

# Community News



Montessori House for Children

October 2014



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## Re-planting our Commitment to Nature

Curiosity, creativity and imagination germinate in a person through his experiences with the natural world.

Twice a year, we “replant” our commitment to nature with two dedicated gardening days. Last week, members of the Gardening Committee led by Ms. Angela joined children and staff to refresh and add to the outdoor beauty of the students’ yards.

We happily acknowledge the wonderful support of the School community through donations of dirt, plants and manpower. We appreciate those who tried to come on Friday, but couldn’t help because of the Great Rain Out.

Your involvement in the Outdoor aspects of our Montessori Program show a shared commitment to an ideal that defines our school and provides a solution to the ‘nature deficit disorder’ that is growing in our young population.

It also serves the aim of true education, which begins with one’s fascination and joy of experiences in the three dimensional world. We do not learn what a flower is by working a flower puzzle. We learn what a flower is by planting, watering, smelling, feeling, looking and then maybe PICKING! The two dimensional world can then contribute with details and research. It is the three dimensional learning that starts the flow.

Thank you for helping us sow the seeds of knowledge!

Pam Nelson

*“Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment.”*

## Introduction to Montessori Education Fund Inc. (MEFI)

MEFI – Montessori Education Fund Inc – was granted public charity 501 (c)(3) status October 2013. This organization is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors who meet once per semester.

The charter of this organization is to provide *Educational Services to School and Community*. Educational Services include funding for guest speakers, tuition assistance, faculty enrichment and specialized educational activities and materials separate from School Montessori Curriculum. The allocation of funds is set by the Board of Directors.

This fledgling organization, dedicated to School and Community, will hopefully grow in its abilities to provide assistance and enrichment in the coming years.

### Where does the money go?

Educational services:

For students

For families

For the community

For faculty

### How will MEFI impact The School?

With the granting of Public Charity status, the process of migrating fundraising for the School to MEFI is complete.

General fundraisers will be for MEFI. Specific fundraisers, such as the School Book Fair, will still be used for specifically stated purpose (to purchase books for the school).

MEFI, as a tax exempt organization, allows funding to be used exclusively for the purposes set up by the charter – thereby adding services that would otherwise not be possible through school revenue.

### How will MEFI impact YOU?

All contributions to this fund are tax deductible under section 170 of the IRS Code.

You can contribute to MEFI through share and matching employee giving programs. Please consider contacting your HR department to find out what sort of employee giving program your company has.



# Peace Education

What is “Peace”?

Now that’s a very tricky question. The first thing that might pop into your head is “love, crazy colors and flowers” but in all actuality, that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Peace itself is such an abstract idea that when we are put in a situation to show peace and to understand what it is, we fail to see the concrete, physical aspect of it. However, when we are asked to describe the opposite of peace, our minds almost instantly have concrete examples and explanations for it. Why? Because that is what the actuality of the world is now. That is where we need to come in.



***“If we are to change the world, we are to start with the children of tomorrow. The adults today are far too set in their ways.”***

This simple quotation describes so much of what we should be doing. Peace isn’t just some abstract idea or notion of an impossible world, Peace is a goal, and every little bit of push towards it makes a difference.



You don’t have to wait until a child is old enough. Peace education should start from birth. It is at the very core of what it means to be a generally nice human being; it’s a seed that needs help growing. So when you think your child is too young to understand peace, take a look around and see what peace is.

Peace for the younger children is caring for themselves, each other and their environment. Peace is learning to understand why they feel the way they do when they throw a tantrum, its appreciating the little things like splashing in the mud or smelling a flower, its taking it easy and not worrying if the food spills all over the floor because they are feeding themselves and you will get to help them learn to clean up. Peace is accepting our differences and celebrating them or even just getting a tissue for a crying friend. Peace is you, them, me, the environment both outside and inside. Just look around. A friend helping another friend up or simply asking if they are ok. Coexisting.

Children from the very start have the capacity and the ability to love abundantly and without prejudice. These are the things that we nurture because like Maria Montessori said “Free the child potential, and you will transform him into the world.” That is the type of future I’m looking forward to.



Bella Reyes  
Lead Teacher  
Toddler 1

# Month at a glance.....



## International Potluck Picnic: (bring a dish to share)

Come represent and share your culture!

Food, Traditional Clothing, Music, FUN!

