



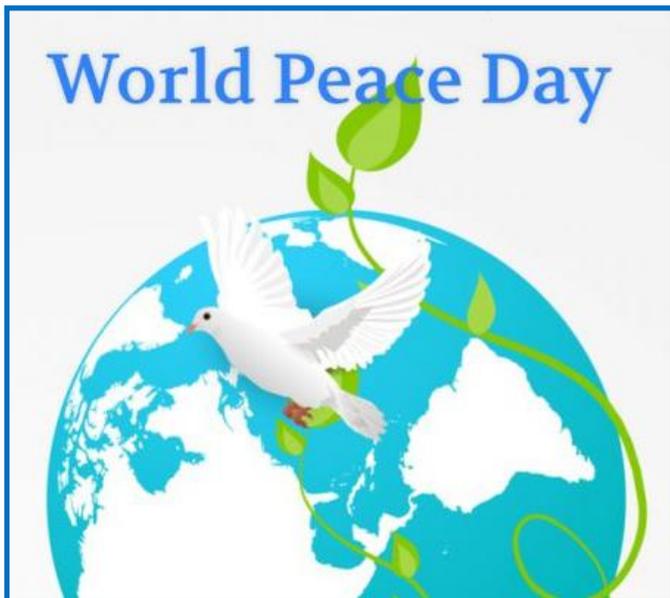
Parent Connection

January / February 2018 - Winter Issue

From Ms. Jeanette's Desk:



I'd like to wish everyone a very happy new year, one that is fulfilling and built on Peace.



In January we focus our efforts to promote peace throughout the world. The United Nations' **International Day of Peace** is celebrated on September 21 each year to recognize the efforts of those who have worked hard to end conflict and promote peace. It is a day of ceasefire - personal and political.

In the Montessori classroom we believe strongly in **Peace Education**. It is an integral part of the curriculum and to me and all in our school, a child that leaves our school a better citizen is the utmost reward as a teacher.

Peace begins with the individual. As a teacher, I think about how peaceful I am and how that reflects on the children. I know that if I am unsettled the children will know and pick up on that energy. I find that having meaningful conversation in the morning, where I listen to the children, really helps start the day in a more peaceful way. It all starts with finding peace as

an individual, which is the goal of Peace Education. The children learn how to work as a community, help one another, and talk to each other when there is a conflict. Maria Montessori wanted Peace to be the ultimate goal of education, as important as language, math or writing lessons. It should be talked about and celebrated and the most important part of the curriculum. Eleanor Roosevelt said, "It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it."

Grace and Courtesy is an integral part of the Montessori day. Parents notice how children begin to speak more kindly using please and thank you. They also notice that their child is showing more patience in work and social interactions. With ongoing Grace and Courtesy lessons, we are able to give children tools for resolving conflicts peacefully and ways to cultivate a peaceful and productive environment for learning. Grace and Courtesy lessons empower children to be responsible, self-aware, and independent. These activities are about respecting children's needs and considering the whole classroom community as a collective unit. Practicing modeled behaviors allows children to discover much-needed tools, and they are grateful to know what to do and say in frustrating or difficult circumstances. Grace and Courtesy lessons are our framework for modeling peace.

We gently teach peace by expanding the students' worldview. We proudly give our students cultural studies. By giving our students a broader perspective of how other people live, we can open up conversations about why people may believe differently than we do. We can help our children learn at an early age that different doesn't

necessarily mean wrong. We can teach our children to be curious about other people rather than judgmental. We educate our students about other countries, religions, and cultures.

Working toward peace has to begin with our children. They are our future. The global community that our children will live in must be able to work together

toward one goal, to raise a generation of leaders who will consider other options to resolve conflict.

Let the hope be that someday we can sit outside and listen to the birds sing, to raise vegetable gardens, listen to beautiful music, hear the children laughing and playing and the carillon bells play across the entire world.....

Perhaps we are helping shape the future visionaries of Peace.

