



February 2012
Horsham Montessori Children's House

Montessori Quote of the Month

"The most important period in life is not the age of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six, for that is the time when man's intelligence itself, his greatest implement is being formed. But not only his intelligence; the full totality of his psychic powers."

Principal's Corner

Dear Horsham-MCH Parents,

Many parents ask why the child's activity in the Montessori classroom is called "work". To Maria Montessori, "work" was not a production of abstractions and answers, nor was it merely the manipulation of materials. She defined work as any activity that captures a child's attention and engages the child with concentration and enjoyment. Observing the children's choices of activity Dr. Montessori was amazed to find children preferred educational (didactic) materials to toys when presented with a choice. She concluded that this showed the child's desire to grow intellectually. She "followed the child" by removing toys from the environment. The child's work also helps him or her in the development of self-discipline. In her book *What You Should Know About Your Child* Montessori wrote, "The joy of the child is in accomplishing things great for his (her) age...the real satisfaction of the child is to give maximum effort to the task at hand." From our Tooth Buddies Puppet Show, to the celebration of Valentine's Day, African American Day, Amerikick Presentation, Presidents' Day, Montessori Education Week, and of course the suspenseful Groundhog Day, February is a short but busy month at Horsham Montessori Children's House. It's amazing how much we can fit into twenty-nine days! Even with a month full of events, we never lose sight of the importance of calm, uninterrupted work time for the children. During the "grand work cycle" each day, the children are joyfully busy with purposeful work. This treasured work time is the "main event" for the Montessori child. Make sure to take some time after school and during the weekend to engage in calm, purposeful work with your child. Activities such as baking, gardening, painting, snow shoveling, even housecleaning can leave both you and your child with a sense of satisfaction for a job well done.

Warm Regards,

Nona

Parent Quote From A Past Graduate

"The kindergarten program is somewhat overly well preparation for the first grade. There are some aspects in his school work that my child, Daniel already learned in his kindergarten and it makes him stand out especially in reading and math. Daniel is in the highest level reading group in his class and his math skills impress his teacher. I would say he learned very important basics and thinking skills throughout three years he's been at Montessori. As I mentioned above, Daniel is doing great at school.

Do not hesitate to give my name/phone # 215-343-2876 to those who show interests in your kindergarten program and I will give them assurance in your program."

Thank you,

Soojin Choe, RPh

Greetings

At this time of year I often spend time meeting with new parents, touring them through the classrooms, answering their questions, giving them a bird's eye view of Montessori and of Harmony. I always greet parents with an open heart, knowing that they want the best situation for their child, wondering if they will join our school community, confident that we offer the best of learning environments, and trusting their decision-making process. It's amazing to think that every one of you did your first visit and tour, one day in the past. You probably remember that day well.

We are experiencing a nice surge of inquiring parents right now, and we have a whole crop of younger siblings who will join us in the fall. You know the ones I mean - the 2-year-olds who were in arms or crawling not so long ago, and who now come in every day as if they own the place. There is nothing quite as joyous as welcoming these little ones, most of whom we've known since infancy, into our classrooms.

This time of year also brings us full circle, as we gaze at these 5 and 6-year-olds who have been with us for three or four years, and who have blossomed into such confident, interesting young leaders and learners. What wonders unfold when children are given the opportunity to flourish, when they are respected and nurtured and stimulated?



Montessori Education Week: February 26-March 3

Each year Montessori communities across the country honor the legacy of Maria Montessori during Montessori Education Week. This program established the last week in February as National Montessori Education Week. During this week the vast number of Montessori schools celebrates the Montessori Method of education in a variety of ways. This year we are celebrating 105 years of Montessori Education! At Horsham Montessori Children's House, we will have a special display about Montessori education. The children will also be learning about Maria Montessori and her work that led to the existence of their beloved Horsham Montessori Children's House! Parents don't forget to thank a teacher or two for all their hard work. Parents, we are asking you to write a few sentences about how your child has been thriving at

Montessori Children's House. We are going to hang the comments up in our hallway. Please e-mail with your thoughts. In each class the children will be doing something special.

Celebrate the excellence of the Montessori Method,

Our school and our teachers!

