being able to read, write and spell. These are simple tools and strategies any adult can use to directly contribute to a Child's success with reading, writing and speaking. We do know that young children are absorbing the language(s) heard around them, paying special attention to the

environment of communication created by family and loved ones in the home Please check out this friendly reminder of thirteen simple ways any adult can use to support the language development of young children, and feel free to download the pdf version to hang on the fridge.

I pray that we can all continue to be patient, understanding and maintain in the challenges that this pandemic has to give. Let us stay safe, healthy and alert and continue to be in touch. Miss you all so much.

If there is anything I can be of help, please email me anytime:  
[marie\\_rivera792000@yahoo.com](mailto:marie_rivera792000@yahoo.com).

*Also from Mrs. Rivera:*

### **13 Simple ways that any Adult can support the Language Development of young children at Home**

#### **Listen to Children**

1. **Demonstrate Respect:** Listen to children from the earliest days and show them that you respect them. When children are confident, they will naturally want to express themselves through spoken and written language.
2. **Listen Fully:** When children speak to you, listen carefully and do not assume that you already know what they want to say. Remember that they might need extra time to express themselves. Be patient.

#### **Speak to Children**

3. **Enunciate:** Speak clearly and slowly. Children are absorbing your language.
4. **Vocabulary:** Use precise and enriching vocabulary so children can increase theirs. Children with larger vocabularies are able to express themselves more fully. For example, talk about the “Angular-winged Katydid” rather than “the bug.”
5. **Full Sentences:** Answer questions with full sentences. Avoid answers of yes or no. Children are absorbing your sentence structure.



## **Create a Library**

6. **Make your own Books:** In the beginning, make short books yourself, with sentences created by the children, and maybe using the children's names. This will show the children that books are relevant to their personal lives.
7. **Reading Nook:** Arrange a special place for reading where the child can enjoy silence and focus (comfortable chair, small side table, lamp, picture frame on wall, a small rug).
8. **Criteria:** Select nonfiction books and poems for the library where the children can find phonograms and other interesting words embedded in content that helps them make sense of their world.

## **When Challenges Arise...**

9. **Tantrums:** Keep calm. Children from birth to six years may have trouble expressing themselves. This is not lack of intelligence, but lack of language. Temper tantrums are often a sign that the child cannot communicate effectively.
10. **Mistakes:** Children should feel that learning from mistakes is a natural way to gain a skill; we become better at what we practice, instead of correcting a child, repeat the sounds during other activities (i.e. sound games) so the child can listen and practice the sounds.

## **Tips and Strategies**

11. **Daily Conversation:** Create daily opportunities to exchange spontaneous language with children related to their environment. For example, discuss a painting on the wall, tell an interesting story about the bees or ants, silkworms or cotton flowers, sing a song, etc.
12. **Reading Aloud:** Avoid pressuring the child to read aloud to other people. Reading aloud is an art which develops over time. The way to support that development is by reading aloud to the child frequently, with fluency and feeling.



**13. Speaking To All Ages:** Make sure there is an atmosphere in the classroom or home environment where children feel free to speak to people of any age, and where they can expect that others will listen to them.



**A report from Ms. Wildhaber, Director of our Altadena Campus:**

**T**hese are the new things I did recently:

1) I sent out this link to families. A few expressed their appreciation at all the new ideas. <https://laist.com/2020/04/21/online-activities-guide-kids-families.php>

2) I also sent this link on how parents could apply for CalFresh or Medi-Cal, if needed.

<https://www.yourbenefits.laclrs.org/ybn/SignInPage.html>

3) Monday I did a class lunch zoom. It was a first attempt, and while it more chaotic than our somewhat structured Friday show and tell, it went well. I'm going to do it again next Monday.

4) I also reached out to all the families individually over the last two weeks, to check in on them overall. Generally speaking, they all seemed appreciative of the phone call. Oh! And I called all the potential families that were slated to start between April and May, to touch base and update them. They also seemed to appreciate the phone call and update.