*"If we are to teach real peace in this world... we shall have to begin with the children."
—Mahatma Gandhi*

*Have a Peaceful New Year...
Ms. Jeanette*

OFFICE NOTES



Flu Season



Simple steps can help prevent the flu. Help your child practice good hygiene like **washing hands**, **covering coughs**, and **sneezing into their sleeve** to prevent the spread of the flu. Please keep your child/children home if they are not feeling well. Keep in mind, a fever is telling you that the body is fighting an infection. A child should stay home with a temperature of 100 degrees or above. **Please, do not send your child to school until 24 hours after fever is gone without the use of fever reducing medications.** In addition, please inform the school if your child will be absent.

Bring Your Parent To 'Work' Day

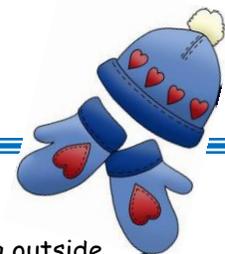
Mark your calendar, the week of January 22nd - January 26th and join your child in his/her classroom for Bring Your Parent to 'Work' Day. **Please note this special week is for all classrooms.**

PTO Pancake Breakfast

The students will be served a breakfast of pancakes, turkey or vegetarian sausage, fruit and milk on Wednesday, February 14th at 9:30 a.m. by parent volunteers. We will also be conducting a personal care product drive for local families. We are asking each student to bring in a personal care item. Information will be sent home soon.



*- Happy New Year -
Ms. Diane and Ms. Elizabeth*



Brrrr... it's cold outside!

Please remember to send the proper winter clothing with your child, as we will be going outside, weather permitting, everyday for recess. Check list for your child before leaving for school.

Do you have?

Coat Hat Mittens (**waterproof**) Snow pants Boots

Keep in mind, **your child's 'winter clothing' will come home wet and needs to be dried and sent back to school the next day.**



PREK AND K 1 CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. Cheryl, Directress

First I want to congratulate the children on their Holiday performance. They all worked so hard in practicing and they produced a great start to the holiday season. Thank you for the delicious food too.

Trusting you had a fun yet restful holiday with your family. Now it is back to routines for all of us. As much as we all love the holidays, we naturally crave getting back into our regular routine. Routines can sometimes take a lot of work and a lot of patience to enforce, but once in order, they make our lives much less stressful. Practicing our classroom rules on a regular basis help us keep on track.

This bitter cold spell we are having right now means that the children do not get to go outside to play. We are trying to be creative with the indoor recess. The children are eager to get outside and build a snowman. We have been discussing the temperature and how dangerous the low temperatures are.

The children are pleased to be back in school and choosing the shelf works. They really enjoy speaking on circle about the fun things they did with their family. Show and tell is a real favorite with the children this year and with your help choosing suitable items to show, they can gain a lot of confidence when describing and explaining what they have brought.

The **Practical Life** area is very alive right now and they are really enjoying stringing and lacing. Cleaning exercises will be introduced over the next few weeks as well as food preparation. The water works continue to be popular, so I must remind you to keep the spare clothes box filled. Spillage is inevitable. The children actually enjoy cleaning up their own spillage and this is another practical life exercise that is important in their lives. We will be cooking in the classroom on a regular basis. The children love all aspects of cooking. The measuring of ingredients, the mixing and the transformation of the ingredients and naturally the eating are all fun for the children.

The **Hexagonal boxes** will be introduced in **Sensorial**. The children will learn new vocabulary such as Hexagon, Rhombus and Parallelogram. More geometric solids will be introduced. The children enjoy working with their friends on the solids. All other senses are continually worked on in this area.

The **Math** shelf is seasonally updated for the 1 - 10 exercises. These works are very popular with the younger children. Other children are moving on

according to their ability. Some working on recognizing teen numbers or tens. The hundred board is continually taken out, while some children are working on dynamic addition. Fun exercises such as mystery number will be introduced. It is important that math is portrayed in a fun way. Please continue to talk about numbers in everyday life. How many napkins, tablemats you need to get out. Count how many cars can be seen etc. When you go shopping, it is a very fun experience if you let your children get involved. Counting the correct number of apples in a bag. Looking at the prices etc.

In **Language** some of the children are progressing through their beginning sounds, others focusing on pre-language works. This is a very exciting time for the children when they realize they are able to pronounce words. Learning to read is a process that cannot be rushed. This is like every other step in your child's life. Every child progresses at their own pace. Please continue to always read to your child. There is nothing quite like sitting on Mom/Dad's lap listening to a favorite story. This is creating a memory as well as helping your child learn to read and enjoy books.