Oct 10th 5:30-7:30 p.m.

George Bush Park, Pavilion 3

For questions please contact Stacy Ripple @ [staceyrynea@sbcglobal.net](mailto:staceyrynea@sbcglobal.net)

## October:

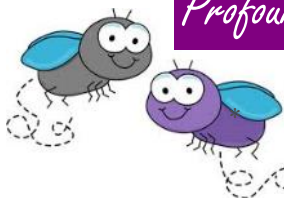
- Oct 9th Parent Coffee 8:30- 9:30a.m.
- Oct 9th Book Club 6-7p.m.
- Oct 10th International Picnic 5:30-7:30 p.m. (George Bush Park)
- Oct 13th Montessori Holiday Full Day Students Only
- Oct 28th "Teach the Parent" night EC1 & EC2 6-7 p.m.
- Oct 29th "Teach the Parent" night EC3 6-7 p.m.
- Oct 30th Famous Person Day (Lower EI 10 a.m.)
- Oct 31st School is closed
- Oct 31st Parent Teacher conferences

## Coming soon in November.....

Book Fair! And...the perfect solution for holiday gifts, this year's fall fundraiser: "Original Works"

## Classroom Bzzzzzzzzzz.....

*Profound, sweet and often hilarious statements heard in the classroom*

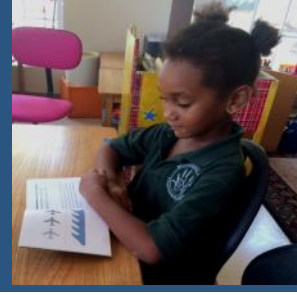


When introduced to Ms. Argentina at circle time, a boy turned to his friend and said with his face beaming: "**She has the same name as a dinosaur!!!**"

- \* A boy not yet three, approached Ms. Maitreyi saying "**Can you please play 'the Bach' during lunch?!**"
- \* An adult commented on how happy a 4 year old was as he entered school. He replied: "**I'm ready to turn my brain on!**"
- \* Ms. Sandy reminded students to be sure to eat their lunches as their parents had worked hard to prepare it for them. A three year old held up his baggie of dried seaweed and announced: "**Yes! My mommy worked so hard, she went into the ocean and pulled this up for me!**"
- \* Ms. Angela asked EC2 students if worms were wild. A four year old boy replied: "**They are not wild! Because when I grow up I will have a pet worm.**"

# SPOTLIGHT

## In and around school



Thank you!!!!

*Special thanks to our parent  
volunteers:*

Drive Through: Stacy Ripple

Parent Coffee: Susanna El Mogazi

Parent Readers & Library Parents

Garden Committee

**All the parents who donated items  
and or their time for Garden Day!!!**

## WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT...

A four year old stopped her mother as she exited the bathroom saying:

"I see you are having trouble washing your face without getting your clothes wet. Would you like me to show you how to do it properly?"

She then proceeded to give her mom a "lesson" on how to wash and dry one's face!

# LOOKING BACK



## Garden Day

“The land is where our roots are.  
The children must be taught to feel  
and live in harmony with the Earth.”

~Maria Montessori



## Peace Day

“Peace begins with a smile..”  
~Mother Theresa

# LOOKING BACK

## Parent Enrichment Night

September's Parent Enrichment night focused on Reading and Writing in Montessori Classrooms.

The class was led by Zarine Balsara, who took parents through the process of learning the skills and discovering the ability to write and read starting in the Toddler Classes, and extending through the EC classes and into Lower Elementary.

Thank you to all those who attended!

## Parent Association

Welcome to our new Parent Association members!

Special thanks to the parents who came to our meeting. Our new Parent Association will provide a volunteer structure to help the school achieve its goals and provide a wonderful environment.

Our Parent Association officers for the 2014-15 school year are as follows:

President: Stacey Ripple    Treasurer: Ana Maria Bonilla    Secretary: Savitha Rajan

Liaison between the PA and MHFC: Norma Angulo

To join the Parent Association, or for further information please contact Stacy Ripple at: [staceyrynea@sbcglobal.net](mailto:staceyrynea@sbcglobal.net)



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## ARE YOU ON FB?

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**WE ARE!!!**

Follow us by liking our Face Book page:  
Montessori House For Children

With daily updates, shared articles relating to Montessori Education and Parenting, and tons of photos there is something for everyone!