

Montessori Pathways' News

Montessori Pathways

The best way to discovery!



School

February

"Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future... Let us treat them with all the kindness which we would wish to help to develop in them."

~ Maria Montessori

Notes from Ms. Alena

(Head of School)

All children need to feel their own sense of worth and belonging. Children who have a sense of importance and belonging are more likely to make positive choices and have a healthy self-esteem.

Alfred Adler, an early leader in psychology and student of Maria Montessori, said "The primary need of every child is to feel a sense of belonging and significance..."

One way that children learn the significance of their own actions, is through acts of kindness. Qualities such as kindness and empathy teach a child what it is to be a good friend, how to relate to others, how to recognize the needs of others and the why behind these qualities. All children need to feel their own sense of worth and belonging...[Click here to read more](#)

February is one of the great chances when we, adults, can teach our little ones how to share love and kindness. One day, I found a great idea from a mom on Facebook. Every day from February 1st until the 14th (Valentine's Day), she would be posting one heart on her child's door. This is her way to show her child again how much she loves him.

We, adults, think that our kids instinctively should know that parents love them. But it is not always true. So many times in my life I witnessed situations when, after the parents' conversation with a child about misbehaving, getting low grade at school, making not such a good choice, etc, the conversation was concluded with this question from the child, "Do you still love me?" Many kids experience the same feelings when they become older brothers or sisters and consider their younger sibling as a competitor for their parents' love.

Our kids are eager to know that they are loved every single moment, no matter what. So, in addition to the many hugs, smiles, and warm words that I always share with my own kids as well as with my students, I figured that the idea of posting "hearts" with the different messages (like "You are adorable", "You are smart", "Hugging you"...) on my son's door and on our

classrooms' doors would be very cute. I started on February 1st and was posting "heart" after "heart" every single day.



For two weeks I did not observe any reactions from the kids and I was wondering if the kids even noticed anything on their doors or not? (My son was so excited about checking his door daily and even noticed that some days I would put more than one heart on the door).

The great finale was waiting for me on February 12th, when we celebrated Valentine's Day at our school. When I came back to my office at some point of the day, I noticed that MY DOOR IS FULL OF BIG VALENTINE'S HEARTS!!!



Yes! It worked! They got my love and they shared it back with me. And it does not matter that possibly the teachers helped our kids with this idea. What matters is that the kids felt loved and learned how to share their love with someone else. They made my day and I told them about it. We all had such a happy moment together! And this happiness came not only from the feeling of being loved, but mostly from the feeling that you made someone very happy. We did so little, but it means so much!





Parents' Corner



What is the next step for my child?

- ◇ Are a couple of years of Montessori good enough for my child to reap the benefits?
- ◇ Will Montessori prepare children for traditional school?
- ◇ Why should I pay tuition for one more year in Kindergarten if it is free in public school?
- ◇ How are Elementary years in Montessori beneficial for my child?
- ◇ Isn't it time for my child to join his/her friends from the neighborhood in going to public school together?

These and many others are questions parents ask every year when it is time to decide about the next step in their child's education and development.

Just like all of us do extensive research before buying a new car or a house, we recommend to our parents to do the same regarding their child's future - learn as much as possible about the different types of education and choose what is most beneficial for your child.

Every year, as a part of this research, we offer a workshop for parents of upcoming kindergartener and elementary students. This year, due to Covid-19, we, unfortunately, have no opportunity to meet in person with our families and share all of our knowledge, observations, and experience. Therefore, we decided to share some of our resources with you regarding the benefits of Montessori Education in the different stages of the child's development.

Montessori Preschool Year is a time for planting...

Montessori Pre-K Year is a time for growing...

The Kindergarten Year in Montessori is a time for blooming!



Click here for videos:

[Montessori Kindergarten: Essential & Empowering](#)
[A Time To Blossom - Montessori For The Kindergarten Year](#)
[The Montessori Kindergarten Year - A Question for Parents](#)

Montessori Elementary Program Develops Unique, Sensitive Individuals.

Children of the Elementary age are striving for intellectual independence and trying to satisfy their curiosity and excitement for learning. The Montessori classroom allows them to do just that. Rather than taking a step back to the basics and waiting for their peers to catch up, students of the Montessori class are able to progress at their own pace, discovering the world around them and focusing their varying interests appropriately.