In **Geography** we will be continuing with the continents and looking at some traditionally dressed dolls. If any parent wants to come in and share information about a country, please let me know. We all enjoy having a parent participate in the program. The flower bulbs that the children placed in a vase with just water are giving so much enjoyment to the children. They love watching the growth and comparing whose bulb is growing faster. We eagerly await the wonderful scent that the hyacinth bulbs release into the classroom. Science area will become more active as we begin some science experiments, starting with sink and float. All this will lead up to our science fair in March. This is a very exciting time

for your child. Please take the time to talk with them about what they may like to do. There are plenty of age appropriate ideas online.

During January we will be discussing what Peace is. This will begin the Week of Martin Luther King day and continue. The compliment box has already been introduced. This is a favorite work in the classroom. The children love to write notes to each other and children that are not yet able to write enjoy either drawing a picture or dictating to a teacher what they

want to write. You will see these notes coming home in your child's backpack.

We are really looking forward to seeing you all in "Bring your Parent to Work Week". The children love having you in class, showing you what they do in a typical day. This is a very exciting time for all. Don't forget to sign up.



*Wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year,
Ms. Cheryl, Ms. Meg, Ms. Kelly and Ms. Gloria*



January is a fantastic time to think about new beginnings. The year is new and so are you. Many people take this time to set goals or resolutions. We can make these as a family as well and include our children in this process.

A family goal can be a simple, subtle shift and does not have to be a dramatic change. Pick goals that you and your family will have the most success with and will enhance your lives. It could be less screen time, getting outside more, cooking together, a game night, or eating more meals at home. Framing it positively, not as a matter of sacrifice will keep children inspired. If you have made individual resolutions share them with your children. Let them encourage you. Children learn most by watching the lives we live.

Now is the time when the toddler feels most at home in the classroom. A secure child is a child open and willing to learn.

Work for the winter months:

- Spindle boxes (teaches the concept of zero and matching symbol with quantity)
- Snow in the sensory table
- Winter scene (white on black)
- Calendar
- Color blending



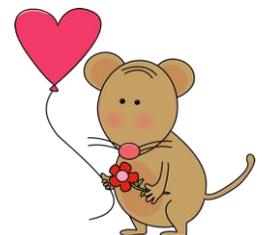
During the month of January we will be focusing on peace. Exercises in peaceful breathing teach the children how they can begin to calm their bodies. What behavior is peaceful and what is not. Lastly, we will read some board books about leaders who worked to achieve goals peacefully such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and listen to a bit of his "I have a dream" speech.

JANUARY'S Child Affirmation Poem -

I inspire. I listen. I breathe. I unfold. I receive. I believe. I adore. I am bold.

By Andrea Alban Gosline

*We're All Like Snowflakes Unique and One of a Kind -
Ms. Heidi, Ms. Sana and Ms. Debbie*





PREK AND K 2 CLASSROOM

NEWS

Ms. Jeanette, Directress



Happy New Year to everyone. We hope you had a great holiday break with family and friends. With a world so often filled with unrest, it is with the deepest gratitude to see the incredible generosity that was given by our parents during our coat drive. Not only were the coats beautiful, so many collected matching hats and gloves. The children were so grateful and now warm...thanks to you.

Our classroom did an amazing singing performance during our holiday program. They sang with such pride and brought huge smiles to the teachers. You can tell how proud they were with their work.

We want to make 2018 a year of compassion, kindness, responsibility, and purpose. Our goal is to challenge ourselves each day, to try our hardest, and be proud of our accomplishments. With Martin Luther King Peace Day coming soon we will focus on the importance of peace in the world and in the classroom through peace studies. Our classroom will be filled with peace related activities in math, sensorial, and language. We will learn conflict resolution with the peace rock. And then continue into February with expressions of kindness to our classmates.

In the **Practical life** area we are bringing in smaller manipulatives, sorting work, and classification. The children perfect small hand/eye coordination, build concentration and enjoy calming exercises. We also are continuing the use of auditory listening exercises through sound identification. In January we will introduce water exercises of various forms. This is much more involved and allows for a higher level of concentration and coordination.

