



MAY/JUNE 2017

PARENT CONNECTION

'END OF SCHOOL YEAR' ISSUE

From Ms. Jeanette's Desk:

Thank you...

It's hard to believe that the school year is winding down. It seems like yesterday that we were welcoming the students to their first day of school. With so much happening on a daily basis sometimes we forget the impact that we make with all the students in our care. Schools are a busy place, so it's not surprising that sometimes we miss out on chances to stop and reflect upon the influence that we wield over the young people in our care. Often, it's the little conversations, the easily-forgotten decisions, the friendly smile or brief compliment that mean the most to our young students – and while we might forget them because things keep moving, those words can remain with those children for a very long time, shaping their personality and their thoughts. Because of those moments I felt it was so important to reflect and say to my wonderful staff that you are noticed, appreciated, and valued. With this final newsletter of the year I wanted to take a moment to say a "million thank you's" to everyone dedicated to making Bloomfield Maples Montessori a great school. So let me begin...

Thank you so much for all the hard work and energy you put into your job. When visitors walk in our hallways, they are welcomed in with a caring smile and attentive souls. They see children learning, working, smiling and laughing. Thank you for making hundreds of split second decisions for the benefit of our wonderful parents and students. Thank you for putting your own needs on hold and keeping the students the focus of your day, dedicating yourselves to achieving as much as possible for your students. Thank you for planning for them long before today

ever started and for changing those plans because they didn't fit someone who needed a little extra. Thank you for your patience and the kindness you show to the children. Thank you for giving them a hug exactly when it was needed. Thank you for getting down on their physical level because it matters. Thank you for *really* listening to all the little stories and responding with a smile. Thank you for taking the time to stop, talk, and listen to the parent concerns or to inquire about how they're doing. Thank you for reading and learning and always expanding your mind in order to work and understand each individual personality. Thank you for your professionalism. Thank you for caring, coming to the help of each other and to laugh and cry together. Thank you for the wonderful moments and memories that happen each and every day. Those memories are because of you and your dedication.

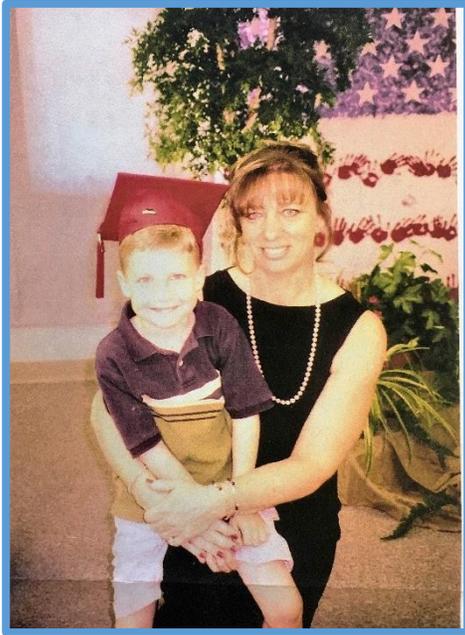
That dedication is rewarded when you are sitting in Panera and a high school student that you haven't seen since kindergarten comes up and says hi and thanks you for being her favorite teacher. Or when you get a letter from a student heading off to college saying it's been a long time but that you were not forgotten, with a picture of the both of you when he was in kindergarten. Or when the student that has graduated the year before can't wait for a day off so he can come and visit.

So please never forget that all those moments are noticed by the students, by the parents and by those you work with and by me. Thank you for the millionth time!

Ms. Jeanette, Director



2003



Dear Ms. Jenette,

It's been quite a long time. I'm writing to let you know that I turned out All Right! HA! I will graduate high school in a couple of weeks and as I look back I want to thank you for all of the fond memories I will always hold from my time in your class. I hope things are going very well and I wish you the best.

Thank you,

Connor Greig

2016



Office Notes



❖ SPRING WEATHER NEWS

Since spring weather brings lots of sunny days, we would like to remind everyone of sunscreen. Please make sure to send your child to school with sunscreen already applied. Thank you in advance for your help.

❖ BEE SEASON

Please let the office know if your child is allergic to bee stings.



❖ SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

Registration forms are in the office for this year's **Summer Camp**. We are offering a 5 or 3 Day Summer Camp Program for children

18months to 7 years of age. The program will start the week of **June 12th** and run through **July 28th**.

