



MONTESSORI HOUSE
FOR CHILDREN AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Year-End Newsletter



DUAL-LANGUAGE CLASSROOMS STARTING 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR!

What does this mean for my child?

TODDLER COMMUNITY

Our toddler community is rich with vocabulary, primarily English and Spanish. Toddler aged children are in a period of development that thrives upon the acquisition of language. During this unique period of time, children develop vocabulary and comprehend the meaning of words, from any spoken language! Guides in our toddler community speak interchangeably, between English and their native language.

EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY

Children of our Early Childhood community are exposed to many different languages. The Montessori curriculum is presented in English, by the lead guide, and assistant guides primarily communicate with children in their native language, which could consist of Spanish, Hindi, Arabic, Russian, etc. (depending on classroom placement). Additionally, Spanish class begins at the Early Childhood level, occurring twice weekly, during their community group time. Spanish class is taught by a native Spanish speaker and offers an introduction to vocabulary, songs and literature.

LOWER & UPPER ELEMENTARY:

Spanish and English are the two primary languages of the Elementary Community. Lessons with the Montessori materials are presented primarily in English (with exception of the Spanish language materials), and guides converse primarily in Spanish. All guides are bilingual in English and Spanish, with Spanish being their native language. Additionally, Spanish class is included in the weekly "specials" schedule, in addition to PE, Art, Music and Nature Education.

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Letter from Head of School...

Dear Montessori House Community,

Recently, I attended a workshop on the practice of “mindfulness”, a focus on being aware. Ordinarily, as I move through life - hour by hour, day by day, week by week, I often feel consumed with deadlines and tasks and life becomes a blur. This is probably the case with our families as well. Thankfully, the practice of mindfulness offers us all a chance to freeze time, and appreciate the moment, for what it is.

I would like to take this time, to share my recollections of this past year and honor those among us who have created valuable moments that shape our community and make it better.



Our Parents...

- Amy Harkins, child psychologist, Ph.D. provided support to our community in need:
 - o “Fostering Resiliency During Crisis”
 - o Invited colleague Susan Zambrano, to speak on “Addressing the subject of violence with young children”.
 - o Organized weekly and on-going support group for victims of Harvey
- Provided love, labor, food, friendship and money to those affected by Harvey.
- Zahn family organized a Go Fund Me Page to support MHFC staff affected by Harvey
- Stacey Ripple created both school’s Yearbooks – a gift that will long be treasured

Our Parent Volunteer Association (PAV)...

- Arranged immediate and on-going relief for our Harvey affected families
- Built community through monthly family meet-ups, parent coffees, the Pancake Breakfast & International Picnic
- Led the MEFI’s Annual fundraiser (providing further financial support to MHFC families)
- Brought us books through the Annual Book Fair

Our Eco-Action Team...

- Organized 2 Community Garden Days
- Maintained our Eco School “Silver Level” through improvements in waste & consumption, bio-diversity & school yard habitats.
- Reisha Bouska and Stacey Ripple who provided adult mentorship and nature education to our elementary students

MHFC & MHES ...

- Provided free parent enrichment opportunities:
 - o “Independence - Providing a Bridge Between Home & School”
 - o Curriculum Nights (math, language, science & culture)
 - o “Turn Terrible Twos into Terrific Twos” presented by Michelle Battistone
 - o “It Ends with Me”, a discussion focused on how to prevent child sexual abuse, presented by Natasha Proseri
- Staff:
 - o Offered tremendous support to one another – making each person all the better!
 - o Humbly and respectfully guided children in realizing and reaching their unique potential
 - o Worked tirelessly to provide their very best to our future world leaders

Montessori Schools around the nation...

- Sent \$1060 gift cards & letters of encouragement to our Harvey affected families.
- Donated \$1400 in book credit (from Usborne Books) to families affected by Harvey

It is truly amazing to reflect on the amount of good generated in a single community, sitting on one little corner in Richmond, Tx. I am humbled to be surrounded by so many acts of kindness, so many caring individuals. As we close this school year together, stop and savor the power of these individual moments that have not only benefited others, but have been passed through to our children. What a fine example you are to them!

Upcoming Events:

5/10 Parent Coffee 8:30-9:30am

5/18 Moving Up Ceremony 9:30-11am

*For students completing their "final year" in EC & EL

5/25 Last Day of School: Early Release

5/25 PAV Community Meetup 5-7pm (at La Centerra, Central Green)

5/28 School CLOSED: Memorial Day

5/29 – 6/1 Staff In-Service: Full Day Students Only

6/4 Summer Session 1 Begins

7/4 School CLOSED: Independence Day

7/9 Summer Session 2 Begins

8/13 – 8/17 School CLOSED: Teacher In-Service



[Want to view the 2018 Summer Calendar? Click here »](#)

Summer Handwork Studio Classes!

Choose from:

Baking & Decorating

Jewelry Making

Woodworking

Sewing

Clay Workshop

Balloon Making

Ancient Civilizations STEAM Workshop

CLICK HERE TO PRINT
REGISTRATION FORM



Snapology Summer Camps 2018



Amusement Park Adventures | Elementary |
June 25 – 29 | 1:00PM – 4:00PM | \$165

Design your own amusement park in this super fun program! Learn how to use LEGO® bricks and other building materials to make coasters and other awesome rides. Can you design the next Disney World?

Creature Creator Robotics | Elementary |
July 30 – August 3 | 1:00PM – 4:00PM | \$165

In Snapology's Creature Creator Robotics class, your animal lover will create their own animal inspired robotic models. Students will learn about gear ratio, sensors, simple machines, and programming as they build insects, dolphins, gorillas, and much more. Your child is sure to have a wild time as they build, learn, and play.

