

Montessori Pathways' News



JANUARY

Notes from Ms. Alena (Head of School)



The most important period of life is not the age of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six.

~ Maria Montessori

Montessori for the Elementary Years

If children near the end of their kindergarten year in Montessori, many parents struggle with the question whether or not to keep their children in Montessori for Elementary Program.

On the one hand the typical Montessori five-year-old's self-confidence and love of learning lead many families to ask: *Why tamper with something that is clearly working?*

Other parents feel that, since their kindergarten graduate will be moving on to another class one way or another, next year might be the logical time to make the transition from Montessori.

...If you are facing this choice, I encourage you to take a good look at your school's elementary program. Although, you will, of course, want to gain an impression of the teacher, focus your attention on the students themselves. Elementary students are often the best spokespeople for the value of a Montessori education.

What makes Montessori special is its ability to nurture talent without needless competition and stress. In a nutshell, Montessori children never lose the joy of learning.

~ [Read the whole article...](#)~

Montessori education identifies children's strength and helps them hone those skills in a way that is unique to them. And while we, Montessori educators, promote independence and allow students to learn at their own pace, we also understand the importance of teaching children cooperative learning and teamwork at an early age.

Group and team building activities in the classroom can nurture social and emotional skills; language and literacy skills; fine motor skills; cognitive skills; and creative expressions through music skills. A child's interaction with others at school can also help build social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making.

Unlike typical classrooms, Montessori schools combine students of different ages and allow them to interact and build off each other's development while also finding their own path to success. Building relationships with children of various ages as opposed to being around only one grade level all of the time will diversify a child's social skills and teach them how younger children look up to older children and how older children are supposed to be a good example for younger children.

Ms. Bridget and I had the great opportunity to observe our elementary and kindergarten students' teamwork and cooperation skills at the "Pulley's" Workshop in Legoland Discovery Center. The kids were divided by groups and tasked with building a Simple Pulley Machine. At the very beginning, with the excitement of having this opportunity, everyone started to build by him/herself, forcing their own opinion. In a few minutes, our students noticed that working alone was not a good idea. As soon as the students changed their work dynamic and became open to the ideas of others and trusting each other's knowledge and skills, the project was successfully completed in minutes.

The earlier we allow our children to socialize and realize the importance of teamwork and cooperative learning, the more prepared they will be to work in group settings throughout the course of their life.



~ [Simple Pulley Machine](#) ~

COMING SCHOOL'S EVENTS

in February



Registration for the upcoming 2020-2021 School Year has begun!

It is that time of the year when we begin assembling the classes for the next year. We also begin to plan our staff and curriculum for the upcoming school year. On the first week of February you will receive a Re-Enrollment Paket.

If you have decided to continue your child's education at Montessori Pathways, once you have received the re-enrollment paperwork, please

- a. Complete the Re-Enrollment Form for the 2020- 2021 School Year
- b. Attach the School Year Re-Enrollment Fee (\$50; \$25 for the second child)
- c. Return the Re-Enrollment Form along with Re-Enrollment Fee to school by March 1st.
- d. Submit 10% of the annual tuition security deposit no later than April 15, 2020.



By submitting your 10% of the annual tuition deposit on time, you secure your child's spot at our school for the next school year, can lock in your child's current classroom, and any other special schedules and arrangements made with the school.

All families enrolling and submitting 10% of the tuition after April 15th will be considered "newly enrolled" families, and will be subject to a new enrollment fee of \$100.00 for 2020-2021 School Year.

Spots are already limited and cannot be guaranteed - "newly enrolled" families will be enrolled on a first come, first serve basis. Classroom and any other preferences will also be up to administrative discretion based on availability.

Please do not wait until the last minute and help us and your family be successfully prepared for 2020-2021 School Year on time.

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⇒ **February 1 – Re-Enrollment and New Families Enrollment begins**

⇒ **February 7 (F) – Vision / Hearing Screening for**

⇒ **February 10—13 (M-Th) - Elementary Students' 4-day Trip to Nature's Classroom in Like Geneva, WI**

⇒ **February 14 , February 18 (by appt.) - Elementary Parent / Teacher Conference Days (North Room)**

- **No School for School Day Elementary students on February 14 (F)**
- Child care is provided for 4:15 / All Day Elementary students
- Regular Schedule for Elementary students on February 18 (Tu)



⇒ **February 14 (F) in the morning – Valentine's Day at Montessori Pathways**

⇒ **February 17 (M) – No School (Presidents' Day)**

⇒ **February 19 – 27 – Moving-On Weeks: Elementary Class Visit Days for Kindergarten students**

⇒ **February 27 (Th) at 6:00pm— "The Magic of Montessori Mathematics" Parent Workshop**
(Child Care will be provided per request)

⇒ **February 28 (F) at 12:15pm—"Dogman, The Musical" – Kindergarten and Elementary Field Trip to Raue Center for the Art in Crystal Lake**

⇒ **March 1—Summer Camp Enrollment Begins**



NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASS



Ms. Bridget

Returning from break, our class had a few things on their minds. First, we were busy finishing our Biography projects. On our last library trip, each child was tasked with choosing a book about a famous person. Once chosen, each child read the book and then filled out an information sheet about the person selected. Then, each student drew a picture of their person and glued it onto the front of a cereal box. Then the information sheet was glued onto the back. Each child shared their person in front of our class and then a few chose to present to the primary classes.



