



Achieving
Excellence
Together



Montessori School 27

Restoration
Renewal
Hope

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A Word from Principal Lourdes Cruz

Happy New Year! Wishing you a year filled with great success, happiness and plenty of good health and fortune.

Good Attendance Matters

If you recall, I shared in our Spring Newsletter some concerns over attendance. As we begin the new year, attendance continues to be a concern.

During the 2021-2022 school year, we had over 160 students absent more than 18 days. There are only 182 days per school year so any child who missed 18 days of school, missed 10% or more of school. This is considered chronically absent. While keeping students home when having Covid symptoms was the recommendation, I ask that you continue to monitor children for illness. Any child who is well however should be in school. Attendance matters!

Attendance Works has created a toolkit containing research on school attendance. In ***"Bringing Attendance Home, Engaging Parents in Preventing Chronic Absence," (July 2018, pp. 2-5)***, the impact of poor attendance is examined. While we know that a student who is not in school is missing valuable instruction, "research suggests that chronic absence predicts whether a student will finish college. The discipline and determination to get to school every day builds a habit that helps a student persist and succeed in college." While the parent of a pre-primary or primary student is not thinking about the long term effects of absenteeism on college graduation, we must recognize "the adverse impact that poor attendance can have on learning as early as preschool and the importance of building a habit of good attendance from the beginning. Researchers find that "good attendance is really a matter of providing children more and better opportunities to learn." Even more disturbing than the loss of schooling, is the impact chronic absences has on low-income students. "Starting as early as preschool, too many absences can affect academic achievement, especially for low-income students unable to make up for lost time... Early chronic absence can leave children unable to read well by the end of the 3rd grade, exacerbating the achievement gap." (Attendance Works, July 2018).

How do we improve attendance? We dream BIG for our children! Researchers find, we must "draw upon the hopes and dreams of parents for a better future for their children." (Attendance Works, July 2018, p. 5). We all want better for our children. It starts with a solid foundation in education. Teachers at Montessori 27 are awesome and ready to inspire your children to learn, do their best, be their best, and try their hardest.

With your support, and commitment to on time, daily attendance, your children will soar. Please help us provide the best educational experience possible. Your children will thank you and so will we.

CULTURALLY
RESPONSIVE
SUSTAINING
EDUCATION



This is the second year of our implementation of Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education which is grounded in a cultural view of learning and human development in which race, social class, gender, language, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, ability—are recognized and regarded as assets for teaching and learning.

- Creates a welcoming and affirming environment
- Sets high expectations and rigorous instruction
- Incorporates inclusive curriculum and assessment
- Ongoing professional learning

From the NYS Education website. For more information, please visit <http://nysed.gov/crs>

"Do not tell them how to do it. Show them how to do it and do not say a word. If you tell them, they will watch your lips move. If you show them, they will want to do it themselves."

- Maria Montessori

What is Montessori?

Montessori is a teaching philosophy named after founder, Dr. Maria Montessori (1870-1952). She was a woman ahead of her time—a scientist, physician and educator.

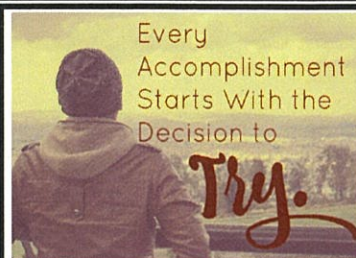
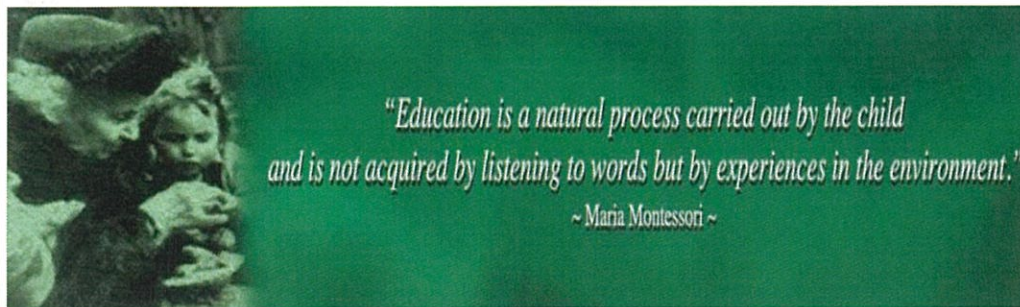
According to the National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector, the Montessori philosophy seeks to engage students in individualized, and self-paced learning. Essentials include: student choice, hands-on, multi-age groupings, a focus on personalized learning to foster a child's natural curiosity and love of learning.

