



2017 Winter Newsletter

MONTESSORI HOUSE FOR CHILDREN
& ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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ANNOUNCING NEW REFERRAL PROGRAM STARTING JAN 1ST!

WHEN YOU REFER A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER,
YOU WILL RECEIVE A \$100 CREDIT TOWARDS YOUR
NEXT MONTH'S TUITION UPON THEIR ENROLLMENT.
YOUR REFERRAL WILL ALSO RECEIVE \$100 OFF
THEIR NEW STUDENT APPLICATION FEE.

***STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS**

Letter from Head of School...

Dear Parents,

First, I want to thank all who contributed to the Parent Survey. As a school, we aim to deliver the very best environment for student learning and also, we want our school to be a place that parents not only feel welcomed and valued, but who also benefit from a meaningful and enlightening experience. **Your feedback is greatly appreciated and will be used for continual improvement.**

As we head into the holiday season, I want to share my wish for our community - that we make time to slow down and savor the sweet moments of time that are often rushed and that we make time to let those we love, hear just how important they are.

On that note, I would like to let you, our parent community, know just how greatly appreciated you are! Each of us (teachers, admin and owners) feel immensely blessed to be surrounded by such a supportive, involved, kind and generous community. Please know that this is never taken for granted, in fact, it's a daily realization that warms our hearts. Our gratitude extends well beyond that which can be put into words. Have a joy-filled holiday season!

Finally, I would like to share an article with you written by Mauricio A. Flotes, JD, from *The Montessori White Pages*, volume 1:

Education for the 21st Century

If education is always to be conceived along the same antiquated lines of a mere transmission of knowledge, there is little to be hoped from it in the bettering of man's future.

Maria Montessori

What do you want from your children's school? Most parents and schools are focused on knowledge and discipline, which everyone knows go hand in hand. Hence the intense stress on standardized tests.

But stop and think about it. Are knowledge and discipline really enough? And what do we mean by "discipline"? Do we mean discipline that comes from within? Or merely the habit of complying with the demands of authority?

There was a time with knowledge and disciplined compliance with the rules of factory work and rigidly hierarchical corporate organizations were the twin keys to success. But mainstream economists are telling us that this is no longer the case. Our industrial era economy and society are increasingly being transformed by digital technologies, and so have the requirements for success. Let's consider what that means for what your children need from their schools.

In a recent article from *Foreign Affairs*, three prominent economists wrote:

Machines are substituting for more types of human labor than ever. As they replicate themselves, they are also creating more capital. This means that the real winners of the future will not be the providers of cheap labor or the owners of ordinary capital, both of whom will be increasingly squeezed by automation. Fortune will instead favor a third group: those who can innovate and create new products, services, and business models.

Technological innovations explains all modern growth. Without flow of new technologies, growth inevitably slows, and then stops because of diminishing returns on capital investment no matter how capable and hardworking the population.

Continued...

Hence, the best definition of the Industrial Revolution is the set of events that placed technology in the position of the main engine of economic change. The principle innovation of the Industrial Revolution was not any specific technology but rather the “invention of invention” – a systematic, science-based approach to innovation.

In this economic environment, there are two things every parent must keep in mind when thinking about their child’s education: 1) to be successful in a knowledge economy marked by an accelerating rate of both technological and social innovation, your children will probably have to “reinvent” themselves more than once in their lifetime, and 2) we have to face the fact that people skilled at innovation will reap disproportionate rewards.

What do I mean by that? Well, consider the fact that commercialization of the digital technologies that are now at the center of economic development are largely dependent on the internet, which for all practical purposes did not exist until around 1990. Think of all the technologists, venture capitalists, and entrepreneurs who build companies like Microsoft, Apple, and Google and who simultaneously transformed established industries like banking, finance, and manufacturing. These people were not taught how to do that- they had to be creative. They had to create new professions like IT management, web design, etc. In short, they didn’t just change jobs – they created new ones as old jobs became less and less productive, and in many cases, were eliminated altogether. This process of creative destruction is only going to accelerate, making personal reinvention *the* critical skill in the coming decades.

Schools should be promoting creative thinking in students. Unfortunately, education is still dominated by the concept of learning as a kind of factory production. In a widely cited study, Raymond Callahan showed how educators in the first third of the 20th Century applied the principals of scientific business management to educational practices. The core idea was (and unfortunately remains) that the “the school is a factory. The child is the raw material. The finished product is the child who graduates.” And through teachers considered the factory workers required to shape the raw material according to management’s standards, it’s ultimately the students who are forced to comply with those rigid and detailed standards.

In contrast, Maria Montessori realized over 100 years ago that fostering creativity is a key educational goal. And there is direct evidence that Montessori schools foster creative performance, development and potential compared to conventional schools. Montessori environments allow children to construct substantive knowledge, which is the building block of creativity in all subjects, from math to the fine arts. Discipline is emphasized, but not compliance with directives from above. Instead, Montessori schools foster inner discipline that enables students to do the hard, organized work that creativity in all fields requires. Finally, Montessori schools carefully foster and nurture each student’s innate drive to create by providing them control of their learning, ownership of their work flexible use of their time, allowance to work at their own pace, and opportunities to work and learn beyond the classroom walls.

