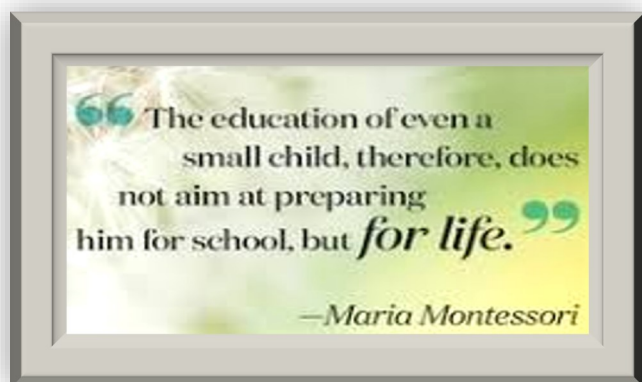


# MONTESSORI PATHWAYS' NEWS

## September



### Notes from Ms. Alena (Head of School)

Thank you for choosing to be a part of the Montessori Pathways School community. You're all Montessori parents now. And your children aren't the only ones who will be practicing their patience. You'll spend a significant amount of your time now waiting – waiting for your child to dress themselves, undress themselves, clean up after themselves. You'll fight the urge to feed them, dress them, speak for them, or correct them. You'll master the art of allowing your children to do for themselves, to learn from mistakes, and self-correct, to learn how they learn best. You'll survive the wait, the backwards clothes or shoes on the wrong feet, and the natural consequences, that at times inconvenience you the most. With the support of Montessori Pathways teachers, you'll master Montessori parenting.

In choosing to send your child to Montessori Pathways, you've truly given them a gift. A Montessori education at Pathways will offer your child independence, confidence, concentration, and persistence. Learning will bring them joy as they experience hands-on activities, collaboration, and leadership. They'll develop life skills, strategies and practices that will serve them well into the future. Skills that will lead them to be problem solvers, independent thinkers, caregivers, peacemakers, creators, innovators, and world changers. The investment you make now will not only support your child academically, but also socially and emotionally.

At Montessori Pathways, we strive to develop the whole child focusing on far more than the curriculum. This focus results in greater self-awareness, self-confidence and work ethic, a strong ability to adapt to change and problem solve and a desire to lead, teach and collaborate with others – critical skills that will support their future success, regardless of their path.

I am incredibly proud of our school and our community. By finding inspiration from those that led this school before us, while also looking to the future to prepare our students for what's to come, we've ensured our students will continue to receive an authentic Montessori education while adapting to the 21st century. We know you have many options for school choice in the area and I am grateful you've chosen to be a part of the Montessori Pathways School community. It truly is a very special community and an exceptional school.



## Back-to-School Picnic

*We enjoyed meeting old and new friends and spending a wonderful time together at our annual Back-to-School Picnic. The children had an amazing opportunity to enjoy nature and play games together while the parents had a chance to meet each other and talk to the teachers*







## International Peace Day Celebration



Once again, Montessori Pathways School was joining with people worldwide to celebrate the International Day of Peace on September 20th.



Montessori education, at its core, incorporates peace education across all areas of the curriculum. From the very beginning of her research and educational practice, Dr. Montessori sought ways to educate the 'whole child'. Every aspect of Montessori's work was geared toward helping children in order to help the world because she believed that children were the 'promise of the future.' Most of us would agree with that sentiment today, and thankfully, we have Dr. Montessori's guidance and time-honored traditions to know how we can work best with children to facilitate a more peaceful world.



And so, we celebrated both the International Day of Peace as well as the values of Montessori education this September. We have been talking about what peace in our world looks like, what peace means for everyone, and what each of us can do to be peaceful and create a more harmonious world.

We began our Peace Celebration with a **"Light a Candle for Peace" song** that was continuously sung for 24 hours by Montessori Schools' children around the world beginning in New Zealand and finishing in the Hawaiian Islands.

Then our students decorated Peace Trees in front of our school



## ~Hardy Mums Sale Fundraiser~

On September 24, despite the light rain, we spent another great time outside with our Elementary kids in the morning while they were unloading a huge truck filled with 227 beautiful mum plants that our families ordered in support of our school.

The kids were so organized, demonstrating simply amazing teamwork, so it took only about 20 minutes to "create" a beautiful garden next to our school.



One of the best parts of the day was seeing so many parents with their kids, who were helping to choose the color of the mums and load the ordered plants into their cars.

The kids are very eager to be a part of school events because they bring to the kids the important feeling of community.