Dr. Montessori believed that a goal of education should not be to fill children with facts, but rather to cultivate their own natural desires to learn. To Dr. Montessori, the learning environment is key in two ways: it allows each student to experience the excitement of learning, and second, it helps all students perfect their natural tools for learning. (The NAMTA Journal, Vol. 41, No. 2, Spring 2016, p. 95.)

What is Freedom and Responsibility in a Montessori setting?

Freedom which is defined in Oxford's Dictionary as the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint has a different meaning to Dr. Montessori. According to Jamie Rue in *"Embracing the Paradox of Freedom and Responsibility,"* Dr. Montessori believed that freedom does not mean letting everyone do as they wish. It doesn't mean that the children have no limits, and that we let chaos reign...Freedom isn't a reward used to control children's behavior...Freedom is the potential in each individual to exercise their will. Liberty is the opportunity to enact this freedom. "Perfect liberty," does not mean that there are no boundaries or expectations." (AMI, USA Journal: Spring 2019, pp. 3-6.) Any good teacher would agree with Dr. Montessori. Children need an organized class environment with structures and routines as this helps them develop freedom in their environment while learning responsibility.

Rue further explains, "Responsibility is the ability to make choices and to understand and accept the consequences of choices that were freely made...It is the ability to respond to our choices... According to Rue, "we must keep in mind that children of every age are developing skills that will lead to responsibility...Therefore, if we don't encourage children to develop freedom in the environment, it follows that responsibility will not emerge" (AMI, USA Journal: Spring 2019, pp. 3-6.)



Best Attendance Popcorn Party Winners

Month of September
Ms. Mariconda's class
73%

Month of October
Ms. Mariconda's class
64%

Month of November
Ms. Silver's Class
50%

Month of December
Ms. Perri's Class
48%

Teachers
Perfect Attendance
Months of
September-November

Ms. Mikos
Ms. Westphal
Ms. Wright
Mr. Delascio
Month of December
Ms. Westphal
Ms. Mikos
Ms. Kornfeld
Ms. Remeny
Ms. Predovan

Thank you for all you do!

A Word from Assistant Principal Amy Alvarez

12 Fun & Free Activities to do with Your Children at Home

As we all know, our children grow up so quickly. One minute they are taking their first steps or saying their first word, and before you know it they are off to school and learning how to navigate in the world without us by their side. As a mother of three, I am reminded daily of how precious time is, and how important it is to make sure that I spend time with my kids. Also, as a mother of three, I know how expensive it can be when you want to take your kids out to have a good time. Over the years, and especially after the holidays, I have learned to get very creative, on a minuscule to non-existent budget, with the types of activities I can do with my kids without breaking the bank. Below are some fun activities that I have personally done with my kids, and others that I found interesting...

1. Play dress-up and put on your own in-home fashion show.
2. Conduct a science experiment with common household items. (Visit website below for easy science experiments)
3. Make your own popsicles. (Visit website below recipe)
4. Play indoor hide & seek.
5. Make a play kit with items from around the house to enhance your child's imaginative play. (Visit website below for play kit ideas)
6. Design and go on an indoor treasure hunt.
7. Try a new cookie or cake recipe. Set up a camera or smart phone and film a cooking show!
8. Play indoor volleyball or soccer with balloons.
9. Have a family movie night.
10. Have a family music night with karaoke and/or a dance-a-thon.
11. Make paper fidget spinners. (Visit website below for instructions)
12. Make some DIY play-dough. (Visit website below for instructions)

If you are interested in learning more about any of these fun & free kid-centered activities, or if you are looking for other free & fun ideas, visit this website: indyschild.com/70-things-to-do-with-kids

I hope that you and your child find these activities as fun as my children and I did. Above all, I hope that you take advantage of this precious time, as they are young, and use it to create memories that will last you both a lifetime!

Spotlight Class

Ms. Wright's Class

In Ms. Wright's class, second grade students learned about time in i-Ready. "Everyone took such an interest we decided to make it a whole class lesson. We took a hands-on approach to telling time with hula-hoops and had a blast!" -Ms. Wright

