

MONTESSORI PATHWAYS' NEWS

The First Week of School (August 23— August 31,2018)



Welcome to Montessori Pathways—
your child's home away from home!

Notes from Ms. Alena

(Head of School)

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! We are excited to have you as a part of our Montessori Pathways family!

It seems that not too long ago we were “traveling from space to ocean”, discovering science, music, and literature, enjoying swimming, playing basketball, field hockey and the other sports at our Summer Camp, and suddenly the new school year is here!

Montessori Pathways Team —

our experienced and enthusiastic teachers who will be helping your children become strong and independent learners, as well as responsible, kind, and helpful individuals:

- ◆ **Ms. Alena** – Director of Montessori Pathways School
- ◆ **Ms. Bridget**– Elementary I-II Teacher in the North Room.
- ◆ **Ms. Christine** – Primary Teacher in the East Room
- ◆ **Ms. Carole** – Primary Teacher in the East Room; Preschool Extended Day Teacher.
- ◆ **Ms. Andrea** – Primary Teacher in the South Room; Pre-K Extended Day Teacher.
- ◆ **Ms. Urana**– Primary Assistant Teacher in the South Room.
- ◆ **Ms. Karen** – Kindergarten Extended Day Teacher.
- ◆ **Ms. Donna** – Morning Arrival, Late Afternoon Teacher, Elementary Gym Teacher
- ◆ **Ms. Jennifer L.** – Kindergarten and Elementary Art Teacher.
- ◆ **Ms. Cynara** – Primary (Early Childhood) Music Teacher.
- ◆ **Ms. Ann** — Elementary Music Teacher
- ◆ **Ms. Jennifer R.** —Late Afternoon Teacher; Substitute Teacher



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

- ◆ **Monday— 3:00—3:50pm—Taekwondo**
- ◆ **Tuesday – 3:15 – 3:55pm – Yoga**
- ◆ **Wednesday – 3:00 – 4:00pm – SNAPology**
- ◆ **Thursday – 3:00 – 3:45pm – Dance**
- ◆ **Friday—3:00—3:45pm—Broadway Break Thru**

And so we discovered that education is not something which the teacher does, but that it is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being. It is not acquired by listening to words, but in virtue of experiences in which the child acts on his environment.

The teacher's task is not to talk, but to prepare and arrange a series of motives for cultural activity in a special environment made for the child.

~ Maria Montessori,
The Absorbent Mind

Each month, we will be sending out a newsletter to let you know about everything that has happened at school, as well as to announce upcoming school events. We understand the parents' interest and curiosity about their child(ren)'s first few days at school, so we have prepared a short newsletter for the first week.

For most of our students, the beginning of the new school year was smooth and organized. Some of the children are returning students and are a great help for their new friends.

Many of our new students had also attended our summer camp, which helped them build a strong relationship with the school, as well as learn the rules and procedures of the classrooms.

I would like to thank the teachers, who spent a lot of time, energy, and creativity in preparing the classrooms and new materials for our students.

Our newsletters will contain information from each individual classroom, but we suggest that you take the time to read all of it. Oftentimes the teachers include helpful information, interesting recipes, and other tips to be used at home, as well as a greater picture of what is happening around the school. These newsletters also serve as a starting point for conversations about school with your child.

Have a wonderful Labor Day!

Ms. Alena

Coming School Events



Montessori Pathways

In September

- ◆ **September 3 (M) - No School in observance of Labor Day.**
- ◆ **September 7 (F) at 5:30—6:30pm - Ice Cream Social (Rain Day—September 14)**
- ◆ **September 14 at 10:30am—Fire Drill**
- ◆
- ◆ **September 21 (F) at 11 a.m.,** children from Pathways School will sing "*Light a Candle for Peace*" in celebration of the **United Nation's Annual International Day of Peace.**

Beginning in New Zealand and finishing in the Hawaiian Islands, the song "Light a Candle for Peace" will be sung continuously for 24 hours by Montessori school children around the world.