**We would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Fall Mums Sale Fundraiser and those who included their surrounding community to help our school to raise a fund. We were able to collect \$2,133.00 and already used most of this fund to renew and update Practical Life areas in each classroom. More new things will come.**



**Thank you, Countryside Garden Center for providing such beautiful mums for our school's fundraiser every year!**

## COMING SCHOOL'S EVENTS

### in October

- ◆ **October 9 (W)** – Pre-K, K, and Elementary trip to Goebbert's Farm Pingree grove (afternoon trip)
- ◆ **October 10 (Th)** – Montessori Educational Night: "Help Me to Do It Myself"- workshop for primary parents
- ◆ **October 11 (F)** – Primary trip to Royal Oak Farm Orchard (morning trip)
- ◆ **October 14 (M)** – No School (Indigenous People's Day; former Columbus Day)
- ◆ **October 16 (W) at 8:00—11:00am** – Picture Day.
- ◆ **October 17 (Th) at 5:30pm** – Elementary Parent Curriculum Night.

Current **Kindergarten parents** are also invited to attend and learn about our elementary program to aid in making their decision in the future. Please RSVP by October 2nd.

- ◆ **October 25 (F) - Primary Parent / Teacher Conference Day (East and South Rooms; in-person)**
  - \* **No School** for all Primary students **on Conference Day, October 25.**
  - \* The link to schedule your 15-min conference with your teachers will be sent to you on October 1st.
- ◆ **October 31 (Th)** – Costume Halloween Party at Montessori Pathways

To learn more about our school's life and support our school

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## CELEBRATING HALLOWEEN AT MONTESSORI PATHWAYS

The children are invited to come to school dressed in a Halloween costume on October 31st. Each classroom will have a simple celebration which will allow time for each child to show off their costume and tell a little bit about who or what their costume represents. Afterward, each class will participate in Halloween activities and have a holiday snack.

If this day is not your child's day of attendance, you are welcome to bring your child for morning celebration at 9:30am and pick up your child right after celebration, at 11:45am.

Parents will receive a detailed email from their teachers about Halloween celebration in each class and link to sign up for volunteering opportunity soon.

### Costume Guidelines:

We highly encourage you to choose an age-appropriate costume with your child. As a Montessori school, we aim to operate within our philosophy of providing the children with real experiences that are beautiful and natural and encourage you to choose a costume that is based upon a person, thing or animal.

Some costume ideas include animals, community helpers, athletes and storybook characters. The most important feature of your child's costume should be comfort. Please make sure they can still independently use the bathroom and can sit and move with ease.

Please note the following guidelines for costumes:

- ~ No scary or offensive costumes
- ~ No mask or headwear that covers full face
- ~ No weapons or "fighting" props (swords, light sabers, pistols, knives, etc.)
- ~ Please do not send any costume accessories that may be lost or damaged.





## NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASS



### Ms. Bridget, Ms. Carole

Normalization in a Montessori classroom is the moment when a teacher can look around and say, "They are doing it by themselves!" Normalization is when students are autonomous.



The child can choose a task, accomplish the task independently and move about the class with grace and courtesy. Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi called this state-flow. It is at this time of the year that it is seen. Procedures are fluid. Reminders are less.



We are getting there as our class of 20 hums like a hive. An important part is to keep a pulse on the social emotional scale of every child. The outdoor environment has provided the perfect venue for the students to practice teamwork, strategies, planning, goals and friendships. Being an observer is a key skill for every Montessori teacher.



We have explored our universe and are now drifting closer to home, our Earth: discovering the difference between a tap root and fibrous root, learning the job of the root.



We are reading in groups and independently, writing with buddies or alone and seeing new ways to try math. Students eagerly await the next read aloud, next lesson, always I hear, "What is next?"



As the time, temperatures and darkness changes around us, we are finding better practices to do our best work. Sometimes this is with friends. Sometimes alone.



Organizing self through work plans and logs helps students feel successful and calm.



As we continue into October, we will build on these practices so that we can help and teach others as well as gather as much new knowledge for ourselves as possible.





# ELEMENTARY CLASS PHOTO GALLERY





## NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ROOM

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Urana



We have officially made it through the first month of the school year and it was amazing. The children settled into routines and safety rules. Keeping routines the same is key to making the children feel comfortable and safe at school. A comfortable child is a happy child and valued part of our community. Our new students are now reminding older children to walk, walk around rugs or use inside voices! They picked everything up quite quickly. Kudos to our wonderful group.

The most important presentations of the month were in Practical Life or everyday living skills. These exercises promote independence, build confidence, and concentration. These are the skills needed as a foundation of the Montessori classroom. Without control of movements, fine motor skills, concentration, stamina and sequential activities the children cannot move on to more advanced materials. We encourage you to incorporate these activities or "works" into your home environment as well.

