

MAY 2014



"The greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say- the children are working as if I did not exist."
-Maria Montessori



Dear MVM Families,

How can it be that we only have five weeks left of school? This year has flown by. Your children have been learning so much and flourishing every day. It is such a gift for us to watch them wonder, explore, discover, and learn every day. Every one of them is so special and we know how lucky we are to spend our days with them.

We have all been very concentrated on our study of Asia. Your children have explored Russia, China, India, Asian animals, and now we are ending our study with a focus on Japan. We hope you will have a chance to see all

the art the children have created by visiting the Children's Museum. Their artwork will be featured at the museum for the entire month of May.

Our cultural study will culminate with a performance on the last day of school, June 6th. We will be incorporating the theme of the Cherry Blossom Festival that is celebrated every year to commemorate the 1912 gift of 3,000 cherry trees from the mayor of Tokyo to the city of Washington, D.C. Please mark your calendar now to ensure you are able to attend. Also please take note that dismissal time on that

day will be 12:00. More information about this special day will follow.

important dates

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| Conferences | May 22-23 |
| Memorial Day (school closed) | May 26 |
| Last Day of School (early dismissal) | June 6 |
| Summer Camp Begins | June 16 |

Garden

A hearty thank you to Kelly Needs, Sara McComas, and Stephanie Gaertig for helping the children prepare and plant the MVM garden! Kelly devoted her time and effort to prepare the soil. Sara and Kellan provided the worms. Can you imagine the mixture of delight and horror as the children (and teachers) gazed on the huge pile of worms? Jack's mom Stephanie was on hand to help the children plant the starters. It was so much fun. Now there are lots of happy worms, flowers, fruit, and veggies taking root!

Conferences

We will place sign-up sheets in the hallway soon so that you can choose a time for a conference with your child's teacher. We will offer times to meet on Thursday after school and all day Friday, the 23rd. There is no school on the 23rd!

Website

The MVM website (www.missoulavalley.montessori.com) has gotten a facelift! We hope you like it!

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Summer

Anna and Beth have some wonderful activities planned for our summer program. If you have not already done so, pick up a flyer in the hallway to learn more about "Planting Seeds of Kindness" this summer.

Enrollment

The primary (3-6) program is almost full, and we still have room in the Early Learners program so feel free to tell your friends to give us a call.

Scrip

Thank you Caroline Chesbro for setting up SCRIP for our school at The Good Food Store. A donation will be made to our school each time you shop there if you choose to sign up for this program. We are grateful!



Dear Parents,

This Spring, our Early Learners have been busy with songs, stories, art work and planting projects that reflect the changes and growth happening around us in our natural world. The sunshine has given us the opportunity to spend more time outside, leading to many fun conversations in the classroom about planting seeds and exploring the garden area. One little girl adamantly insisted that if we picked the flowers, we could TRY giving them a Band Aid, but even with that measure, "They

won't grow up again. They won't!" Dr. Montessori believed the outdoor environment is a natural extension of the classroom, where mental work and physical exercise are held in balance, and children are able to build their mind and spirit with consistent contact with the seasons and the natural world. As we watch our Early Learners growing so joyfully, we know her words to be true. *"The land is where our roots are. The children must be taught to feel and live in harmony with the Earth."*

Happy Mother's Day to
all you wonderful
mothers from the entire
staff at MVM!