It’s time to dismantle the factory framework that dominates our educational system today that does not serve children’s need for the 21st century. But we don’t have to reinvent the educational wheel because Dr. Montessori already did.

Warmest Regards,

Barbara Nelson

Head of School

Upcoming Events:

12/15 Toddler/ EC Book Exchange
 12/15 Early Release: Faculty Meeting
 12/18- 1/1 School CLOSED: Winter Break
 1/2 Montessori Holiday: In-service (Full-day only attend)
 1/2 **MHFC New Parent** Orientation 1 - 2:45pm
 (Orientation to Montessori & Review of Parent Handbook)
 1/2 **EC New Parent** Classroom Orientation 3-4pm
 1/9 PAV Meeting 8:30-9:30am
 1/11 Parent Coffee 8:30- 9:30am
 1/11 Parent Enrichment: Webinar Watch Party 5-6pm
 1/12 Eco-Action Team Meeting #3, 1-2pm
 1/13 Open House 9-11am
 1/15 Montessori Holiday: In-service (Full-day only attend)
 1/24 Science Fair 6-7pm
 1/26 Early Release: Faculty Meeting
 1/26 PAV **Community Meetup**: Location TBA
 1/27 Parent Workshop: For Toddler Parents 9-11am
 2/1-2/15 Re-Enrollment Period
 2/6 PAV Meeting 8:30-9:30am
 2/8 Parent Coffee 8:30-9:30am
 2/8 Parent Enrichment: Webinar Watch Party 5-6pm
 2/9 ECO Action Team Meeting #4, 1-2pm
 2/10 **Pancake Breakfast** & Silhouettes 8-10am
 2/15 Parent Enrichment: EC&EL **Math Night** 6-7pm
 2/19 Montessori Holiday (Full-day only attend)
 2/23 Early Release: Faculty Meeting
 2/23 PAV **Community Meetup**: Location TBA
 2/24 **Family Garden Day** 8-11am
 3/2 School CLOSED: Parent/ Teacher Conferences
 3/6 PAV Meeting 8:30-9:30am
 3/8 Parent Coffee 8:30-9:30am
 3/8 Parent Enrichment: Webinar Watch Party 5-6pm
 3/9 ECO Action Team Meeting #5, 1-2pm
 3/12-3/16 Montessori Holiday: Spring Break (Full-day only attend)
 3/23 PAV **Community Meetup**: Location TBA
 3/29 Parent Enrichment: EC &EL **Language Night**, 6-7pm
 3/30 School CLOSED: In observance of Good Friday

Parent Workshop!
**How to Turn
 "Terrible Twos"
 into Terrific Twos!**

Where: MHFC
 When: Saturday, 1/27, 9-11am
 Led by: Michelle Battistone

RSVP to:
barb@mhfcschool.com

JOIN US FOR AN
OPEN HOUSE
 JANUARY 13TH, 2018
 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Bring a friend & Enjoy:

Door prizes
 Coffee & Treats
 Meet the Director & Faculty
 Tour Toddler - Elementary Classrooms
 ...and More!

RSVP to: barb@mhfcschool.com



ECO Action Team Semester-End Summary

The Eco Action Team would like to sincerely thank the students, teachers and volunteers who have participated, supported and attended the activities held this semester. It has been a successful year and much has been accomplished.

Eco Action Team Meetings: The objective of this semester was to maintain our Silver Award awarded by the National Wildlife Federation, by highlighting the pathways accomplished in the previous year, Biodiversity and Consumption & Waste and introduce the third pathway, Schoolyard Habitat. Two Eco Action Team meetings were held, one in September and other in October. Each meeting began with a full group presentation followed by pathway group discussions. We were privileged to have Ms. Diane Russell, Katy Prairie Conservatory, Master Naturalist present on both occasions; Prairie Gardens and How to maintain and the Monarch Butterfly Migration. The highlights from our meetings included calculating our Biodiversity Index which has increased due to the continued work by the children to improve upon their butterfly and prairie gardens, and reducing our school waste by 12%.

Butterfly and Prairie Gardens: The pride and joy of the Elementary Outdoor. Our continued partnership with Texas Master Naturalist Coastal Prairie Chapter (TMN), Texas/Fort Bend County Master Gardener (FBCMG) and Morning Start Prairie Plants (MSPP) has enabled us to provide herbicide-free habitats for butterflies and other insects. The peak Monarch Butterfly migration through Houston occurs between 10th -22nd October. During this period, the students and staff were engaged in tagging the Monarch butterflies found within our gardens. This process of giving them identification tags means their individual journeys may add to the world's understanding of an extraordinary migration phenomenon. Additionally, we were able to re-home rescued Monarch caterpillars throughout the Butterfly garden. Through participation in this project we also hope to further interest in the conservation of habitats critical to the survival of the Monarch butterfly and its magnificent migrations.