Our school is excited about joining the many other Montessori schools to "Sing Peace around the World". It is a chance to connect our regular lessons of encouraging the children to treat each other with respect and dignity. To show compassion, patience, and kindness to others are values nurtured in the Montessori environment as the children work together each day for a peaceful classroom. In the words of Maria Montessori, "*The child is both the hope and promise for mankind.*"



INTERNATIONAL
PEACE DAY

- ◆ **September 26 (W) - Mums Sale School Fundraiser.**
This year, the raised money will go toward to East Room flooring.
- ◆ **September 28 (F) - Elementary Parent / Teacher Conference Day (North Room)**
 - * *No School for School Day Elementary students*
 - * *Child Care is provided for Extended Day (7:45am — 4:15pm) and All Day (6:45am-6:00pm) Students.*

As always, if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, feel free to contact us via e-mail at

montpathways@hotmail.com or call us at 815-459-6727

NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASS



Ms. Bridget

Greeting from Elementary!

This past week has been a week of reviewing academics and renewing friendships. I have enjoyed my time getting to know the students, meeting with them, reviewing concepts and giving them lessons. I love their engagement with choosing their own work as well as their effort to try hard.



We have begun the year with the Five Great Lessons of Maria Montessori: The Coming of the Universe, The Coming of Life, The Coming of Humans, The History of Language and The History of Numbers. The students have been enthralled by the stories, pictures, demonstrations and knowledge of all of them. They have begun to incorporate the concepts heard in these stories into other learning. It is exciting to watch the spark of a great story spill over to excitement of other learning opportunities. Many of their choice works were sparked by observations of the lessons.



I have also introduced mythology to them. Many students have become quite fond of some of the Greek heroes and monsters. I read first a story of Pegasus and today I shared the legendary character, King Arthur. In the next few weeks, I will share Robin Hood, Gilgamesh, Beowulf, the Arabian Nights and Aesop's Fables.



I will spend the next few weeks accessing the students in reading, spelling, writing and math skills. We will begin to delve into the cultural arts- history and geography as well as the sciences. I am eager to see where their passions will take them in their learning.



NEWS FROM THE EXTENDED DAY KINDERGARTEN CLASS



Ms. Karen

Welcome to both the kindergarten children and their families, for surely this will be a shared experience. The children have been delighted to see old friends and get to know new friends. And, of course, that included learning the names of all their new friends.

Time flies by. It has only been a few days and yet much has been accomplished.



Thursday and Friday of last week, we focused on skill lessons: gluing and precise cutting. While that may sound simple, the children need to organize the many materials and develop the specific skills so that the materials themselves do not become an impediment to carrying out other activities.

For example, to do a simple cutting and gluing, they need: a glue container, a paper towel, scissors, materials for cutting, the background paper on which to glue and a place to put the scraps made from cutting.

Organization of materials will enable them to successfully do more and more complex work liked making a map. When we work on a skill, usually we incorporate geometric shapes in one way or another and the vocabulary to match. So far, that has included rectangle, trapezoid, triangle and quadrilateral. Following the activity, the children return the materials to their proper place as an act of grace and courtesy for the next person who would like to do the activity.



Also, to enable the children to work independently, they needed to learn the location all the supplies because some children come from the East room, and some children are

new to the school. Of course the frequently used materials such as pencils, colored pencils, scissors, rulers, glue, clean up tray, assorted paper, rugs, table mats, a recycle bin, and a wastebasket, remain in their same place in the environment.



The fundamental elements do not change location so the children learn to feel at home, comfortable, and independent.

So, we are on our way. In one week, the children have already accomplished so much.

In our weeks to come, we will continue our journey of exploration and learning.

I am looking forward to working together with the Kindergarten children and their families.



NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ROOM



Ms. Andrea, Ms. Urana

What an incredible start to the 2018 school year! It has been so exciting welcoming all of our new friends as well as seeing how much our returning friends have grown over the summer.

The beginning of each new school year always begins with getting to know each other and building a strong and kind community of friends. At the beginning of each new school year, we always like to begin our day outside on the playground. This is the best way for the new children to get to know their classmates in a setting that is more fun and less pressure than the classroom might initially feel. It's also a helpful tool for the teachers, because it gives us many opportunities to observe the children in a social setting. We are clearly able to spot those children that may need some extra help in making a new friend or joining a group of playing children.



This is also a great way for the new children to explore the playground and all it has to offer. During these first days, the teachers also lead group activities like *Simon Says*, *Ring around the Rosie*, *Follow the Leader*, *London Bridge*, *Duck-Duck-Goose*, etc. to give all the children an opportunity to play as part of a group and to help encourage new friendships.



Once we enter the classroom for the day, we begin with a whole group morning meeting. This gives us a chance to sing some name-game songs, and to review some of our classroom rules.