I'm still watering the plants and garden, feeding the gecko, checking the mail, doing Friday class Zooms, and keeping up with daily storytime videos. Here are sharing masks together:



we



**M**rs. Page has been taking care of the many plants and garden at Meher Monterey Park as well as the animals who reside in the classrooms. Here is her report.

*“While the School is closed, I have been continuing caring for all of the plants in our garden, courtyard and various locations outdoors as well as all of the plants indoors. I am happy to report that they are all*

*quite healthy and happy! Hedges have been trimmed, fertilizer given to all plants and watering is done carefully, in fact one of our sunflowers is doing so well that it is now over 10 feet in height! Take a look at the photo!*

*Rosie, the Bearded Dragon from Ms. Tenold’s room, has completed her molting and is quite happy being cared for by me at home. She is taken outside to our backyard a couple of times a day where she can run around in our stream. She likes to sun herself on rocks and*





*splash in the water. She always keeps a close look out for any birds of prey above. We have a lot of red-tailed hawks in the area and she and we make sure that she stays safe from them.*

*These are photos of her outdoors in our stream area in our backyard..."*







**A Closing Message From John F. Page,  
Meher Montessori School's Founder and  
Executive Director**



**A** MI has a page on their website devoted to free downloadable Montessori materials that all educators and parents may use during this time of pandemic. Normally there is a fee.  
<https://montessoridigital.org/>

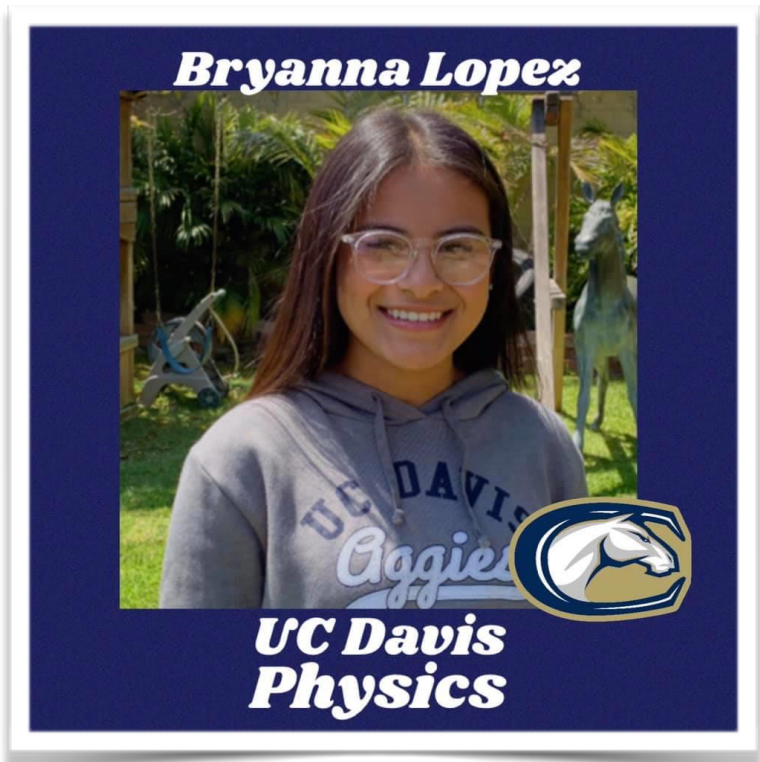
**G**ordon Training International has a [free resource](#) for parents in learning some **important listening skills** to use with children in times of stress. These are the same skills that people learn in the renowned [P.E.T.](#) training course.



**Here are photographs of 3 of our alumni who are on their way to college in the Fall.**

**B**ryanna is the cousin of Ms. Lopez one of our primary Montessori teachers. Bryanna attended our Montessori Program for many years from primary through our former middle school's 8th grade.

**T**he Vazquez twins (below) were in Mr. Page's Primary classroom for a couple of years. What a difference a the years make! This photo is from our Mother's Day Celebration, May 9, 2008.



***Celeste Vazquez***



***University of Southern California  
Human Biology (Pre-Med)***

***Celine Vazquez***



***University of Southern California  
Biomedical Engineering***