What sets Montessori apart in the Elementary years—ages 6 – 12—is the individually paced curriculum that challenges children academically and safeguards their well-being and sense of self.

Click here for videos:

[Montessori: The Elementary Years](#)
[Structure with Choice in the Montessori Elementary Classroom](#)
[Montessori Mixed-age Classrooms](#)

Click here to learn more about Montessori Pathways:

[Kindergarten and Elementary Years at Montessori Pathways](#)

Click here to find more answers for your questions:

[Frequently Asked Questions about Montessori Education](#)





REGISTRATION FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR HAS BEGUN!



As you know, Montessori Pathways School has been serving the community for over twenty years, building a better future for our children and our world—one child at a time. Innovative Montessori education is our trademark. Our unique Montessori Pathways Team are delighted that your child and your family have been a part of this vision.

The Montessori approach to child development and education encompasses a wide range of experiences. Montessori works best when the child has maximum attendance and stays with us for the entirety of the developmental stage, which includes the Kindergarten Year in Primary class and Elementary education.

The completion of the 3-year cycle in every stage is the key of Montessori Education.

We look forward to having you and your child(ren) continue with us in the coming 2021-2022 school year!

We do not know yet what the next school year will look like, but as soon as things will get better and Illinois will move to Phase 5 of Reopening, we will slowly begin returning to our regular activities, rules, and procedures. We will be notifying you about every single coming change.

We all know that due to Covid-19 a lot of great private schools and childcare facilities were closed while the number of students in every classroom is very limited. Because of this, the demand of enrolling children in the program is rapidly growing. Therefore, we would like to make sure that we accommodate our current families before opening registration to new families and are beginning enrollment for our current families for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Tuition Schedule 2021-2022, Re-Enrollment Application Form for the 2021-2022 school year and Registration Form for Summer Camp 2021 were emailed to all families. Please let us know if you have missed it.

⇒ If you have decided to continue your child's education at Montessori Pathways, please complete the **Re-Enrollment Form for the 2021-2022 school year** electronically and email it back to us along with the **\$50.00 re-enrolment fee (\$25.00 for the second child)** no later than **March 1st, 2021**.

Check or QuickPay via Zelle are acceptable.

⇒ **The 10% annual tuition security deposit is due April 15th.** *This will ensure a place for your child at our school and allow your child to continue in the same class with the same teachers.*

⇒ The tuition contract will reflect a 10% discount for the second child's tuition and 20% for the third one's.

⇒ **The Summer Camp registration begins March 1st. The application and \$30.00 early registration fee are due April 15th.**

Please note: If the registration forms will be returned after April 15, your child will be considered as a new student with a \$100.00 registration fee for the next School Year and \$50.00 registration fee for Summer Camp requirement.

~ It is important that we know who is enrolled in Summer Camp and the School Year as soon as possible so that we can make the appropriate plans for hiring staff. Students who are enrolled just prior to the start of Summer Camp or School Year cannot be guaranteed a spot in the same class or at school at all. ~ We look forward to another great year with your family!

IN MARCH:

- ◆ **March 1 (M) – Summer Camp Enrollment begins**
- ◆ **March 1—5 – Dr. Seuss Week**
- ◆ **Spring Picture Day is cancelled due to pandemic (hopefully, next year)**
- ◆ **March 19(F) - Virtual Primary Parent / Teacher Conference Day (East and South Rooms)**
 - * **No School** for all Primary students **on Conference Day**
 - * **The link to schedule** your virtual conference will be sent to you on **Friday, March 5th**.
- ◆ **March 29—April 2 – Spring Break (No School)**

The school will be operating for All Day (6:45am—6:00pm) students during Spring Break.

NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASS



Ms. Bridget

We celebrated many amazing Americans this month. We began our month by spotlighting a Black American every day. Each student picked a person that they would like to learn more about and then brought in some fabulous fun facts about them. One of my favorite facts that I learned when I was researching James Earl Jones: due to a stutter, he did not speak until high school. Now, as the voice of Darth Vader and Mufasa from the Lion King, his voice is his talent!

We also celebrated our presidents who have helped shape our history and have given a part of their lives to lead us to be better humans.

We celebrated Valentine's Day, a day to remember St. Valentine who is believed to have sent a note of kindness and love beginning a whole tradition of note sending.