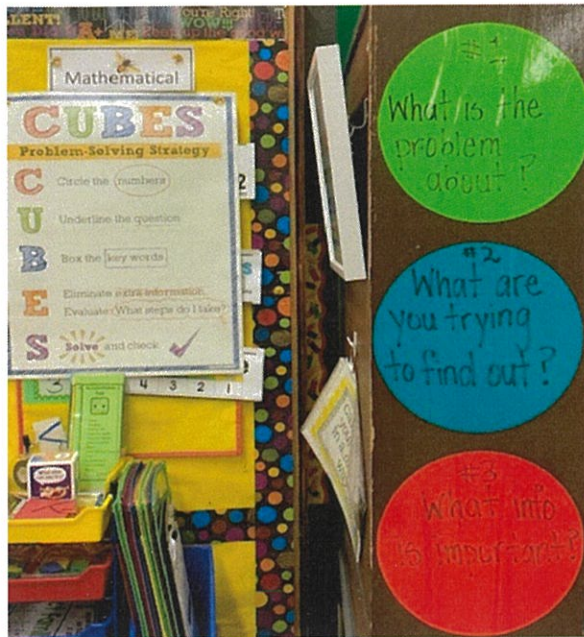


"Our care of the child should be governed, not by the desire to make him learn things, but by the endeavor always to keep burning within him that light which is called intelligence" - Maria Montessori

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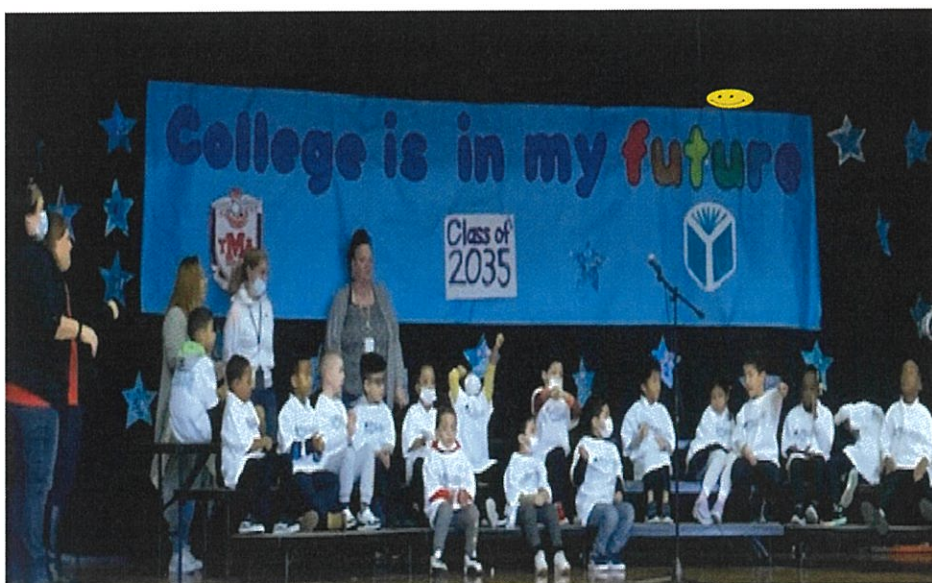
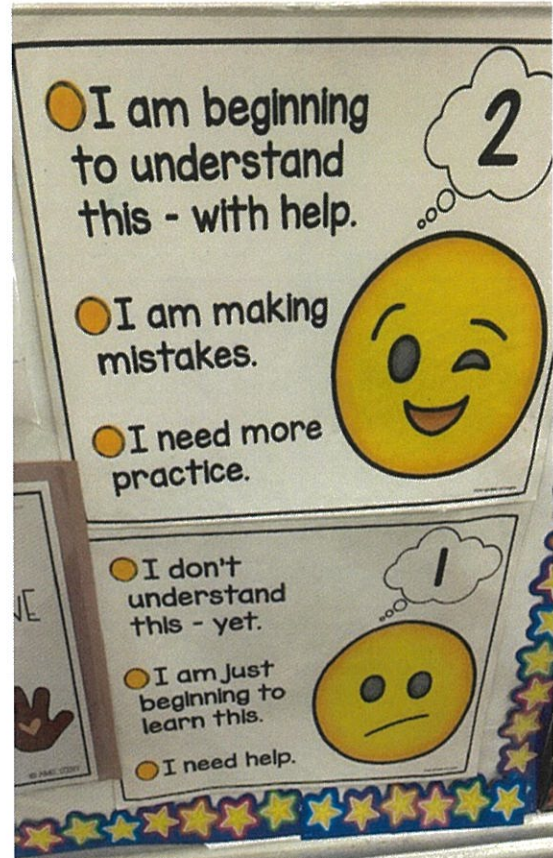
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Fall at Montessori 27



Instructional Foci for 2022-2023 in action

- ◆ Accountable Talk
- ◆ Checks for Understanding
- ◆ Critical Thinking



Fall at Montessori 27



"The essence of independence is to be able to do something for one's self. Adults work to finish a task, but the child works in order to grow, and is working to create the adult, the person that is to be. Such experience is not just play... it is work he must do in order to grow up. - Maria Montessori