Help Us Celebrate Montessori Week

1. Complement staff members who make a difference in your child's life.
2. Please write a short paragraph and let us know how Montessori Children's House has benefited your child. Please e-mail it to me. I will hang each quote in the hallway.
3. Hug your child. Allow your child to be independent. Celebrate each day.

Spotlight On...Dr. Maria Montessori

Maria Montessori, born in 1870, was the first woman in Italy to earn a medical degree. In her work at the University of Rome psychiatric clinic, Dr. Montessori developed an interest in the treatment of special needs children and, for several years, she worked, wrote, and spoke on their behalf. Then, in 1907, Maria Montessori was given the opportunity to study "typical" children, by opening a child care center for the children of desperately poor families in the San Lorenzo slums of Rome. She called it "Casa dei Bambini" (Children's House) and based the program on her observations that young children best learn to be self-motivated, independent learners in a social environment which supports and respects each individual's unique development. Montessori believed that each child is born with a special potential to be revealed, rather than a "blank slate" waiting to be written upon. Montessori's dynamic theories included such innovative premises as:

- Children are to be respected as different from adults and as individuals who are different from one another.
- Children create themselves through purposeful activity.
- The most important years for learning are from birth to age six.
- Children possess unusual sensitivity and mental powers for absorbing and learning from their environment, which includes people, as well as materials.

She carried her message throughout the world, including the United States, as early as 1912. Since her death in 1952, an interest in Dr. Montessori's methods have continued to spread throughout the world. Her message to those who emulated her was always to turn one's attention to the child, to "follow the child".

"Supposing I said there was a planet without schools or teachers, study was unknown, and yet the inhabitants – doing nothing but living and walking about – came to know all things, to carry in their minds the whole of learning: would you not think I was romancing? Well, just this, which seems so fanciful as to be nothing but the invention of a fertile imagination, is a reality. It is the child's way of learning. This is the path he follows. He learns everything without knowing he is learning it, and in doing so passes little from the unconscious to the conscious, treading always in the paths of joy and love."

Dr. Maria Montessori

International Family Fun Festival (IFFF):

Join us for a fun day on Saturday, April 28th from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Our International Family Fun Festival will have International foods, International arts and crafts, International games, a silent auction, raffles, class projects, class baskets, door prizes, main stage performers, and our very own primary children will be performing. Think about which friends and family members you would like to have join us on this special day. Mark your calendars now. This will be a really fun day for the family. Don't forget to invite your aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, neighbors, and friends. Our new website for the festival will be up and running in the beginning of February.
www.mch-internationalfest.org

Donations for International Family Fun Festival (IFFF):

We need your help and we need to start now. You can help us in several ways:

1. Search your home for new items that we could use for our silent auction. Please place all donations in the office. Be sure to fill out a donation slip.
2. Please take several donation letters from the table outside the office and take them to local businesses that you often patronize. First tell them about our wonderful non-profit- school and that we are having an International Family Fun Festival to celebrate diversity. They could donate an item, provide a service, or donate a gift certificate (such as dinner for 2). We have already started to receive donations. Please inform the business that we will put their logo on our International Family Fun Festival site and that it will link to their website if their donation exceeds \$100.00. Please let the businesses know that we get about 500 participants at the festival. Proceeds will go towards our scholarship fund, education materials and playground equipment. Thank you to those parents who have already begun to help!
3. We will be having prizes for our games. Please search your house for all those little toys that you actually want to get rid of. Many times when your child goes to a party, small party favors come home-that's what we need. Please bring these in a bag to the office.

Meetings for International Family Fun Festival (IFFF):

Everyone is invited! Meetings will be held in Room 1.

Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00pm at Starbucks in Warminster

Wednesday, February 22nd at 9:15am

Tuesday, March 6th at 7:00pm at Starbucks in Warminster

Thursday, March 22nd at 9:00am

Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00pm at Starbucks in Warminster

Wednesday, April 18th at 9:15am

Tuesday, April 24th at 7:00pm at Montessori Children's House

Events in February

Groundhog Day – February 2

Parenting Group – February 2

Chess for Kindergarteners February 6

International Family Fun Festival Meeting February 7 at 7pm at Starbucks in Warminster

Tooth Buddies Puppet Show Theatre February 9

Parenting Group- February 13

Valentine's Day – February 14

In-Service Day February 17 (School and Supplemental care closed)
President's Day – February 20 (School and Supplemental care closed)
International Family Fun Festival Meeting February 22 at 9:15 at school, room #1
African American Heritage day February 23
Chess for Kindergarteners February 27

Library

A special thank you to all our library moms and dads for their strong dedication!!! Thank you to all the families for their contribution of library books for your child's Birthdays. If your son or daughter already had his/her birthday this year, know that it's never too late to help the library by donating a new book or an old book in good condition to the library. A special bookplate will be put in front of the book in honor of your child.

African-American Cultural Day

On Thursday, Feb. 23rd the whole school will enjoy and learn about African-American Culture with a presentation by Ms. Inga's and Ms. Catherine's class. Each class will be learning about the African American Culture during the month of February.

Lunar New Year

The entire school celebrated the Lunar New Year in January this year. Many parents helped to plan for this big event which took place on Thursday, January 26th. The children learned that the coming year is the year of the dragon. They used many different decorations to decorate this zodiac symbol. They also ground ink on inkstone. Each child watched a short cartoon "The legend of Nian" to learn why people wore red and made lots of noise. The children got to play with the rattling drums and they got to touch and feel various New Year decorations. Each child got their own traditional red envelope which had a golden coin and a dragon sticker inside. The parents taught the children how to use chop sticks by picking up noodles. After the children watched a short movie of lion dancing they had the opportunity to try on the dragon head. They waved beautiful silk scarves and used noise makers to help the dragon dance around. The children got into Chinese clothes and had a fabulous time. Thank you to all the parents who helped with planning and implementing a day of knowledge and Fun.

Drop Off and Pick Up

We would like if all parents and adults who are involved in drop off and pick up could encourage his/her child **not to run in the hallway**. Sometimes it's very tempting because you might be in a hurry or you are just playing with your child. If you are reading this and your spouse, or relative, nanny or neighbor picks up your child please tell them about our policy. This is for the welfare of all the children.

Extra Clothing

Every child needs to bring a complete change of clothing to be kept at school. Be sure to update clothing as the seasons change and label everything.

In-Service Day

School and Supplemental care will be closed on February 17, 2012.

President's Day

School and Supplemental care will be closed on February 20, 2012.

Sign in/Sign out

Please be sure to sign in and sign out each day. This is very important!!!!!! If you do not take or pick up your child, please be sure that you tell whoever drops off or picks up.

Valentine's Day

Each class will be celebrating Valentine's Day on February 14th. Please send in a Valentine card for each child in his/her class. **Please do not write names on the outside of the cards** (This makes them easier for the children to distribute). Please have your child sign his/her name (If your child cannot write his or her name please do it for him/her). Do not bring in a box of unsigned cards for the class.

Yearbook

Please remember that all pages of the yearbook and all dedication pages and past due. We are extending the due date to February 10th. If you have any questions about your page please call Shelly Szautner 215 704-0541. Yearbooks are now on sale for \$35.00. The price will go up after March 3rd to \$40.00. Fill out the yearbook envelope and send it back in ASAP. We need to know exactly how many to order. Thank you to those who have already bought a yearbook. If you are a new parent and want to see what the yearbook is all about, please take a look at all the previous yearbook in the hallway near the library. The yearbook is not just for the Kindergarten children: Every child, even our newest students will be included in the yearbook. You'll love having this special book in years to come.

Birthdays

The posters of your children's birthdays have been a focus point for the children in the hallway. They absolutely love looking at each other's photos. It has been so much fun to see everyone's family members and all the baby pictures. However, one birthday policy that we are changing in the school is going to start in February. We are asking all parents not to send in cake or cupcakes. Instead, you may send in special cookies to help celebrate your child's birthday.

Fall Re-Enrollment

We are currently in the process of enrolling for our upcoming school year. If you have not done so please hand your paperwork in as classes are beginning to fill up. Re-enrollment forms were given to every family to secure a spot for next year. If you did not receive the form yet, I will be happy to give you another copy. To secure a space for next year all re-enrollment forms must be in by Tuesday, January 31, 2012. Siblings also have priority. After this date, I will start excepting all new applicants. Please secure a spot as soon as possible to prevent getting on a waiting list. I already have a long list of children for 2012-2013 school year. If your child is presently in Kindergarten, you still need to fill in the re-enrollment form on the bottom that your child is going into first grade.