In **Math**, the students will learn more about math terms and will begin the introduction of currency. We will identify the coins and their values and work toward the use of a pretend store. This should be a lot of fun for the students and give practice in having proper amounts and giving change.

*May All Your New Year's Resolutions Come True -
Ms. Jeanette, Ms. Beth, Ms. Sue and Ms. Julia*

Happy Valentine's Day

In **writing** we continue to practice all forms of writing. This includes in the sand, dry erase boards, ipad, and on paper. The students must also write their name regularly. We look forward to writing some compliments to our friends and some beginning story writing. At home give plenty of opportunities for coloring, cutting and writing of all kinds.

In **Science** we will begin our unit on birds. We will learn about how birds survive the cold, parts of the bird and to make bird feeders. Along with that we will do cold weather experiments while learning about the weather and weather cycle.

In **Geography** the students will learn about the continent of Antarctica and Asia. We will get a general idea of the landforms, major countries and their culture and animals of the area.

Art continues to be open ended but a very necessary aspect of the classroom. Control of the pencil, creativity, color mixing, shape identification and notice of detail are a few points learned.

Notes:

- A big thank you to the students for bringing us a wonderful singing program.
- The luncheon was very scrumptious. Thank you for your delicious contributions.
- Thank you for being such wonderful generous parents.



PREK AND K 3 CLASSROOM

NEWS

Ms. Stacy/Ms. Monika, Directress



Happy New Year! We wish your family love, happiness, and laughter in the coming year. Our New year has started out great!

The children were so excited to come back to school to see their friends, teachers, and to get back in their daily school routines. We have shared all the fun holiday stories of the kids, which is always so wonderful to hear all the fun family times. I would like to congratulate the children on an amazing holiday concert performance. The concert is so special to the children and they worked so hard and it really showed!

As we get back into our routine, we will be focusing on our 'Peace Studies' unit and Martin Luther King. We talk about how we can make the world a kinder place, and what we can do with our 'helping hands' to change the world. We teach the children how they can change the world with their own two hands. During our 'Peace Studies,' we have many techniques to teach the children how to maintain harmony and peace throughout the world. We have a peace corner where the children are able to handle objects that are tactile, and visually soothing like a Peace Bear, a Peace Rose, and Peace Stones. During the month of February, we continue on our path to kindness with talking about our 'Lovelight,' shining bright! We will put out our compliment box and the children will tell each other what they really love about one another. We are peaceful in January, and we will be loving in February!

In **Sensorial**, we will continue to work on the series of Arithmetic Cubes, and the boxes of Constructive Triangles. These materials enhance spatial- form manipulation and are an indirect preparation for geometry. We have presented the Fabric box which focuses on the tactile sense. We also continue to introduce different trays of the Geometric Cabinet. We have recently presented the Tray of Triangles, and will soon be moving on to the Tray of Polygons.

In **Math**, we will begin our unit on money. We will continue to practice Measurement and Time. We will also be talking about measuring volume, but we will be using water so expect Practical Life to be very busy and messy! Pouring and measuring water in Practical Life is always a class favorite. We will also be working on lacing, weaving, and simple sewing.

In **Language**, the younger children continue to practice beginning sounds, name tracing and metal insets. The older children are busy in their workbooks, wordbuilding on the rug with the moveable alphabet, and reading. This is the perfect time of year to take your child to the Library and read with your child and have them practice reading to you. We also continue throughout the year to learn the days of the week and the months of the year so please

practice at home. Also, the older children have been given sight words to practice at home as well. This will help your child with the non-phonetic words in their readers and workbook.

In **Science**, we will learn about two more Vertebrate families: Reptiles and Fish. We will talk about Dinosaurs roaming the Earth millions of years ago and the fossils they have left behind. We will learn about Layers of the Earth and the formation of Volcanoes. We will talk about Gravity and Magnetism. Our winter topics will be snowflakes and animal hibernation.

We are looking forward to 'Bring Your Parent to work Week.' This gives parents the opportunity to see all the marvelous things your child is accomplishing in the class!