The other item on the minds of the kids was this: post igloo picture 1 and 2. Since the first snow, they have been building this igloo. It was finally big enough to begin carving out a hole to get inside. Every day they have been working on it. It took teamwork, cooperation, patience and kindness to the young primary kids who wanted to be a part of it. They dressed for outside faster than ever, took turns shoveling and hauling the snow on sleds, each waiting their turns and working together without much arguing. It was great to see them all working towards a common goal.



Other happenings: we celebrated Dr Martin Luther King Day by listening to his "I Have a Dream" speech as well as singing "Happy Birthday to You" by Stevie Wonder as our clean up song.

We also began working on a better way to track goals and to work on achieving it using highlighters. Finally, we chose topics for our presentation in March.



We really enjoyed our presentations this last week of January: Bolivia on Monday with Mrs. Torres, Ana's mom and Guatemala on Friday with Mrs. Ragusa, Donovan's mom.



Thank you, parents, for being a part of your students' education process and bringing a lot of curiosity and exciting moments to it.



We are looking forward to having a lot of fun at our coming 4-day trip to Nature's Classroom Institute in Lake Geneva, Wi in the beginning of February.

JANUARY PHOTO GALLERY

Elementary Class



NEWS FROM THE ART CLASS (KINDERGARTEN AND ELEMENTARY)

Ms. Jennifer



During this chilly month of January, I taught your children how to draw & paint a jolly little snowman peeking out of the corner of their watercolor paper canvas.

The unusual, close-up perspective of this drawing is a novel take on what you'd typically picture when asked to "draw a snowman." Students did a great job following the step-by-step process, painting with a limited palette of tempera paint colors.

The resulting paintings really make me smile!



Primary colors of acrylic, plus white, were provided, allowing plenty of opportunity for mixing custom colors, which students really enjoyed. We finished off their pieces with glitter paint to give the fireworks a festive, sparkly glow.

Happy New Year to all Montessori students, friends & families.

In contrast, students indulged in many, many colors with their next project...an acrylic painting of fireworks over water, in celebration of New Year.



NEWS FROM THE KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-K EXTENDED DAY



Ms. Kathy, Ms. OnDreia

What a busy month and fast month we have had. The children were happy to be back and have settled in peacefully.

The children found a book about antient Egypt and became curious about mummies, pyramids, sarcophagus and hieroglyphics. So, we ran with it. We brought in books from the library. The children were able to make mummies, a sarcophagus, a pyramid, and wrote their names in hieroglyphics. They enjoy browsing and reading about this ancient civilization.

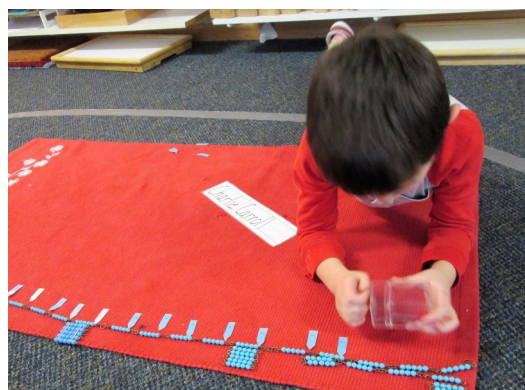


Academically, the children are continuing to work towards mastery of various math, language and science skills on individual levels. In order to master the materials, repetition and hands on experiences are needed. Repetition increases success, independence and confidence. It is though repetition, the child can differentiate the slightest differences and variations in the world around them.



JANUARY PHOTO GALLERY

Pre-K and Kindergarten Extended Day Group



NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ROOM

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Urana



Another month has passed by much too quickly. The children are happy to be back after the long holiday break. Everyone has settled back to the routine beautifully.

There has not been one specific focus or theme for the month. The children were all anxious to repeat their favorite activities or return to activities with a new purpose in mind. These sensitive periods of repetition bring focus to the child and develop neural connections based on experience, repetition and practice to help them fully learn. Repetition comes in many forms daily routine being one.



When the environment is stable the child knows what to expect and feels at ease, creating an optimal learning environment. For some children the schedule is the major focus, learning how to choose a work on their own and feeling confident and secure enough to thoroughly complete the entire cycle on their own. This is the practice of the child developing self-discipline and concentration before mastery can be achieved. Abstract thinking and problem-solving skills bloom from the self-correcting materials. It is exciting to see where the children's various interests lie.

In Art and Practical life, little snowmen and snowflakes have appeared. Snowflake spooning, snowflake gluing and fingerprint snowmen are flying off the shelves.

Math contained snowflake counting 1 – 10 with beautiful, but messy snowflake prints to represent the quantities.