❖ 2016 – 2017 YEARBOOK

We are pleased to offer a school Yearbook filled with wonderful pictures of your child and classmates. This book highlights special moments in our year at Bloomfield Maples Montessori. Order forms will be going home soon.

Spring Is Our Favorite Season –
Ms. Diane and Ms. Elizabeth





PRE K AND K 1 CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. Cheryl, Directress

We are just weeks away from the end of our school year. Doesn't it seem like yesterday when we all began the 2016- 2017 school year?

A lot of growing and maturing has taken place during the past 9 months. Just remembering what the children were doing in September and watching them functioning in the classroom today, is always such a joy. They leave the Montessori classroom as responsible 1st graders with a lifelong love of learning. The beautiful kindergarten reception on June 2 gives the children, the teachers and the parents the closure needed to move on to the next stage.

We as adults must remember that we are always role models to these precious children. They are watching and listening, even when we do not think they are. These years are the foundation to the rest of their lives. Always be aware of what your child is exposed to.

Spring has arrived. The children have been very conscious of all the spring signs and excitedly pointing them out. We will be making the most of the sunny and warm days by moving some classroom activities outdoors.



We talked about **Earth Day** and discussed the items that get thrown into the trash and how we can recycle certain things to help save the Earth for our children's future. A work helping the children to identify recycling has been introduced.

In **Math** the children are being introduced to measuring. Clocks and money have been introduced at individual levels. We have been practicing skip counting in multiples of 2's, 5's and 10's. This is a fun thing to do when you are travelling in a car or sitting in a waiting room.

In **Language** the children who are reading continue to progress in their reading material. Reading is a process that cannot be rushed. Every child develops at a different pace. This is not a human race. While some children progress rapidly in reading another child of similar age may be progressing in another area of development.

Please read on a daily basis with your child. During the summer find a suitable time regularly, when the

whole family takes out a book to read. This encourages the love of reading and models a behavior that will help your child.

In **Practical Life** more waterworks will be introduced, baby doll washing and fingernail brushing. These works will be moved outdoors as the weather improves together with other works that can be messier such as shaving foam. The children were very excited about their bunny-sewing project. They all did an amazing job.

In **Sensorial**, extensions are being introduced which means 2 or more materials being used together on a rug to produce a new work. The children really have fun with this. In Science we have been studying the life cycle of various animals and are fortunate enough to be able to observe the life cycle of butterflies in our classroom. In Geography we are studying the remaining continents. Landforms will be introduced so that the children learn how to identify the different bodies of land and water.

Summer camp will begin immediately after school ends, so please check it out. We would love to see your child during the summer to continue the Montessori journey with the added themes of the week. This is always fun.

Enjoy your children for who they are and feed into their passion. Play fun educational games rather than aggressive ones. Remember every child peaks at their own time. Trust in your child's teacher; believe in them, they get to know your child very well. The soul reason for a person becoming a teacher is the child.

Writing this final Newsletter of the school year is always very emotional, as we have spent so much time with these precious children during their Montessori journey. Some will be returning in the fall to continue their journey but kindergartners

will be graduating to the next stage in their lives. We wish every one of you a safe and happy summer.



Thank you very much for the donations to the Montessori school in Kenya. We are sharing the pictures of the children and we will study Africa in more depth before the end of the school year.

We Wish Every One a Safe and Happy Summer

Ms. Cheryl, Ms. Meg, Ms. Kelly and Ms. Maysoon

Kenya

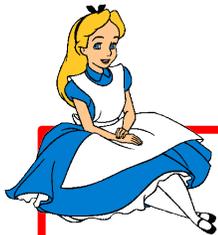
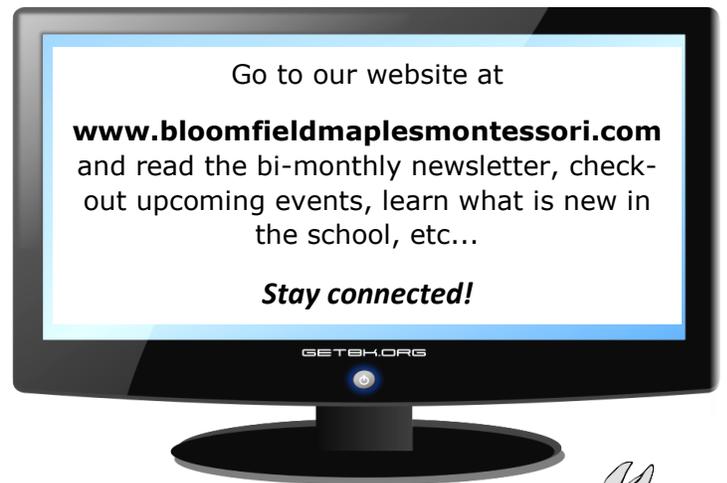


Yes ... we do have a website!