Summer Camp

Camp applications will be placed in your child's cubby in the month of February. If you would like to pick up an application for a friend please stop by the office. We are planning another extremely fun summer.

School Starts at 9:00

School begins at 9:00am. Please, please have your child here on time. The beginning minutes of each day are extremely important. Some children come in very late and feel disoriented.

They are missing a significant part of work time or circle time. Let's prepare them for years to come in school.

Security Measures

The security of your child is of the utmost importance. If your child is to be picked up by a friend or a relative, send a note to inform us to that effect. If for some reason you forget to write the note, please call the office to let us know with whom you want your child to leave. Sign-in and Sign-out sheets have been posted outside each classroom. Please do not forget to sign your child in and out of the school every day. Please tell the person who is driving your child to and from school to remember to sign in and out. As you enter the building please do not let anyone follow you into in the building.

Pajama Day!

Everyone - parents, children, and staff were invited to come to school in your favorite P.J.'s and slippers on Wednesday, January 25th. We had a warm and cozy day!

Labels and Laces

Please label all your child's clothing items; jackets, sweaters, hats, shirts, mittens, etc. Labeling clothes would facilitate finding them if they get misplaced. Also, when replacing shoelaces if you purchase cotton laces, shoes have a much better chance of staying tied. Please do not send your child with laces that are bought "re-looped."

Upcoming Events in March

Incubators arrive at MCH March 5
Peking Acrobats at the Keswick for the Kindergarteners March 6
Chess for Kindergarteners March 12
Legend of Finn McCool March 15
Parent/Child Night March 15
International Family Fun Festival Meeting March 17
Chess for Kindergarteners March 26
Bunny Hop March 29

Monthly Photos

Kindergarten Class Playing Chess

January School Photos

Safari Party

PJ Day



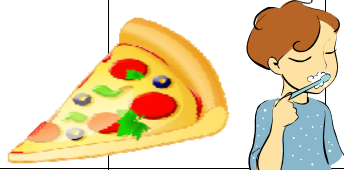

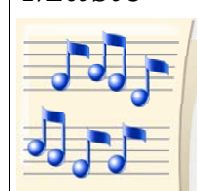




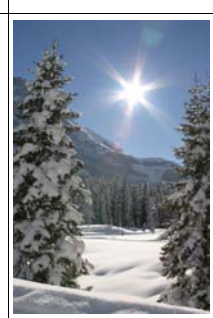


Chinese New Year

PLEASE, BOTH MOMS AND DADS READ THE NEWSLETTERS CAREFULLY!!!



February 2012



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 <i>Yoga</i> | 2 <i>Groundhog's Day</i> <i>Pizza</i>  | 3 <i>Computer Tots</i> | 4 |
| 5  | 6 <i>Gym</i> <i>Chess for Kindergarteners</i> | 7 <i>French</i> 7:00PM <i>International Family Fun Festival Meeting At Starbucks</i> | 8 <i>Yoga</i> | 9 <i>Pizza</i> <i>Tooth Buddies Puppet Show</i>  | 10 <i>Computer Tots</i>  | 11 |
| 12 | 13 <i>Music</i>  | 14 <i>French</i>  <i>Valentine's Day</i> | 15 <i>Yoga</i>  | 16 <i>Pizza</i> <i>Computer Tots</i> <i>Amerikick Stranger Danger</i> <i>Book Mobile</i> | 17 <i>Teacher In-Service Day No School No</i> | 18 |
| 19  | 20 <i>President's Day No School & No Supplemental</i>  | 21 <i>French Nona Reads at Willow Grove Mall At Morning Club</i> | 22 9:15 <i>International Family Fun Festival Meeting Room #1</i> | 23 <i>Pizza African American Day</i> | 24 <i>Computer Tots Music</i> |  |
| 26  | 27 <i>GYM Chess for Kindergarteners</i> | 28 <i>French</i> | 29 <i>Yoga</i> |  | | |