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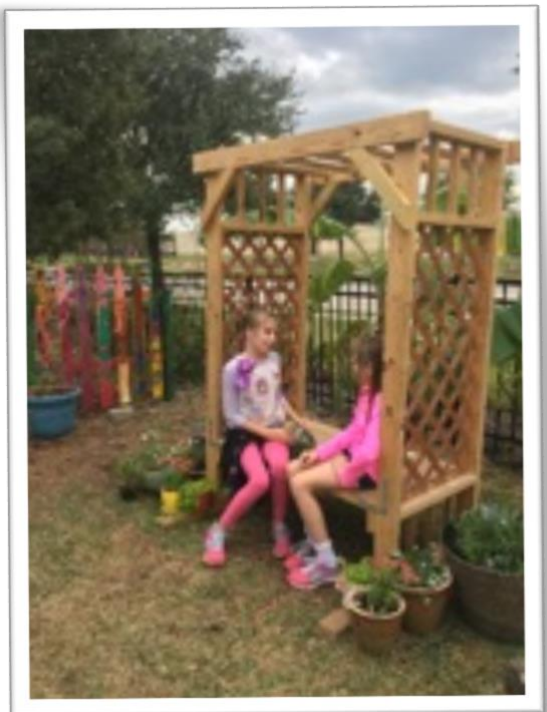
Trees for Houston: Due to the generosity of the Trees for Houston, a non-profit organization dedicated to planting, protecting and promoting trees, we have been able to expand the number of trees around the Elementary building. We planted 6 fruit trees and 4 shade/flowering trees. We can't wait to have our trees blooming!!

Community Garden Day: Held on Saturday 7th Oct and was a resounding success. We focused on weeding, preparing beds and planting for the winter. Many came out in support and we could not have done this without the support of students, teachers and parents.

AMS Peace Garden: With support from the American Montessori Society, our Peace Garden and Conflict Resolution Area represents our school's commitment to peace - within ourselves and towards others. It also serves as a critical tool for advancing peace education in our students, their families, and our community. The Peace and Conflict Resolution area is surrounded with native wildflowers, plants, and fruit trees, where students in conflict will sit under an arbor and work together to overcome their differences using tolerance, respect, and empathy. We have also incorporated our Peace fence that was designed and painted by the children. The Peace fence holds peace messages in 15 different languages that symbolizes peace and friendship, and reminds us that we are strong together and can depend on that strength.

Thank you thank you for a successful 2017 and we look forward to an exciting 2018!!! Happy holidays to all and remember:

"Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean." John Muir



Handworks Studio Semester-End Summary

For the last two months, children in the Handwork Studio has been learning some basic homesteading skills. We have made pumpkin butter to celebrate the seasonal pumpkin harvest, and baked handmade biscuits and pretzels. They have learned about the different rising agents that bakers use to make fluffy baked goods, and how those can differ in taste and smell, but have the same result when popped in the oven.

The children also learned the history of soap (which goes back to ancient times), and that soap's original purpose was for heavy duty cleaning (not suitable for skin), and how that changed with the French influence of making gentle fragrance soap for luxury bath goods. Many of the children have already made their soap, and if you get a chance, try it for yourself, as you will find their hand made soap made with goat's milk, chamomile, and lavender to be a treat.



PAV Semester-End Summary

Dear All,

Welcome to our PAV end-of-year newsletter! We have had a number of new and exciting events this year, which have all proved very successful. We would like to thank each and every one of you that have supported us with these events.

We hope that you can continue to help and support us throughout the school year!
Happy Holidays!

Warm Regards,

Your PAV

What we have accomplished:

- Harvey donation and fundraising
- Community Meetups
- Parent Coffees
- Art to Remember Keepsake Fundraiser
- Book Fair

Please note:

Late orders for 'Art to Remember' can be placed online until 1/12!

Look at the 1st Semester Anniversaries We Celebrated!

Neelo Surty	11 yrs	Admin
Norma Angulo	7 yrs	Admin
Yaneth Poo	6 yrs	Admin
Sandy Kabarwal	6 yrs	EC1
Ebtisam Agbaria	5 yrs	EC1
Glenda Arias	4 yrs	T2
Aruna Alluri	3 yrs	EC4
Sharisha Choppakatla	3 yrs	T1
Anna Rubin	2 yrs	EC3
Francisco Albornoz	1 yr	L EL
Alexandra Rohl	1 yr	L EL
Mimi Hung	1 yr	EC4

There's still time to donate to MEFI!

Contribute to Montessori
Education Fund, Inc. before 12/31
and receive documentation for
2017 tax deductions.

Have questions?
Call front office at
281-239-3400