We introduced banana slicing. It is a wonderful activity for so many reasons. It has multiple steps to build concentration and independence skills, it is also always fun to share with friends. The child preparing the banana is first tasked with washing hands and gathering the banana, tray with a cutting board and toothpicks. The plate and knife must be retrieved from the cabinet. The banana is peeled, sliced, and each slice is arranged on the plate and a toothpick is inserted in each slice. The "chef" then becomes a server and asks each child if they would like a banana. This brought a lesson on how to respond, "Yes please, or no thank you". Adding to our lessons of Grace and Courtesy. As well as a lesson on waiting to be asked rather than rushing the server as if it is a football game! When all the bananas are served, the child then washes dishes and replenishes the tray with a new cutting board before returning it to the shelf clean and ready for the next child.



For lunch each day the children set the tables with cloths, candles, flowers, cutlery, glasses and cloth napkins. The children pour water into each glass for lunch. We eat our lunch as a community with one large 6-person table and smaller tables for 2 -4 children. As we gather and prepare for our meal, we all sing the community song "Look around and you will see". The children are called by name or table to be served a bit of each part of the lunch. We talk about the food groups and how each group serves a function for our bodies. Each child is encouraged to taste one bite of everything. We discuss how taste buds change and even if you did not like something the last time you tried it, you may in fact like it today! The children may have seconds after they have eaten all the food on their plate, theoretically. We do offer seconds at the end to children who have at least tried all the parts, but don't tell. Each child then

waits patiently to be called to clean up. They wash the cutlery, glasses and plates after each meal.

Children are also discovering how to care for their classroom with Practical Life materials. These works include Table Scrubbing, Plant Care, Snack Preparation for the class, Shelf Cleaning, Window Washing, Sweeping, Flower Arranging and Polishing (naming just a few). Indirectly, these materials help develop coordination, concentration, independence and a sense of order. Not to mention the lovely smell of the soap and the many bubbles while scrubbing, the amount of dust that is found on the cloth while cleaning the shelf, the tiniest speck of dirt found on the window or finding the "baby" leaf on a plant while caring for it. We have observed a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction while working on their chosen material. These moments are exactly why Practical Life is so very important



September held a focus on apples, community and peace. We explored parts of an apple, the Life cycle of an apple and everyone's favorite by far, apple tasting. The kindergarten and pre-k children each picked an apple variety, cut them and presented their apple to the class. Holding a picture of the apple, saying its name and selling its flavor profile sweet or tart and its texture soft or crunchy. We tried Granny Smith, Jazz, Honey Crisp, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Gala and Pink Lady. The winners were Jazz, Golden Delicious and Honey Crisp. Most remembered the names of their favorites, but each child could remember something about their favorite variety. Thank you to the families who donated apples to make this experience so memorable.



Preparing for Peace Day is a great way to start a cohesive school year. We read "Our Peaceful Classroom" by Eileen Wolf, and discussed what peace means to each of us. We discussed the little things that are peaceful such as a smile or hug from a friend and sang "Light a Candle for Peace" by Shelley Murley and "I have Peace in my Fingers" by Susan Salidor and "We are Friends". Our all-school Peace Day Celebration was a huge hit!

What a wonderful month to truly become a cooperative community! Please attend our Parent Informational meeting October 10th at 5:30pm to learn more about how Practical Life Skills foster your child's growth and development. We look forward to seeing you there.



## SOUTH ROOM PHOTO GALLERY





## NEWS FROM THE EAST ROOM

### Ms. Masha, Ms. Laxmi



Can you believe September is already over? The East Room has been buzzing with so much activity that it was hard to notice how quickly the time has flown by! Over the past month, our returning students have really stepped into their role as leaders. Our Kindergarteners have especially felt the pride of their role. They are excited to realize how much they have to offer to others, while still having so much to discover. We are observing them jump in to help new students and eagerly giving presentations. There is a real sense of enthusiasm in our Kindergarten community that is so contagious for our younger friends!

Our younger students, on the other hand, are keen to try new materials, sit in on presentations, and learn to navigate their environment independently. We allow children the autonomy to take care of themselves with as little help as is necessary. Care of the self includes everything from simple handwashing to pouring themselves a cup of water to taking off (and putting on) their shoes to hanging up and zipping (or buttoning) their jackets. But when they do need help, our returning students join us in providing it. Nothing quite compares to the sparkle in a new student's eyes when they hear an unprompted "I can help!" from another child.

The start of our day, and the start of a child's Montessori journey, is typically within the Practical Life area. This is where children learn simple skills such as spooning or pouring or using a clothespin, as well as more complex skills such as polishing, scrubbing a table, napkin washing, taking care of plants, cutting a banana to share with a friend, or baking. The motor skills developed here prepare the child for writing, while the multi-step presentations develop sequencing and logical thinking skills. But Practical Life develops something even more important within a child. These activities allow a child to see a need and respond to it. One child is checking the soil of plants and adding red sticks to signal their need for water, which another child notices and sets up to water the plants. Yet another child sees a mess on a table and sets up to scrub it, while a friend washes the mirror, making their own room beautiful.

