



Achieving
Excellence
Together



Montessori School 27

Lourdes Cruz, Principal
Amy Alvarez, Asst. Principal



Volume 3, Issue 1
Page 1

A Word from Principal Lourdes Cruz

As we ring in an awesome 2024, I want to again discuss the importance of good attendance. Each week I receive the attendance data for our school. Sadly, there are approximately 58 students still exhibiting excessive absences. There are 180 school days. Any student who is absent more than 18 days is considered chronically absent. As parents, we want to give our children the best opportunities for success. Timely attendance makes a difference. You may not notice the effects poor attendance has on your child today, but please know that studies show excessive absences have deleterious effects on children.

Attendanceworks.org has been providing districts, educators and families important information on why good attendance matters. They point out:

- ♦ Regular attendance allows children to benefit from participating in quality early education. Research shows that students who miss too many days of preschool have weaker literacy and numeracy skills entering kindergarten. This is especially true for children from families living in poverty, who gain the most when they attend but lose out more when they are absent.
- ♦ A habit of attendance IS a school readiness skill. Along with social-emotional and readiness skills, consistent on-time attendance is a habit that lasts. Children who are chronically absent in preschool are far more likely to be chronically absent in later grades. (From www.attendanceworks.org, updated 2022).

In a study conducted by the Center for School and Student Progress, Researchers, Nate Jensen and Gregory King found:

- ♦ The impact of absences on achievement carries forward year after year. At every grade level, students who were chronically absent last year start the following year further behind their peers. For example, in our research, chronically absent 1st grade students in 2015-2016 started the following year at an achievement level 32 percentile points below those 1st grade students who had no absences in the prior year. This gap increased to 41 percentile points by the end of the year.
- ♦ Absences become “chronic” earlier than we think. Chronic absenteeism is generally defined as missing 10% of school (or more). However, our preliminary research suggests that the impact from absences occurs much earlier than when students officially meet this “chronically absent” definition. Policies should start to target students who miss 5-9% of days of school to prevent these students from falling behind their peers. (From NWEA, Achievement and Absenteeism, 2019).

To motivate students, this year we will continue the initiative we started last year. To promote good attendance, each month the class with the best attendance earns a popcorn/juice party. Students also receive an award highlighting their attendance. The popcorn party winning class is announced over the speaker system. Students eagerly await the monthly winner(s).

CULTURALLY
RESPONSIVE
SUSTAINING
EDUCATION



This is the third 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."

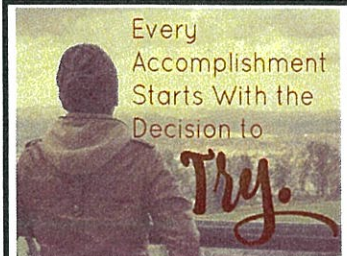
- Maria Montessori

Fall/Winter Happenings at Montessori 27...

In the month of December students engaged in creating and presenting Culture Boxes. Students were eager to share with classmates items of clothing, souvenirs, flags and other personal items that represent their culture and family heritage. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about diversity within their classrooms, as well as to celebrate differences and similarities.



Mrs. Vazquez's intermediate class had their annual Gingerbread House Party on December 22nd. Students came dressed in their cozy pajamas and built gingerbread houses with their friends. They also had a fun-filled afternoon participating in a Classroom Karaoke Contest.



Best Attendance Popcorn Party Winners October

Mr. Moscone's class

78%

November

Mr. Adorno's class

65%

December

Ms. Wright's Class

65%

Teachers

Perfect Attendance

October

Ms. Delgado

Mr. Dilascio

Ms. Mikos

Mr. Moscone

Ms. Mosiello

Ms. Pezzulo

Ms. Predovan

Ms. Westphal

Nurse Wood

Assisting Adults

Mr. Barbieri

Ms. Bravo

Ms. Espinal

Ms. Hack

Ms. Sosa

Ms. Wasif

Ms. Williams

Continues on page 6

Thank you for all you do!

*"Education is a natural process carried out by the child
and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment."*

~ Maria Montessori ~

"Our aim is not merely to make the child understand, and still less to force him to memorize, but so to touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his innermost core." -Maria Montessori

Volume 3, Issue 1

Page 3

How are we doing? Please scan the QR code and let us know.



Our Instructional Foci for 2023-2024 continues...

- ◆ **Accountable Talk**-Students share their thinking and compare ideas with others
- ◆ **Student Engagement**-Teacher actively engages and listens to students as they engage in thoughtful discussions
- ◆ **Checks for Understanding**-Students have an understanding of the teacher's formative assessments used to check for understanding at multiple points throughout a lesson
- ◆ **Critical Thinking**-Students engage in high level tasks that require they ask and answer questions that promote higher order thinking skills such as: evaluation, synthesis, analysis, application, comprehension

Students heard presentations on Bullying and keeping children safe through Good Touches/Bad Touches. Thank you Ms. Alvarez, Mr. Torres and Ms. Soltani



My child is struggling. What can I do?

As educators, teachers strive to instill in students knowledge, skills and ideally, a love of learning; But, what happens when children have academic difficulties or exhibit concerning behaviors in the classroom? Teachers will share with parents what they are seeing academically, behaviorally, socially and emotionally.



They report on what is happening in the classroom during the school day. They also have extensive knowledge on typical age-appropriate behavior. If your child's teacher is expressing concern, please work together by requesting a Pupil Support Team meeting to discuss interventions to support your child's needs. To learn more about typical childhood milestones, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>

In the Spotlight

Art Students in Ms. Predovan's Class

Pre-primary students created their self-portrait as they envision themselves at graduation for the **College is Our Future** presentation



In the Spotlight

Music Students in Ms. Davis' Class



Instrumental violin students during our evening Winter Holiday Concert



Primary and Intermediate instrumental violin students are engaged in learning notes and playing strings. Practice makes perfect!



Montessori 27 Gardening Club and Instrumental Music students give back to the community. Here they are visiting the Peter Chema Senior Community Center. Awesome job! Thank you, Ms. Lucy, Ms. Kerber and Ms. Davis.

"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

Volume 3, Issue 1
Page 6

A Special Thanks To...

Dr. Luis Rodriguez, Interim Superintendent

Mr. Erik Wright, Assistant Superintendent Pre K-6

*Dr. 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

Board of Education Members

President Reverend Steve Lopez

Vice President Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vechio

Gail Burns

Kevin Cacace

Dr. John Castanaro

Sheila Greenwald

Amjed I. Kuri

Rosemarie P. Linton

Lawrence R. Sykes



Teachers

Perfect Attendance

November

Ms. Chasin

Ms. Mikos

Ms. Grimaldis

Ms. Pezzulo

Ms. Perri

Ms. Vazquez

Ms. Westphal

Nurse Wood

Assisting Adults

Mr. Barbieri

Ms. Espinal

Ms. Marji

Ms. Williams

December

Mr. DiLascio

Ms. Kornfeld

Ms. Mariconda

Ms. Mikos

Ms. Pezzulo

Ms. Predovan

Ms. Remeny

Ms. Westphal

Nurse Wood

Assisting Adults

Ms. Andujar

Mr. Barbieri

Ms. Duran

Ms. Durmeshi

Ms. Espinal

Ms. Mejia

Ms. O'Sullivan

Ms. Wasif

Ms. Williams