Class Keeping Reminders: Please make sure your child's things are labeled, especially in the winter there are so many miscellaneous hats and gloves floating around. Also, Please practice putting on snow pants, jacket, hat, boots, and gloves at home. (in that order) We want the children to be as independent as possible when dressing themselves for recess. Happy Winter!

*A Snowflake is Winter's Butterfly -
Ms. Stacy, Ms. Monika, Ms. Sheila and Ms. Maysoon*



Spanish

Hello
Hola!



FELIZ ANO NUEVO 2018 !!! (HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018!!!)

We reviewed all the past vocabulary and daily greetings in each class. We are still working on the transportation vocabulary, the weather and days of the week.

For the following months the vocabulary words are:

LAS EXPRESIONES:

estoy feliz - I am happy estoy triste - I am sad
estoy enojado - I am mad estoy llorando - I am crying
estoy asustado - I am scared estoy enfermo - I am sick

We use the expressions with all family members.

LA CASA and SOME FURNITURES:

la recamara - bedroom	cocina - kitchen
sala - living room	sala - family room
bano - bathroom	comedor - dining room
cochera - garage	sofa - sofa
lampara - lamp	cama - bed
television - tv	mesa - table
silla - chair	espejo - mirror
estufa - stove	

We play BINGO and the children will do a craft for St. Valentine's Day! (FELIZ DIA DEL AMOR)

Songs: "La tortuga Tomasa" "La familia" "La cucaracha"
"Elefante game" "La casa loca"

All the students are doing GREAT!!!

Thank you for reviewing with your child at home all the vocabulary words. Spanish class is lots of fun!!

Gracias,
Senora Melba



Physical Education



Happy New Year, I hope everyone had a safe and happy Holiday Season. I am very excited to get back to work with the children.

Each class begins with stretching, to help the students become more flexible and to prevent injuries. I always explain why stretching is very important to the children.

I am excited to start the new year with the children continuing our work on the President's Physical Fitness Challenge. This includes sit-ups, push-ups, and the shuttle run (the children enjoy competing against each other in a race) to name a few of my exercise programs.

The Presidential Youth Fitness Program will help your child acquire skills to increase their endurance, strength, and flexibility, which can stay with them for a lifetime. Every child is encouraged to participate to the BEST of their ability.

We will review the food pyramid. The children enjoy naming their favorite fruits, and vegetables. The children will learn how proper nutrition helps us to stay healthy!

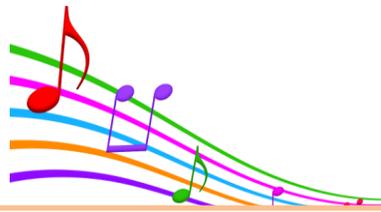
I always instill in the children that exercising is fun with positive enthusiasm.

Looking forward to a fun filled physical fitness education program.

Staying Fit -
Mr. Roby



Music Notes



Hello Montessori families. We are off to a great start in music. Thanks so much for coming out to see our presentation as a part of our holiday party. The kids worked diligently on their songs and were proud to share what they learned with their friends and family.

In order to have the children follow song pacing I have been working from the beginning of the year on tempo and rhythm. While most of us have a natural instinct for these the concept can easily escape the understanding of a preschooler. Working with hand clapping, body tapping, and percussion instruments the children are expanding their comprehension of the two concepts.

In addition to music, my weekly visits often include oral stories that encourage participation from the students. Stories not only expand vocabulary and reading skills but also teach us about our world and how to solve problems. Thank you as always for the opportunity to work with your wonderful children!

Musically and Creatively yours - Ms. Karen



AM Daycare

Welcome to 2018. We hope that everyone had a fun and relaxing break. We are very excited to start a new year with all of our day care friends. With winter officially here, and the cold weather upon us, morning daycare will be hibernating until the spring. We will be having fun with crafts, coloring, puzzles, and other manipulatives.

On Monday mornings, we will continue our tradition of our pancake breakfast. For just \$5.00 every other month, your child will enjoy a hot breakfast of pancakes, sausage and milk. The children really love pancake mornings. Many of our friends arrive very early in the morning. Please feel free to send breakfast in with them. Please label which snack is their breakfast so that they don't accidentally eat their mid-morning or afternoon snack.

