



Achieving
Excellence
Together



Montessori School 27

Ms. Lourdes Cruz, Principal
Mrs. Kim O'Connell, Assistant Principal

Restoration
Renewal
Hope

Volume I, Issue I
Fall 2021



A Note from Ms. Lourdes Cruz, Principal

Solidarity During Adversity

Last year was a year filled with many changes and challenges. We went from a traditional school day to teaching hybrid to complete in person or via distance learning while at home. Teachers, students and parents had to adjust to a new way of teaching and learning due to Covid-19.

Despite all the obstacles, it was evident that teachers quickly became masters at technology platforms to deliver instruction. Parents were forced to care for their children at home and became assistant teachers, librarians and tech support specialists, all to ensure their children received a purposeful education. Together, we did it!

A Return to Normalcy

When students returned to five days of in-person instruction this September, the entire school community was elated. Walking in the corridors, you could see the contentment on the faces of students as they saw friends. You could hear the joy in teachers' voices as they welcomed their students back. Parents welcomed a return to normalcy and administrators were pleased to have everyone back. The eagerness was palpable.

Now, we continue to wish for a cafeteria at full capacity filled with children's laughter and chatter. We remain cautious of an ongoing pandemic, but we remain steadfast in our commitment to push the academic agenda forward by going back to basics.

Through Benchmark for English Language Arts, I-Ready for math, Mystery Science, and Nearpod for Social-Emotional Learning, we are working diligently in Professional Learning Communities to share best practices. Back to Basics in 2021 means finding ways to address the academic needs of students using data to guide our instruction. We do all this while making children feel safe and loved. As Maria Montessori once said: "Within the child lies the fate of the future."

**CULTURALLY
RESPONSIVE
SUSTAINING
EDUCATION**



Culturally responsive-sustaining education is grounded in a cultural view of learning and human development in which multiple expressions of diversity—race, social class, gender, language, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, ability—are recognized and regarded as assets for teaching and learning.

- Create a welcoming and affirming environment
- High expectations and rigorous instruction
- Inclusive curriculum and assessment
- Ongoing professional learning

Please see the NYS Education website for more information- <http://nysed.gov/crs>

"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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Montessori 27 PTA

Greetings to all our Montessori 27 Friends and Families!

We are proud to announce that our school has passed our PTA membership goal with 102 members!

We have been busy since September, sponsoring our fall Scholastic Book fair which put an average of two books in every students' hand! We also had our fall Picture Day and Chocolate fundraiser. Thank you to ALL the new and veteran PTA team of volunteers that get the job done. We can't do it without you.

Autumn is in the air but your PTA is not getting ready for hibernation! On November 24th, we hosted our very first Enrichment Program, SKY DOME. This is a mobile planetarium. Students learned about planets and the solar system, all while inside a giant inflated planetarium.

After Thanksgiving break, we will be having our Picture Make Up Day (12/3), followed by Pictures With Santa (12/9). The Holiday Boutique is a tradition here at Montessori 27. This year's boutique will take place the week of December 13th. Students will have the opportunity to do all their holiday shopping for family and friends.

Thank you again for all your support throughout the year. Together we can create an awesome world for our children!



Spotlight Class

Diagnostic Kindergarten

Mrs. Mosiello, Mrs. Kornfeld, and Mrs. Delgado

The Diagnostic Kindergarten program helps educators and parents address the needs of a young child's learning differences. This program provides a developmentally appropriate environment that fosters the needs of the students in a small, structured class setting. The program follows NYS Next Generation Learning Standards using modifications to accommodate the needs of the individual student. Diagnostic Kindergarten has a ratio of 12:1:1 which means 12 students, 1 teacher, and 1 aide. All Related Services (i.e. Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech) are provided during the school day based on Individualized Educational Plan recommendations.



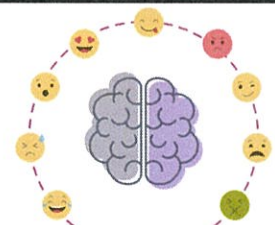
"The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn"- Maria Montessori

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What's Happening at Montessori 27

Pre-Primary

- Apples, Pumpkins, Spiders, Oh My! Pre-Primary has been very busy this season!
- After exploring the life cycle of an apple, Ms. Scardino's class conducted an experiment, "Apple Eruptions!"
- Ms. Remeny's class explored spiders, watching the Mystery Science video entitled, "What is the biggest spider in the world?" After watching the video, the students answered the question, "Are you afraid of spiders?"
- Mrs. Koutsaris' class learned about Community Helpers and shared what they learned about each one!
- On October 22nd, all of the students went Pumpkin Picking!
- On November 13th, the Kindergarten students celebrated "College is My Future," with special guest Erik Wright, Assistant Superintendent.