If a child can learn to care for his environment, he can learn to care for another person. And if he can learn to care for another person, he can learn empathy. Through empathy, we can know peace. Please join us for our Parent Evening on October 10th to learn more about how we can work as a team to foster this independence and empathy in our children!

In preparation for our Peace Day celebration, we read "Our Peaceful Classroom," which is illustrated by Montessori students all around the world, and brainstormed what peace means to us. Our students associate peace with quiet, silence, and relaxation. What a stark contrast to our quick-paced and busy modern-day world! We discussed the importance of doves as symbols for peace and each of our students poked or cut out and painted their Peace Dove, which we hung up on the trees in front of the school to celebrate Peace Day after joining all the Montessori schools

around the world in singing "Light a Candle for Peace." Our children absolutely love this beautiful and hopeful song!

Of course, September wouldn't be complete without the chance to experience apple tasting. Huge thank you to the Walter and Bianca families for finding so many apples for our students to try! This year we took a different approach, assigning each of our eight varieties an "Apple Master." The Apple Masters first chose an apple and learned its name, then washed, cored, and cut up the apple of their choice. They tasted and identified how to describe the apple to their peers – soft, crunchy, sweet, or sour. Each Apple Master practiced a bit of public speaking as they excitedly shared the name, texture, and flavor of their apple. We had some very passionate Apple Masters, claiming that theirs is the most delicious! The rest of the children had a chance to walk around the stations and practice accepting or declining the invitation to try an apple. "Would you like to try a Pink Lady apple?" "Yes please" or "No, thank you." Don't worry, we swapped with the Apple Masters to ensure they had a chance to participate in the tasting journey as well! We were surprised to learn at the end of the tasting that each child had remembered one apple that they had enjoyed most.

Thanks to our Fundraiser, September was also marked with the addition of several exciting new materials to our room! We have unveiled the Bead Cabinet (used for learning skip counting, squares and cubes of numbers), new Binomial and Trinomial Cubes (a Sensorial introduction to the algebraic cube of binomial and cube of trinomial formulas), and new Square of Pythagoras (visual representation of the Pythagorean theorem and concept of squaring numbers). This created a lot of interest in our already busy Sensorimotor and Math areas, where we also saw students working to learn names of numbers, associate numerals with quantities, build teen numbers, lay out the hundred board, and even create four-digit numbers. All within the first month of school!

Our language area has been just as busy, with our newest students jumping right into learning the sound of letters with their first Sandpaper Letter introductions, other children building words or sentences, and others still making progress in their reading journey. In the same breath, we have already had the creation of the first World Maps of the year, along with a strong interest in the names of planets, parts of horses and fish, lifecycle of frogs, parts and types of apples. Not a single area of our room has gone unnoticed by the children and we can't wait to see where their passions take us next month!





## EAST ROOM PHOTO GALLERY



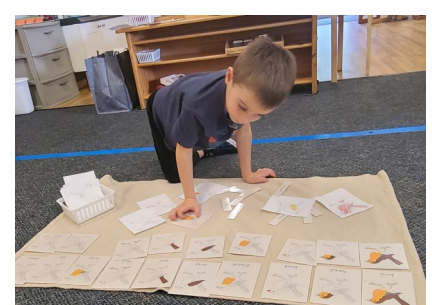


## KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-K EXTENDED DAY

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Masha



Our older students have taken advantage of the nicer weather to help take care of our garden, pulling the withered plants in preparation for the Mums flowers set to arrive soon. In the process, they discovered the carrots that had grown, which led to a conversation about the different parts of plants that we eat. After a chance to peel and cut our garden carrots, the students compared their taste to store bought baby carrots and ruled that garden carrots grown with their love and care taste best. The afternoon work cycle is also a chance for the older children to explore materials in a more advanced way. The simple Circle Drawer of the Geometry Cabinet is not quite so simple when the different sized circles must be matched to their corresponding cards spread across two rugs, in a specific order, and while working as a team! We continue developing the skills of geometry while adding the element of critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork. This month, we also introduced lessons in how to greet a guest and welcome them into our environment. We practiced opening the door, showing guests where to hang their coat, offering a drink of water, and a place to sit. The children were happy to role-play this scenario for practice and are eagerly awaiting guests to welcome!





## MORE WONDERFUL MOMENTS AT PATHWAYS IN SEPTEMBER



The greatest gifts we can  
give our children are the  
roots of responsibility and  
the wings of independence.  
-Maria Montessori

