

Community News



Montessori House for Children

November 2014



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School Expansion Announcement

Last week The School signed an architectural agreement with ***M Engineering and Construction Company*** to create an architectural/construction package for the building of a new Elementary Annex. The team will be led by Jose Monarrez, President/CEO of ***M Engineering and Construction*** and father of two MHFC students. We will now enter a very busy phase of working with the design team of M Engineering/Page Architects to create a beautiful and functional space to accommodate our students and provide additional space for events and activities.

We will regularly announce progress and invite the participation of current and prospective elementary families to join the dialogue as we work with Ms. Lloyd and Mr. Roberson on ideas to help migrate this group to a new space.

Along with the decision to build a new building comes the added excitement of bringing back the fourth EC classroom that was surrendered to create the elementary classroom. Bringing this classroom back will help us accommodate the large waiting pool of students waiting to join the School.

Cultivating and Giving Thanks

The stores are brimming with Thanksgiving paraphernalia, reminding us that the season of “thanks” is upon us. But what can easily be overlooked is the meaning and practice of Gratitude and Thankfulness.

Gratitude and Thankfulness are qualities which need to be cultivated and encouraged. We plant the seeds of these qualities when we model for children thankful and grateful behavior. It can be something as simple as politely acknowledging that a waiter has brought you water when you are out to dinner, verbalizing that you are grateful for a beautiful day as you walk to the park, or sincerely thanking your child for their assistance. We can water the seeds we have sown by encouraging our children to contemplate and verbalize what they are thankful for, and why. Asking ‘why’ helps to pull thankfulness beyond merely the superficial and tangible towards thankfulness for the ‘goodwill’ which was put into whatever we are thankful for. This recognition and focus on ‘goodwill’ leads towards a place of joy, contentment and gratitude. These qualities can then give rise to generosity, and to the desire to share joy with others, thereby setting in motion a positive cycle of generosity and thankfulness. This month we will be sharing articles from a variety of sources on our Face Book page about “Thankfulness”, “Generosity” and “Joy”. We would love to share input and advice from the members of our school community as well, so that we can all learn from each other!

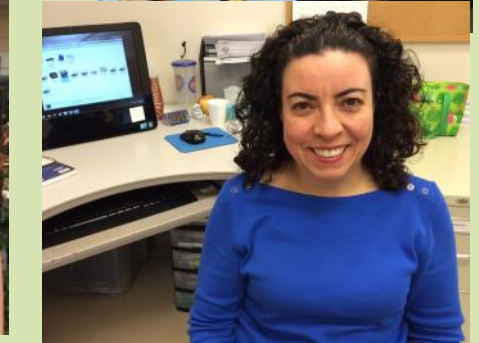


We wish you joy, and a wonderful month ahead!

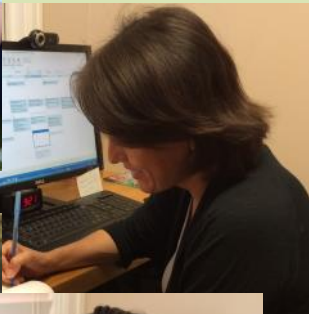
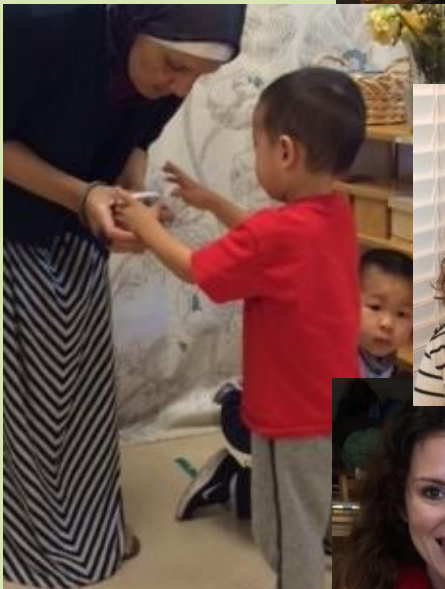
"To educate yourself for the feeling of gratitude means to take nothing for granted, but to always seek out and value the kind that will stand behind the action. Nothing that is done for you is a matter of course. Everything originates in a will for the good, which is directed at you. Train yourself never to put off the word or action for the expression of gratitude."

Albert Schweitzer

A special **Thank you** to our wonderful Teachers,
Assistants & Staff. We are deeply thankful for all you do!



Thank you * Thank you * Thank you * Thank you



Ms. Angela and the Prairie

When I was young, I spent hours watching “Nature shows” on PBS. My mom always said, “why are you wasting your time on that. You’ll never use any of that information.”