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Fall Fun



"Let us resolve to stand in delight at least once in each day and look to see what we learn from the child. To stand for just a short moment is to see compassion, kindness, cooperation, selflessness, humour, diligence, courage, and love." - Maria Montessori, 1949

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Teachers Host our Multicultural Dinner

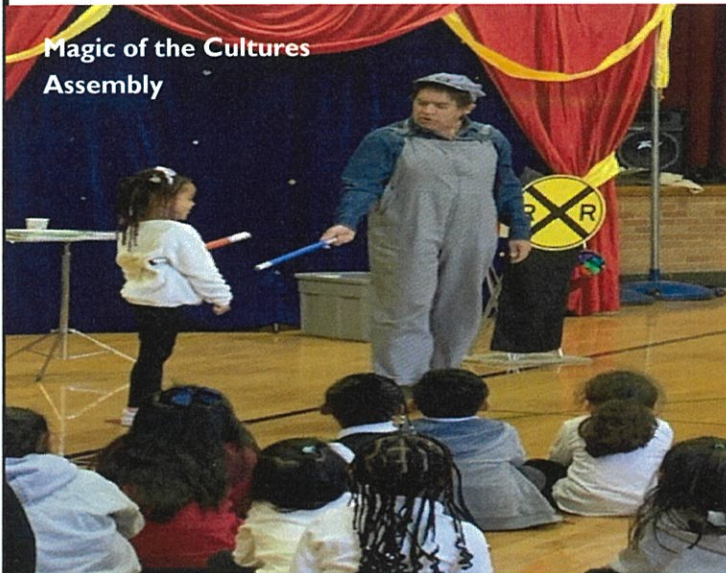


"The child who has felt a strong love for his surroundings and for all living creatures, who has discovered joy and enthusiasm in work, gives us reason to hope that humanity can develop in a new direction." - Maria Montessori

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Winter Fun



Congratulations to first grade student, and Resident Artist, Leonardo Martinez, for his artwork. It was selected as a 2022 YPS District holiday card as the Board of Trustees share his excitement. Congratulations also to Ms. Predovan for her creativity and hard work. Thank you for doing such a great job!



What's Happening at Montessori 27

Students in Ms. Kornfeld's class were all in and hands-on



Mrs. Grimaldis & Mrs. O'Sullivan's Honey Bees are exploring:

- * Environmental factors that impact animal survival vs. extinction
- * Prolific inventors of the 19th and 20th Century
- * The historical accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Casel's 5 Tenets of Social Emotional Learning

Since September 2021, we have been incorporating Casel's 5 tenets into our everyday morning announcements making each day an opportunity for personal growth.

Monday

"My Monday"

Self Awareness

Tuesday

"Try it Tuesday"

Self Management

Wednesday

"We Wednesday"

Social Awareness

Thursday

"Together Thursday"

Building Relationships

Friday

"Figure It Out Friday"
Responsible Decision Making

Ms. Remeny & Ms. Koutsaris' Pre-Primary

Mrs. Koutsaris' class is learning about winter arctic animals! We are visiting arctic regions on mystery science and let's find out to explore arctic animals' habitats and adaptations! We are completing an arctic animal research report as a culminating activity to our unit.

As we entered into the season of winter, Ms. Remeny's class compared and contrasted data to answer the question, "Would You Rather Wear Mittens or Gloves?" Both Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten engaged in descriptive writing to complete the projects "Unique as a Snowflake" and "What's Inside the Igloo?" They have also been working alongside Mrs. Koutsaris' class, exploring the school's monthly Character Traits!

This month, they created a Responsibility Tree. Together with Ms. Remeny's class, we completed a snow globe activity displaying ways to show responsibility, our character education word of the month. We read literature such as, David gets in Trouble and I Just Forgot by Mercer Mayer.



Other Happenings in Pre-Primary

On February 28th, Pre-Primary, along with Diagnostic K, will take their first class trip to the Tarrytown Music Hall to see a production of the story, "Dot!"

What's Happening at Montessori 27

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*Montessori 27 Green House and Garden Project Club
Visited the Peter Chema Senior Community Center on
December 20th to bring some cheer to our neighbors.*



"We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity"- Maria Montessori

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A Special Thanks To...

Dr. Edwin Quezada, Superintendent

Mr. Erik Wright, Assistant Superintendent Pre K-6

*Dr. Luis Rodriguez, Assistant Superintendent Special Education and
Pupil Support Services*

*Ms. Stephanie McCaskill, Executive Director Special Education and
Pupil Support Services*

Dr. Rod Rodriguez, Director of Pupil Support Services

Ms. Amy Alvarez, Assistant Principal

All Staff, Faculty and Assisting Adults at Montessori 27

& Our Incredible PTA