A Special Kindergarten Reception

Friday, June 2nd at 4:00 PM

**For Kindergarten parents and
graduating students
to celebrate their Montessori
experience.**



Alice in Wonderland



Our Pre-K & Kg Field Trip to the Marquis Theatre to see the live performance of "Alice in Wonderland" was enjoyed by all. The 'youth' actors were very talented as they played the characters as the book portrayed.

We were very proud of how our students showed proper theatre etiquette.

PRE K AND K 2 CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. Jeanette, Directress



Spring has finally sprung. The robins are out and the days are getting so much warmer. It's nice to feel the warm sun on our faces. The children have been cooped up inside for too long and need to breathe in some fresh air and run to work those lungs that keep picking up those indoor germs from each other. We will be working hard all the way to June. At that point we will be saying goodbye to our kindergarteners. This is always a time of mixed emotions. They are a special group of children that have shown great academic success and are role models of leadership. We know they are prepared for the next level but we will miss their smiling faces that we have enjoyed so much for the past three years. We wish you the best.

Thank you to all the students for the incredibly hard work they did to bring us a great spring concert and to Ms. Karen and Ms. Melba for their wonderful efforts.

In **Practical Life** and **Sensorial** we are trying to coordinate our activities to coincide with subjects discussed in other areas. We are planting so we are digging in practical life. We are sorting flower seeds. We are hammering and sawing to build. We are feeling temperature changes and graphing. We are using art materials to create our own originals. We also are using sensorial extensions to refresh the sensorial materials.

In **Math** we continue to practice money along with expanding our knowledge of math operations. We also will work with clocks and practicing time. Lots of practice is always necessary to have true understanding of concepts. We are playing math games to encourage retention of number values and playing banker to give proper values and making change.

In **Language** we are asking parents to practice with their child Addresses and birth dates. Many of the younger children need to learn to say them while the older students should write them. We also would like to encourage the children to practice oral reading by reading to the class. Your child should prepare by practicing a fairly short book that he or she can read well and then bring it in to read to the class. We continue to practice reading and comprehension. We are grateful to those students who are reading or being read to regularly. It is very evident which students who are read to and

those who are not. Their comprehension and vocabulary understanding is much stronger than those who are not read to regularly.

In **Writing** the students continue to practice sentence writing while others write single words. We also are encouraging children to check their own work to find their own mistakes before showing the teacher. They also are checking their writing to see which letters and numbers could be written better or are reversed.

In **Science** we have the three "B's", Botany, Butterflies, and Birds. We are planting. The children are learning the parts of the flower and also how to care for it. We also have butterfly larvae in the classroom that we are following the life cycle from larvae to butterfly. Along with that we are incubating chicken eggs and learning the process toward birth and then the care of the birds. In **Geography** we will finish our study of the United States and finally Michigan.

Thank you:

- We would like to thank our students for a wonderful Spring Concert.
- To our parents for all their help throughout the year.
- To the wonderful kindergarteners that we will greatly miss next year.

Enjoy a perfect summer ...

*Ms. Jeanette, Ms. Beth, Ms. Monika
and Ms. Sue*



PRE K AND K 3 CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. Sheila, Directress



The children in the class have been so excited to point out all the signs that spring is finally here! We often talk about signs of spring and why the seasons happen on the Earth. The children are eager each day to look at how beautiful the tulips and hyacinths are blooming that they planted in the fall. They have blossomed and look wonderful. It's hard to believe that the end of the year is upon us. We have had such an amazing class family and everyone has grown so much over the last 9 months. Soon we will be honoring the graduating kindergartners who will be entering a new school for their first-grade class. Many of these kindergarten graduates have been with us when they were just two years old. Now, it is so amazing to see the smiling young faces of these confident learners who are ready to take the world by storm! We enjoyed seeing all the children perform at the Spring concert. They have been practicing so much and it is always the most wonderful and entertaining event of the year!