Finally, in Nature class, we learned about some environmentalists who have taught us about protecting our environment: John James Audubon, John Muir, Rachel Carson, Jane Goodall and Greta Thunberg.

Academics

There are many math groups in our class. Some are working on decimals, others on factoring, one group is working on multiplication facts and another is working on addition facts.



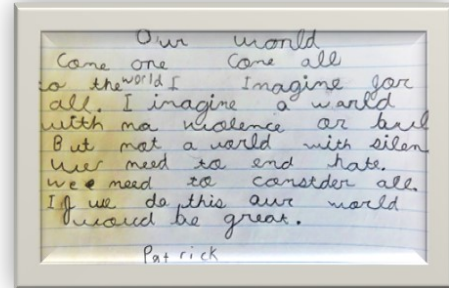
In geometry, one group is working on line and angles and the other is working on triangles.



Language is another area of multi group works. One student is analyzing sentences, a few are working on intense parts of speech, some are working on identifying words as different parts of speech and finally some are working on word building and word studies.



We all are working on writing using various genre as well as trying to write stories based on pictures that our classmates drew,



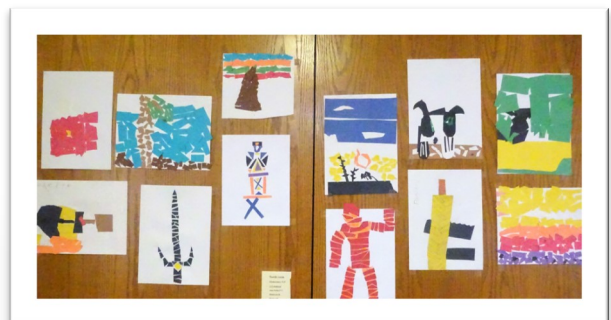
In the cultural areas, we are all studying westward expansion and clocks as well as we built river models and had an introduction of rocks.

In the sciences, we have looked at seeds. We've learned the parts of the seed and actually dissected a seed as well as learned the job of the seed as well as different methods in which they travel. We have explored Newton's laws as well as motion and forces.



Specials are a way to use our bodies and brains to be creative and have fun.

In Art, we have done mosaics, dot prints while I read to them about impressionism. Monet and Van Gogh were our featured artists.

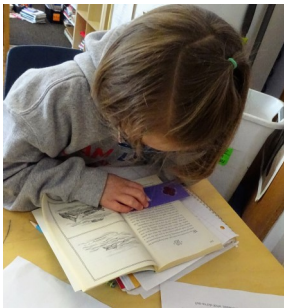


In music we have begun to explore different singing voices/ 4 part harmony as well as different types. We have listened to opera, folk, musicals and blues.

In PE, we continue to strengthen our bodies with physical fitness activities and games.

FEBRUARY PHOTO GALLERY

Elementary Class



FEBRUARY PHOTO GALLERY

Pre-K and Kindergarten Extended Day Group



NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ROOM



Ms. Kathy, Ms. Urana

Well, February has come and gone! A truly short month which felt like only 2 weeks long! February brought a focus on love, friendship, giving and being kind.

We began our month by reading, "Kindness is Cooler Mrs. Ruler" by Marjorie Cuyler. Mrs. Ruler is a kindergarten teacher, who teaches her rowdy unruly class that kindness is cooler. Soon the children in Mrs. Ruler's class are doing so many acts of kindness they fill the bulletin board with 100 acts of kindness.

The book relays the message that kind deeds multiply and create more kind deeds. We asked our children to remember the kind deeds they did, write them on a heart and see if we could accrue 100 kind deeds. Some children had things they had done in the morning or evening before to begin our list. The next day the children came in with kind things to add, "I made my bed, helped my mother with breakfast, read a book to my brother, cleaned my room and the toy room etc."



The children realized it was easy to be kind and to give of oneself. They began being extra aware and kind within the classroom. It is evident in the classroom daily with small acts of kindness. Older children help the younger children. It is still amazing to watch when there is a big spill or mess everyone pitches in to clean up. We have also been focusing on how to ask a friend to do something in a kind voice. Relaying the positive result, they would like. "Please go back to work I am trying to focus".