It is also during this morning meeting that we present several of our necessary

lessons on those things that the children will need for their morning work cycle. Some of these presentations that we have covered so far are: how to carry a rug, unroll a rug, re-roll a work rug, how to push in a chair, where to wash hands, how to serve yourself snack, how to carry a tray or work, how to put work back on the shelf, what to do if you need help, how to hang up a jacket on a hanger, and many more elements that are part of the daily goings on in the classroom.



For some of the children this is brand new information, and for the rest it is a good review. We also work on grace and courtesy and role-model how to: ask another child if you can work with them, how to say no in a kind way, what to do if you need help, how you might help another child, etc. After the presentations are finished for that morning, the children are invited to choose an activity to work on. This is also when we are able to give small group presentations of the Montessori works.



We have such amazing children in our class this year. Already we have seen so many acts of kindness as well as leadership skills. We are excited for what the months ahead will bring in the South Room.

NEWS FROM THE PRE-K EXTENDED DAY

Ms. Andrea



Our Pre-kindergarten friends are the children who are not yet kindergarteners and are no longer nappers. After lunch and playground time, these children go to the South classroom and continue their work cycle with an extended enrichment period.



So far they have been doing a lot of exploring of the environment. We also have been doing a lot of group activities so that the children from both classrooms get to know each other better. I have a lot of fun lessons planned for the Pre-K group and am looking forward to the school year with them.

This is a great opportunity for these older children to observe the kindergarteners and their advanced work, as well as have the chance to navigate and work in the classroom as the "older" children.



This is a highly productive time of day, and all the children are very busy working during this time. It also seems to give them a sense of pride that they are the "big kids" and adds to their growing maturity.



NEWS FROM THE EAST ROOM

Ms. Christine, Ms. Carole



Welcome back to our returning students and welcome to our new classmates! We have had a very exciting and busy week meeting and getting to know each other. Everyone is busy and enthusiastic about learning new activities. Your children are eager to learn and adjusting nicely-the classroom is quiet and calm.

We start our morning outdoors which is great for free play and the opportunity to meet others.



We are settling into a routine of changing our shoes, hanging up jackets and becoming a group on the line for presentations.

As we are getting to know your child, we are assessing their individual skills and observing their interests.

Our returning students are wonderful helpers to the new classmates - this is truly Montessori and so sweet to observe!



Communication is so very important to us, so please let us know if you need anything or want to share information!



We have given many presentations about where the bathroom is, washing hands, eating snack, setting lunch tables, how to organize work and make good choices in our words and in our work.

We are so happy you are here and want you to feel comfortable and know that we are invested in making your child happy and confident in their choices.



NEWS FROM THE LATE AFTERNOON CLASS

Ms. Donna



We have had a busy seven days of school. I can't believe how fast August came to an end. Everyone seems to know everyone's name and enjoy working with each other.

We begin to clean up our works around 4:30. When we are cleaned up, we get ready to go outside. Scoops, T-ball and basketball have been enjoyed by many.

Late Afternoon Activities this month:

- ◆ We read a book about colors and shapes. Each child picked a color and then found an object in the classroom that matched their color.
- ◆ We played the *Little Mouse, Little Mouse* game. One child hid the mouse under one of our many colored felt houses. While the mouse was being placed under a house, the rest of us had to keep our eyes closed so we didn't see where the mouse was being put. Then turns were taken as each child had a turn guessing where the mouse was hiding. If they found the mouse they were the next person to hide the mouse.



- ◆ We read a big book called "There Were Cats". It was a story about a witch who needed to pick a cat.
- ◆ Another book called "There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly". As we were reading the book each child would put their animal or object into the ziplock bag which was the Old lady's stomach. We are now learning to sing the song.
- ◆ A game called "Little Bug, Little Bug Hiding under the Little Rug". One child is chosen to hide under the rug, another child is the IT who will try to guess who is hiding under the rug and the rest of the children sing the "Little Bug" song. *"Little Bug, Little Bug hiding under the Little Rug. Which one could it be?"*

At 4:00 we can pick from works on the shelves in the classroom or choose afternoon work. Painting at the easel, big building blocks, cars and car town rug, stuffed animals, drawing, board games, dinosaurs, Mr. Potato head, puzzles, cards, etc.



AUGUST PHOTO GALLERY