Please inform the morning day care teachers if your child has any important papers in their backpack that need to be handed into the office. The children love to walk down to the office and hand deliver their papers to the mail bin.

Morning day care ends at 8:45 a.m. At this time, the children go to their classrooms. If you are running late, and arrive after 8:45 please bring your child to the front door. There won't be anyone in the day care room, and there won't be a teacher to let your child in after 8:45.

No Winter Last Forever - Ms. Sana and Ms. Beth



PM

Daycare

Welcome to after school care! We will enjoy Michigan's winter as much as the weather permits. After our snack the children will enjoy playing with puzzles, legos, and woodblocks. We will create fun crafts for winter and upcoming celebrations. On Fridays we will continue to enjoy a movie and popcorn which the children really look forward to.

*If Winter Comes, Can Spring be Far Behind? -
Ms. Jessie, Ms. SeYoung, Ms. Jean and Ms. Sandra*

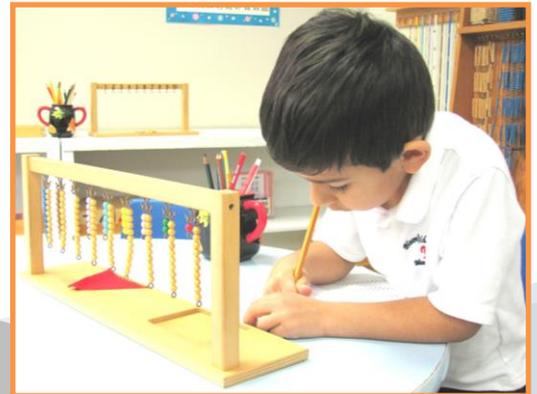


Colored Bead Bars are lengths of beads strung on stiff wire. These bars vary in length from one to ten beads and they are used as part of several different Montessori math lessons. The beads help children learn to count while visualizing the numbers that they are saying. They also are used in some simple mathematical processes, geometry introductions and can even be used to demonstrate how to square numbers. The bead bars are different colors for each number 1 through 10:

- 1 Red
- 2 Green
- 3 Pink
- 4 Yellow
- 5 Light Blue
- 6 Purple
- 7 White
- 8 Brown
- 9 Dark Blue
- 10 Gold



The child will count the beads on the bead bars. He/she can do this in any order that they like. The important thing is that he/she counts every bead on each bar and knows how many beads are on each bar. The child will be asked to assign each bead bar its proper number card. As the child counts the beads, she should assign the correct number card to each bead bar. He/she can lay out the bead bars and numbers on the rug as she works through them.



Uses of Colored Bead Bars

- **Multiplication Work:** He/she will begin to learn what color the particular number bead bar is. This will help when the child is ready for multiplication. For example: 3×7 , he/she will learn to take out 3 white 7 bead bars.
- **Association:** Take a pile of beads and exchange them into proper bead bars.
- **Addition Work:** What combination of beads will make 10.

Colored Bead Bars

Montessori Mathematics ~

Spindle Box



The exercise consists in placing spindles (like pegs) in a corresponding numbered slot. So the 'one' slot would get one spindle, the 'two' slot would get two spindles and so on. This is the first exercise where the children are introduced to the concept of zero having nothing. Each successive slot has a corresponding number of spindles. When the exercise is complete there will be no spindles left. We refer to this as the control of error (if there are not enough spindles or too many spindles, an error has been made). When used by a very young child, the spindle box exercise can provide a concrete basis for mathematics. The child sees what the numeral 3 represents. After the child's initial lesson they are able to independently practice using the material as much as is necessary for understanding.

Bead Cabinet



The bead cabinet consists of two sets of chains for each number, 1 to 10 - the squaring chain and the cubing chain. Also included are the squares of each number and the cubes of each number. Children are exposed to the bead cabinet in a sensorial way. That is, they handle the material and lay it out, but may not be ready to learn to count the beads. The child can practice counting from 1 to 1000 using the chains. After learning to count the beads on the chain, a child would learn to use the chain to skip count. So the five chain would be counted 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25. This helps prepare the child for multiplication.