In **Practical Life**, the children have been enjoying all the water works. Works like pumping water, funneling, and measuring water are always fun for the children and they especially love the colored water we use. This takes a lot of concentration to be able to use these works without spilling too much. We have been practicing table setting, folding napkins and most recently, we had our own "Mad Hatter Tea Party". We enjoyed seeing "Alice in Wonderland" at the Marquee Theater. The children were so well behaved and attentive at the theater, and mesmerized by Alice and the Queen of Hearts. This was our favorite performance so far! We thought it would be fun to practice our social etiquette and style of grace and courtesy by having a tea party and celebrating our "un-birthday," as the Mad Hatter and White Rabbit call it. We made Mad Hatter hats with feathers and loved singing 'Happy Un Birthday' to everyone.

In the **Sensorial area**, we are using the classic materials to make extensions of them. It brings on a new interpretation of the material and keeps the children interested and engaged in the material. The sensorial curriculum holds a significant place in the Montessori methodology, and encompasses elements that are the cornerstone of Montessori. We will soon be using our sense of smell and

introduce the smelling bottles and use our sense of hearing by using the Montessori bells. Polygons and the Baric tablets will be introduced. The Baric tablets are the only Montessori material designed specifically to develop the baric sense. The children will also be introduced to Color Box three and will grade the color tablets from the darkest shade to the lightest which also ties us into our unit about rainbows and how they are formed.

In **Math**, the children are practicing their linear counting. We often practice our skip counting as well. This involves counting by 5's or ten's. By skip counting this indirectly prepares children for their Math facts. The older children have been busy learning their addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts. Memorization is the foundation of the decimal system. Memorization activities help the child learn and remember basic Math facts. The younger children are practicing identifying the colored bead bars, working their way to the teen board and the tens board which will help them focus on quantities.

In **Language**, all the children are progressing well at their own pace. We have read books such as "Frog and Toad," and "The Tree Lady." 'Frog and Toad' is always a class favorite and "The Tree Lady," is a true story of how one tree-loving woman

changed a city forever with her love of planting and studying trees. The older children have been so excited to borrow books from the class and check them out to take home, simulating a library like experience. Please continue to read to your child daily, and consider joining summer reading programs to keep the reading journey on-going. Parents play an important role in insuring that children successfully progress in their literacy development.

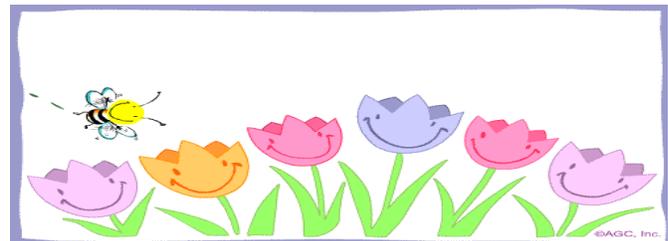
In **Geography and Science**, we have completed the Life Cycle of a chick and soon will be talking more about bugs and insects, and the Life Cycle of a butterfly. The butterfly unit is unique because we will have our own live specimen in the class from the beginning of the larvae, all the way to the beautiful butterfly that breaks through its chrysalis. We watch this process and the children are amazed to see the life cycle happen before their own eyes. We discussed Earth Day and talked about how important it is to keep our planet safe and beautiful. We had discussions about how the Earth is a place to grow and that littering and not keeping

our planet clean will be harmful to the Earth. We talked about recycling, reducing, reusing. We also discussed alternate forms of energy such as solar, and wind power. All children are scientists because they generally want to know what is happening around them and within them, and to know why, so please keep exploring nature throughout the summer to keep their inner scientist alive!

We have had such a great school year. Thank you for allowing us to be part of the special journey of your child's life. As teachers, we have made every effort to attract the interest of children at each plane of development with the skills and opportunities they need to grow, develop, and learn. The children have showed so much respect, developed an awareness of personal responsibility, and have adopted peaceful practices in the classroom. It has been a joy to see this process unfold..... Please have a safe summer and hope to see you in the Fall.

Happy Summer Vacation – *Ms. Sheila,
Ms. Stacy and Ms. Rachel*

AM Daycare



We are so happy that Spring is finally here. Weather permitting, we will be going outside everyday around 8:00 AM. The mornings can start chilly, so please make sure your child has a jacket or sweater so that they won't be cold outside.

Please remember that morning daycare ends at 8:45 AM. At that time, the children go to their classrooms. If you are running late, or get delayed in traffic and arrive to the school after 8:45 AM, please bring your child to the front door as there won't be any daycare staff to let your child in the side door.