Minimum Enrollment – 10 students

Sign-Up Now!

katy.snapology.com/schedule

Montessori House for Children

20625 Lakemont Bend Lane | Richmond, Texas 77407

Programs provided by



281-889-5470

An interactive experience you can build upon

Handworks Studio Update:

This year we continued to enjoy finger knitting and sketching whenever we had extra time to fill during the day. We learned new skills as well, including how to make soap, design and sew wallets, pencil cases and stuffed animals. Our favorite activity was baking - we made bread, pretzels and cookies all from scratch!



2018 / 2019 REFERRAL PROGRAM

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.

Montessori for Doggies!



One of our EC children wanted to treat her furry friend to a Montessori 'Celebration of Life' for her 6th birthday. How sweet! ❤️



Eco-Action Team Year-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 during the school year 2017-2018. It has been a very 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 complete a new pathway, Schoolyard Habitat. Six (6) Eco Action Team meetings have been held throughout the academic year. The first semester focused on completing the requirements for Biodiversity and Consumption & Waste and introduce Schoolyard Habitat. The second semester focused solely on Schoolyard Habitat. Each meeting agenda included group presentations followed by pathway group discussions and activities. Many of our presentations were supported by Ms. Diane Russell, Master Naturalist from the Katy Prairie Conservatory and we thank them for the continued support in their outreach and community educational activities.

Highlights:

- Increased our Biodiversity Index which has increased due to the continued work by the children to improve upon their butterfly and prairie gardens
- Reduced our school waste by 12% and continued to sustain recycling and green practices in daily activities.
- Fostered, nurtured and released nearly 100 Monarch Butterflies during the peak Monarch Butterfly migration through Houston between 10th -22nd October 2017
- Achieved Wildlife Habitat certification for elementary gardens
- Increased the diversity and quantity of insects and animals through the creation of toad and insect houses, bird houses and solitary bee homes.
- Held two successful garden days where all the gardens were maintained and improved
- Planted 6 fruit trees and 4 shade/flowering trees generously donated by the Trees for Houston
- Established our Peace Garden and Conflict Resolution Area through the American Montessori Society (AMS) Peace Garden grant

As the new school year approaches, **we are seeking volunteers** to assist in leading and/or organizing meetings and pathway group sessions. Being part on our Eco Action Team can be very rewarding and fulfilling, so take the next step. Please contact Norma Ortega at norma@mhfcschool.com or Barbara Nelson at barb@mhfcschool.com for further details.

Thank you thank you for a successful academic year 2017/2018 and we look forward to an exciting 2018/2019!!! 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

Year-End Summary from PAV:

As we close out the school year, I want to take a moment to thank all of our parents, teachers and volunteers for an amazing year. It feels like just yesterday that we began this 2017-2018 school year together!

This has been a year of changes for a few families in our community as we began our school year. I was amazed at the beautiful bonding that took place during and after Hurricane Harvey. During the Harvey relief efforts, we have seen the best of our community come together during this unprecedented and unfortunate even. Our continued unity and teamwork was, and still is, key to this recovery.

By continuing to build a strong community, we help to enrich the educational experience of our children. Our children enjoyed many activities such as: Annual Book Fair & Monthly Community Meet-ups. Some of our most enjoyable events include: Pancake Breakfast with Silhouette Artist, and the International Picnic!

Because of our community volunteer and fundraising efforts, we were able to offer an action-packed year of events. **The final numbers for the MEFI Fundraiser is a total of: \$6,850.71.** The MEFI board agreed to earmarking 50% of the proceeds to go directly to Harvey affected families who apply for tuition assistance in the 2018-19 school year

[Read full summary, here! >>>](#)



NEW: Testimony Videos!

Thank you to our contributing families!

[Mom Testimonials Part 1](#)

[Mom Testimonials Part 2](#)

[Spanish Testimonial](#)

[Co-Ed Testimonials Part 1](#)

[Co-Ed Testimonials Part 2](#)

A Summer Assignment for Parents:

(written by: Annai Violet Matric & Hr. Sec. School, Chennai -64)

- Have at least two meals together with your children. Teach them the importance and hard work of the farmers and ask them not to waste their food.
- Let them wash their own plates after every meal. Children learn the dignity of labor from such activities.
- Allow them to help you in cooking. Let them make their own vegetable and fruit salad.
- Learn 5 new words in English and list them in a notebook.
- Visit 3 neighbors. Know more about them and build rapport with them.
- Visit the grandparents and let your children bond with them. Their love and emotional support are very important for your child. Click snaps with them.
- Take them to your work spot and let your child understand that you work very hard to support the family.
- Do not miss the local festival and local market.
- Gently encourage your child to raise a kitchen garden by planting seeds. Knowledge about plants and trees are an integral part of your child's growing up.
- Share stories about your childhood and your family history.

Parent Resources:

Early Childhood Parents:

<http://www.mariamontessori.com/2011/09/25/the-three-year-commitment/>

<http://philomathmontessori.org/the-benefits-of-a-third-year-in-montessori/>

<http://www.mchkids.com/early-childhood-program-director-blog/the-importance-of-the-third-year-kindergarten>

Elementary Parents:

<https://www.leportschools.com/blog/five-differences-that-enable-montessori-elementary-students-to-thrive/>

<http://ageofmontessori.org/five-big-differences-between-traditional-and-montessori-for-the-elementary-years/>

<http://www.pebblecreekmontessori.org/elementary-exposure-advantages-of-montessori-math/>