



MISSOULA VALLEY MONTESSORI

2018-2019

October Newsletter

We simply can't believe that the month of October has come and gone. The children are enjoying the Autumn weather and our Halloween celebration was quite a hit! We would like to extend our gratitude to all the parent volunteers who made this celebration a success. The children loved the treats that were provided and the teachers appreciated the help we received dressing all the children in their costumes.

In this newsletter we will be announcing upcoming events, sharing a glimpse into a typical day in the Early Learner Classroom, relaying a message from the parent group, and sharing photos of the children at work.



Upcoming Events

November 8th and 9th Parent Teacher Conferences

Sign-up sheets are located outside of each classroom.

November 13th 6:00-7:00pm
Parent Night: What is this Montessori thing? Why we do what we do.

November 20th Thanksgiving Feast

Mark your calendars! More information to follow.

News from the Early Learner Classroom

Hello everyone! It has been a treat observing the two-year-olds become comfortable and confident in the Montessori environment. There is so much to share. I thought it would be helpful to give you a run down of a typical day in the Early Learner classroom.

When the children enter the classroom in the morning, they begin their day by choosing an activity I have presented to them from the shelves. The children are now familiar with this routine and they become very excited when they accomplish the task of making a work choice. Once an activity is chosen, each child explores and interacts with his or her material. When the children are finished with their work, they are responsible for putting it away. Keeping our classroom orderly and clean is a big part of our day.



Each day we help the children practice using a work rug. Work rugs help designate each child's work space while reinforcing the concept of ownership. The children understand that the material on their rug belongs to them until they return it to the shelf. They also understand that they are not to touch the work on another child's rug. When challenges regarding work "ownership" arise in the classroom, we encourage the children to use kind words such as: "No thank you, this is my work," or, "I need my space with my work." This is something we practice every day and we are seeing growth in the children's communication skills. We love watching them engage and grow each day. You can reinforce this type of language at home with your child. Some common phrases you can use to help your child communicate include: "Use your words," or "How may I help you?"

We also work to reinforce good manners throughout our day. We sing a manners song and the children are expected to have good manners during work time, snack time, when dressing for outside, and during lunch. We also encourage good manners when the children are communicating with their teachers and peers. You can help at home by encouraging your child to politely ask for assistance using phrases like, "Please help me," "May I please have more," "Yes please," and "No thank you."

In the Early Learner classroom we focus a significant amount of our time developing independence. The children are capable of completing many tasks independently. We are always available to assist the children when needed, but we allow them the opportunity to try on their own first. We often use the phrase, "I would like to see you try first." If a child is struggling to complete a task it can be beneficial to help her begin and encourage her to finish independently. In this situation we say, "I start, you finish." We only step in and help when necessary.

We work with the children on using the toilet every day. We invite each child to use the bathroom and sit on the toilet several times a day. A big part of bathroom use is handwashing. At school the children wash their hands after using the bathroom as well as before snack and lunch. You can help with these efforts at home, too. Have your child sit on the toilet frequently and encourage your child to be involved in the process. Have your child pull down her own pants and hold up her shirt. When your child is finished using the bathroom, make sure she washes her hands.

The eating routine in our classroom is very important. Before morning snack is served, we lay out the tablecloth and the children quietly sit in their chairs. They fold their hands underneath the table as the snack is placed in front of them. The children wait to eat until everyone has been served. If the children become thirsty during snack, they ask to be excused to get water. Each child has a water cup that hangs on a hook near the sink. The children practice walking to the sink, filling the cup, setting it down, turning the sink off, and walking back to the table while holding the cup peacefully with two hands. The goal of this exercise is to aid in the development of a sense of order. The children are also practicing controlling their movements as they balance without spilling water. Only one child is invited to use the sink at a time. This provides an excellent opportunity for the children to practice patience.



The children love going outside. After morning snack and bathroom use, we go out into the hallway to get our jackets on. Once the children are ready, they hold on to the rope for safety and we walk to the playground together. We stay outside from 10:15-11:15. The children love to run, play with balls, go down the slides, play in the sandbox, and the swings are always a hit. The children are becoming more independent outside and they play nicely together.

Circle time is my favorite time of the day. We gather for circle at 9:00, 10:00, and 2:45 every day. At our 9:00 circle we sing three greeting songs and share what we ate for breakfast. We hear some awesome responses! We also sing a color song and the children share what colors they are wearing that day. At the end of morning circle time I greet the children individually. Each child stands up and holds his or her hand out. I invite each child to shake my hand. We practice making eye contact and say good morning to each other. At our

10:00 circle we read a story, practice counting, and sing our manners song. Our 2:45 circle marks the end of our day. During this time we use the felt board to tell stories. Thank you for waiting outside the classroom during this time.

Overheard in the Classroom:

"Only teachers can do
felt stories, not
people."

I hope this overview of a day in the Early Learner classroom was helpful. I have one last thing to share. Three new students joined our classroom this month including Hazel Harrison, Stella Sann, and Amelia Dunn. In November we will be welcoming Everett Haskins and Svea Cotter to our classroom as well. I am proud of all of the children and I am excited to watch them continue to grow.

A Message from the Parent Group

Hello Parents!!

We are the MVM Parent Group and we would love to invite you to join us for our first meeting of the year Wednesday, November 14th at 3:15 at Highlander Brewery. Kids are welcome to come play while the parents discuss upcoming events at MVM, plan the giving tree, and get to know one another. Our job at the parent group help organize events, fundraisers and assist with any additional schools needs. We would love for you to come , new fresh ideas are always welcome. If you have any questions feel free to contact me , Kelsey Farago at 425-417-1678 . See you November 14th!

Photos from the Green Room



"I had a skirt like that when I was a little girl."

said by a little boy



Photos from the Taupe Room



Teacher: "Are you enjoying your snack?"

Child: "I don't know. I have to ask my mouth...
It says 'good!'"



Photos from the Blue Room



"Joy, feeling one's own value, being appreciated and loved by others, feeling useful and capable of production are all factors of enormous value for the human soul."

-Maria Montessori