We often sing a song about loving ourselves. Each child states their name and sings "I love myself" or "I like myself" and "I like everyone else". It was interesting how some children were originally not comfortable with this activity and by the end of the month all participated with smile and confidence. A few even jump up as they sing, "I love myself!" It is wonderful to see.

Thank you to Natalie Tyron and Rita Caraman for our party supplies and treats. Thanks to the Schwarzrock family for our deli-

cious teacher lunches, and everyone who helped make our Valentine Party huge success! Although we could not have visitors, it was a wonderful fun filled time! The morning was full of crafts and projects. We played musical hearts, find your partner puzzle match, freeze dance, bingo, and tic -- tac— toe and much more.



We ended our month with write a letter to a friend week. We talked about the parts of a letter, the greeting, the heading, closing and the signature. What do we want to ask our friend or say to them? We used prompts to help the children find the correct words. For the younger students the activity is about making a picture, craft or poking to give to another. We had the children each draw a name of their "Pen Pal". The children enjoyed giving and receiving cards. We also mailed a few.



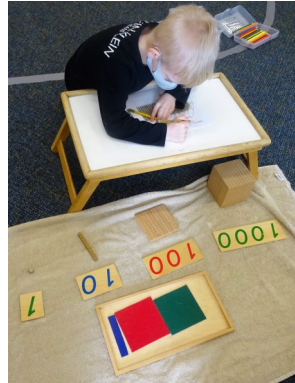
What a wonderful and month for sharing, caring, peace and friendship!

A cute moment this month was when a Pre-K student was skip counting and recording it on a 100-board paper realized the 5's made a cool pattern on the board, ran over and was jumping up and down so excited to show us she had discovered the pattern the 5's made. The little moments like this are so very precious.



FEBRUARY PHOTO GALLERY

South Room



NEWS FROM THE EAST ROOM



Ms. Joey, Ms. Carole

The children have been very eager and focused as they move throughout the different areas of classroom. It is wonderful to see their confidence build as they reach a new level of concentration and exploration.



The Geography area has been very popular lately with many of the children choosing to explore our world through the use of continent maps, folders and books. At first the children used the maps simply as puzzles, now they are learning the names of continents and countries, as well as information about climate, animals of the different regions, people and customs, leading to an appreciation of the human family with its rich variety. They are discovering that through research they can explore any time or any place.

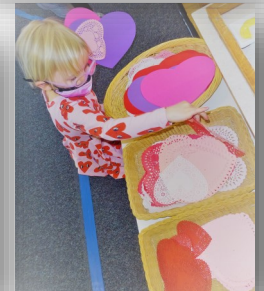
We also celebrated "Write a letter to a friend week" all the children participated. Each child drew or wrote... or both, a letter to a friend, the purpose was to make someone feel happy and appreciated! They created, decorated and wrote their greeting cards and letters, then placed them in an envelope to pass on to their friends. It was a wonderful exercise and truly made everyone feel special! I have a feeling the children will continue to enjoy lifting each other with positive messages throughout the year.



Valentine's Day was enjoyed by all, the children loved sharing they're valentines, and had fun making crafts, and playing games. Thank you to all of our parents who sent in a special snack.



This month we have been learning about what it means to be kind. We have discovered that an act of kindness can be as simple as holding a door, letting someone else go first, or just a thoughtful smile! The children have been working on cooperation, sharing responsibilities, and communicating effectively with each other. A wonderful example of that would be earlier this week when a child accidentally tipped over a large bucket of water, several of the other children stopped what they were doing to come and help.



In the classroom throughout the day we wrote these acts of kindness on heart shaped cards, and posted them on our wall.

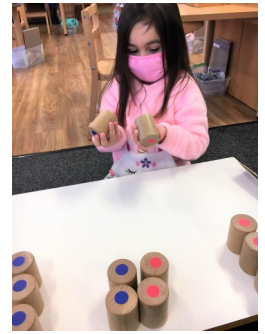


We had two birthdays! Happy Birthday Will, and to Baileigh who just returned, we are so glad you are back!



FEBRUARY PHOTO GALLERY

East Room



MORE WONDERFUL MOMENTS AT MONTESSORI PATHWAYS



“There is a great sense of community within the Montessori classroom, where children of differing ages work together in an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competitiveness. There is respect for the environment and for the individuals within it, which comes through experience of freedom within the community.”

~ Maria Montessori