It is so hard to believe that the school year is almost over. Thank you for sharing your children with us. We have had so much fun with our morning daycare friends. We are looking forward to seeing our returning early risers next fall, and are sad to see our graduating friends go.

Happy Spring - *Ms. Sana and Ms. Beth*



TODDLER CLASS

Ms. Heidi, Directress



It has been such a long time since our class has been outside! We will enjoy every day that it is dry enough to go outside, so please be sure that your child comes to school each day in athletic shoes (no flats, sandals, dress shoes, or crocks please).

We are wrapping up our unit on **color mixing**. Painting with two primary colors to make one secondary color. The purpose of this lesson is to break down the process of color mixing and to open up the toddler to critical thinking and inquiry. Toddlers take on the role of little scientist, experimenting with the color combinations. While it may seem like a simple process to us adults, the skills that the toddlers are gaining are quite complex. First, the children determine which color to start with, the yellow or the blue. Second, dipping the brush and applying the paint requires fine motor skills and critical thinking to determine how much of each color to put on their brush to get their desired result. They may know through my presentation that yellow and blue makes green, but they test that theory just to be sure. This is what science is all about- experimentation and a process that brings about pure joy!

The **art shelves** are filled with opportunities to be creative and enhance their fine motor skills. The toddlers that have developed their fine motor skills throughout the year will be working on their **writing**

practice. In **language** we will introduce the first group of sounds, keeping the lesson brief and simple to peak their interest and keep it fresh as they move forward to pre-k. In **math** children are working at their particular skill level and those toddlers that have been with us for two years or are developmentally ready are being introduced to some of the pre-k materials. For **science**, the life cycle of the butterfly is on the shelf displaying the 4 stages of development. We are observing live in our classroom the cycle of the butterfly and are currently in the caterpillar stage. We are reading "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle, to round out the lesson. The toddlers enthusiastically watch the growing and changing of tiny caterpillar to beautiful butterflies, which we will release, together on the playground when the cycle is complete.

In preparation for our last field trip to Hess Hathaway Park we are reviewing farm animals and their sounds.

Thank you for being a part of our BMMC family!

Wishing You the Best Summer Imaginable -
Ms. Heidi, Ms. Sana and Ms. Lauren

PM Daycare

We are excited that the warm weather has finally arrived. We look forward to spending more time outside, weather permitting.

After outside play time the children have their snack and then enjoy playing with Legos, wood blocks, hexabits and puzzles. We will be making fun crafts and continuing the tradition of Friday movie and popcorn. The children really do enjoy this activity.

Please bear in mind the road construction in our area and plan accordingly. If you do get stuck in the road construction please call the school.

Happy Spring - *Ms. Jessie, Ms. SeYoung, Ms. Jean and Ms. Sandra*





PTO Newsletter

May/June 2017

Recent events sponsored by the PTO:

Pancake Breakfast

February 14th: Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped us flip, stack and serve pancakes to the students. In conjunction with our pancake breakfast, our parents brought in over 300 lbs. in personal care items that were donated to "Open Door Outreach Center, Inc" in Waterford.

In-House Visitor

March 2nd – Super Science Day: 10 science activity stations were provided by Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum for Pre-school and Kindergarten students. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who manned these stations. The students had a great morning!

Future events sponsored by the PTO:

Year End Picnic

(Rain or Shine)

Thursday June 8th - Heritage Park in Farmington Hills: Let's end the school year and kick off the summer with a great outdoor picnic with all our families and friends of BMMC. Information to come home soon.

Box Tops 4 Education (see reverse side)

We successfully collected box tops, totaling a great value of \$71.40. Keep up the good work and keep sending them in. Thank you Mrs. Gasevski for collecting and sending them in!

2016-2017 Yearbooks will go on sale soon! Buy one for all of the memories of a terrific year! Also, thank you Mrs. Mackey for all the time you have spent putting together this year's yearbook.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact the school office or a PTO Board Member.

PTO Board Members for this school year:

Mrs. Dovile Satkeviciute – PTO President

Mrs. Gintare Cekeskaite – Treasurer

Mrs. Sarah Mackey- Yearbook



NEEDED FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

PTO President and a volunteer to help work on the school yearbook.

Please call 248-661-0910 to volunteer.



Critics Rave . . . Spring Concert was a big hit

Congratulations to our graduates and thank you PTO for the special treat boxes for our BMMC performers!



On behalf of BMMC-PTO MANY THANKS to all the parents who signed up to help this year. We real appreciate your valuable input, time and help.