CASEL's 5 Core Competencies of Social Emotional Learning

Since September, we have been incorporating these competencies, making each day a day for personal growth.

Monday

"My" Monday
Self-Awareness

Tuesday

"Try it" Tuesday
Self-Management

Wednesday

"We" Wednesday
Social Awareness

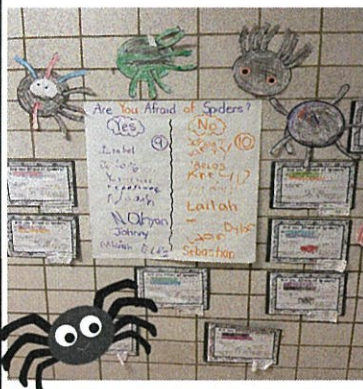
Thursday

"Together" Thursday
Building Relationships

Friday

"Figure It Out" Friday
Responsible Decision Making

Please see <https://casel.org>



What's Happening at Montessori 27

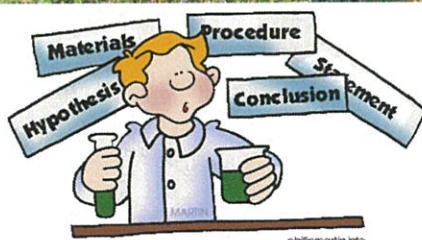
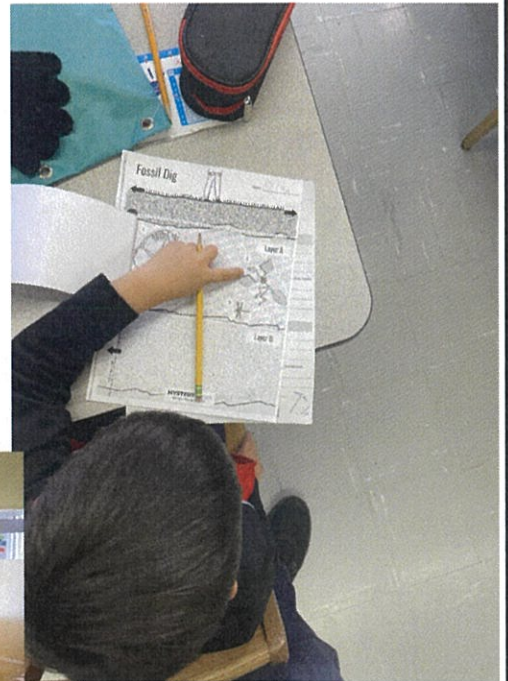
Primary

This fall season, the primary classes were all about science!

- In Mrs. Pomilla's class, students learned how to plant outside and in our school greenhouse with Ms. Lucy.
- In Mr. Adorno's class, the students engaged in the Mystery Science lesson, Animals Through Time.
- Mrs. Grimaldis conducted the Mystery Science lesson, Gravity and Friction, and created a Gobble Wobbler.



SCIENCE
RULES



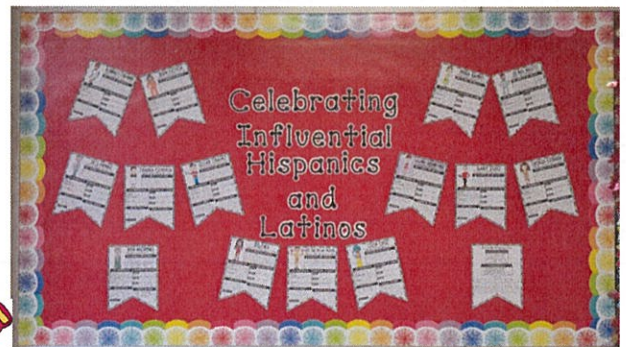
*"The greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say,
"The children are now working as if I did not exist""
- Maria Montessori*

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What's Happening at Montessori 27

Intermediate

- This season, the intermediate team focused on research-based projects and honoring other cultures.
- Students learned about Hispanic Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Month.
- Mrs. Perri's class conducted a great experiment called "Why Do Cranberries Float?"
- Mrs. Vazquez's class researched Native American tribes.
- Ms. Westphal's class researched famous Hispanic men and women.
- Mrs. Wright's class engaged in creative writing— "Why You Shouldn't Eat Turkey on Thanksgiving."



"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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Fall Fun



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A Special Thanks

Dr. Edwin Quezada, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Erik Wright, Assistant Superintendent, PreK-5/6

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

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

Mr. Jack Curanovic, Director of Placement and Compliance

Ms. Kim O'Connell, Assistant Principal

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for creating this newsletter*