Well, I do use that information, almost every day!! Sometimes our passions and missions are clear very early on. I followed my passion and graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries and a minor in Elementary Education. I started out working as a teacher at the Houston Zoo and then stayed home for 12 years to homeschool my children. Since starting at MHFC I have received my certification in the “Growing Up Wild” program, become a “Certified Organic Vegetable Specialist” and will soon complete training as a Master Naturalist. In this month of reflection and gratitude, I would like to humbly appreciate the amazing opportunity I have to share my passion about nature with all the students at our school. Thank you to the owners and director of Montessori House for providing a place where the love of nature can be nurtured.



In my studies, I “discovered” the Katy Prairie, its incredible value and the risk it currently faces. I am thrilled to share some of what I have learned with you. On Friday, Nov. 7th from 5-6 p.m. we will be doing a “Great Grow Out” in conjunction with the Katy Prairie at our school to provide interested families the opportunity to grow their own native prairie plants to be used at their homes and/or in the school pocket prairie! I look forward to working together with you and your children on the saving The Prairie!

What is a Prairie?

When French explorers first encountered our Native Tall-Grass prairies they didn’t have a name for it, so they called it “Prairie”. This is the French word for meadow. The official definition is “an extensive, level or slightly undulating, mostly treeless tract of land characterized by a highly fertile soil and originally covered by coarse grasses.” Today, there is only 1%, (yes, 1%) of original tall-grass prairie left! It is the most endangered ecosystem left on this Earth! More than the Rain-forest or Coral Reefs!

Why does it matter to me you say? Well, it is home to hundreds of species of wildlife and native grasses and wildflowers. The prairie is also enormously productive, offering services to the region, including reducing downstream flooding, removing sediment and pollutants from nearby wetlands and water bodies, offering great recreational opportunities, and sequestering carbon. Some even believe these native grasses, with their extensive root systems will help us stop the build-up of carbon in our atmosphere. The Katy Prairie Conservatory has already conserved 20,000 acres of the Katy Prairie, a once vast tall grass prairie.

This is “Prairie Month”, with many activities to celebrate our Prairies. Please check out prairiepartner.org to see all the upcoming events.

Month at a glance.....

November:

Book Fair:

Nov 4th –7th

For questions please contact Stacy Ripple @
staceyrynea@sbcglobal.net

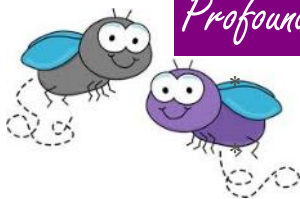


- Nov 4-7 Book Fair
- Nov 5 Renaissance Festival field trip (Lower Elementary)
- Nov 7 "Great Grow Out" 5-6 p.m.
- Nov 7-9 Camping trip (Lower Elementary)
- Nov 13 Parent Coffee 8:30- 9:30 a.m.
- Nov 13 Book Club 6-7p.m.
- Nov 14 Montessori parent information (for prospective families) 9-10 a.m.
- Nov 21 Early Release
- Nov 22 Parent Association Meeting (open to all parents) 9-10 a.m.
- Nov 24-26 Montessori Holiday (Full Day students only)
- Nov 27-28 School closed for Thanksgiving

Winter school closure this year: Dec 24 through Jan 2

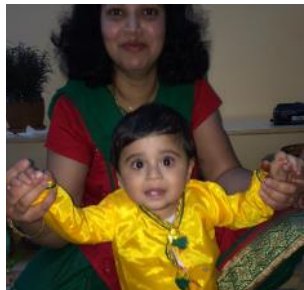
Classroom Bzzzzzzzzz.....

Profound, sweet and often hilarious statements heard in the classroom



- * While discussing the weather, a 3 year old confidentially told his teacher in a hushed voice, "**You know...Snow isn't real !!!**"
- * A girl in one of the EC classes was seen sobbing outside. When asked what was wrong, she replied wailing: "**I love nature!..**" she then pointed to a small insect that she thought had been squashed. (to the joy of the girl the insect soon showed signs of life and crawled on its way)
- * A teacher asked children about their favorite artists. One child proudly announced that he liked "**Vincent MANGO!**" Without a pause another child piped in "**I like Mangos!!!**"

LOOKING BACK



Diwali

Festival of Lights

The festival spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, and hope over despair

LOOKING BACK



International Picnic

Thank you to all who attended! It was a lot of fun, and a delicious representation of the diversity of our school community!

Thank you!!!!

*Special thanks to our Parent Volunteers
and to those who helped to prepare for
Diwali and El Día de los Muertos!*