In Science we incorporated the parts of a penguin and parts of a snowman. These variations in each area are familiar and yet each contain subtle differences, renewed interests and new vocabulary.



Thank you to the Bastian family for the beautiful donation of liquid timers. They are in our book corner/ quiet area and have been enjoyed greatly. On sunny days the colored liquid reflections can be seen on the shelf and seemingly spilling onto the carpet. It is mesmerizing!



Gong Hei Fat Choy! Happy Chinese New Year! We are so grateful to Sherry Zhang for her presentation on Chinese New Year. She gave each of the children a red envelope with a chocolate coin. The red symbolizes good luck and is also a symbol to ward off evil spirits in the new year! What fun!



Happy Birthday to Parker he will be our very first 6-year-old! Thank you, Parker, for being such a strong leader in our room.



We extend a huge welcome to Mirela's sister, Paola to our room. She is adjusting well, and everyone loves to help her. Go Paola!

JANUARY PHOTO GALLERY

South Room



NEWS FROM THE EAST ROOM



Ms. OnDreia, Ms. Carole

We have started our New Year with some exciting changes. We are happy to welcome two new friends, Lotta and Naya, to our program. We have added quite a few new works this month for the children, which they seem to be enjoying.

This month we have been discussing the Arctic Region, and how some animals are migration, hibernation and adaptation animals.



Over the past couple of weeks, we begin learning about penguins, where they live, what they eat, how they survive the extreme cold.



We have been reading books about penguins and learning fun facts about these beautiful animals as well as making a penguin art projects and some children have made parts of a penguin. We also made Polar Bears with a fork and paint, built a felt snowman and they could create their own snowman art projects as you may have seen.



Our month started with the celebration of Martin Luther King's, Jr. birthday. First I gave every other child a sticker and ask those who did not get one how they felt? (But I did give all students a sticker after our discussion) That led into the discussion about how it would feel to be segregated on bus, classroom or movie theater. We also made some artwork depicting friendship and unity and the children were able to make a friendship bracelet.

We conducted an experiment using a brown egg and a white egg, to show the children how even though they did not look the same on the outside, they were the same inside. I read a couple of books to the children about Martin Luther King, Jr and discussed with them his dream (world peace, justice for all and fairness with our violence). The children each had a turn to express what their dream was and most of the children really seem to understand what we were telling them.

I would like to share a cute story with you about Martin Luther King, Jr. The first day back at school I had a picture of him on the calendar to mark his birthday. One of our 5-year-olds went to the calendar and pointed to the picture and said, "Who is this"? I said, "He's name is Martin Luther King" and then she said, "Where is his crown"? I said, "He's not a king, it just is his last name". She then said, "He is not a king"? So, I ask her, "What is your last name?" She told me and then said, "Oh, it's his last name?" I just wanted to share this with you because these are the moments that melt our hearts. So sweet and innocent.

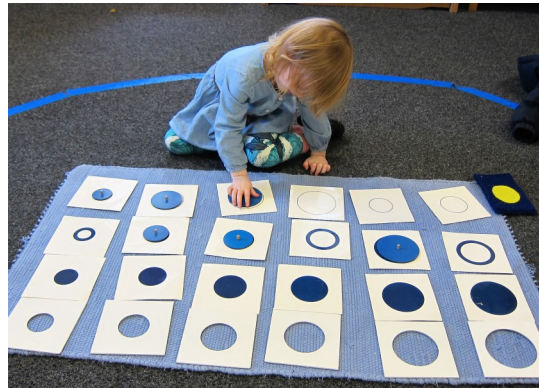
The last week of the month we were celebrating Chinese New Year with Chinese lanterns, fortune cookies, chopsticks, and some beautiful decorations around the room.

One of our favorite books this month was "Rabbit's Snow Dance" by James and Joseph Bruchac. If you get a chance to read this book to your children, please do so. It's a funny take on a traditional Native American fable about the importance of patience and listening to your friends. It's about a rabbit that has no patience and he would chant, "I want it, I want it, I want it right now!" which as we all know that is how our children can be at times. They all started laughing when I read this part because they could relate. It was a great book and kept everyone's interest.



JANUARY PHOTO GALLERY

East Room



NEWS FROM THE LATE AFTERNOON



Ms. Donna

We learned about what animals live in the Arctic (polar bear, walrus, arctic wolf, harp seal, beluga whale, moose, fur seal, narwhal, snowy owl, arctic fox, puffin, and the arctic hare). We set up an area on a large sheet of cotton batting to place some of these animals. Blue felt was added for the water.

We compared two different types of penguins. The Emperor Penguin and the Adelie Penguin. The Emperor Penguin is the largest and heaviest of the penguins 48 inches tall and they have lighter yellow ear patches that aren't closed. They lay one egg and nest on ice. The Adelie Penguin is smaller, 30 inches tall with thin, white rings around their eyes. They lay two eggs and nest on rocky beaches. They both are birds, can swim and like the cold. We made a 48-inch Emperor Penguin and found out that he is taller than some of our friends.



We talked a little about Martin Luther King, who was a man who wanted peace for all.

BOOKS:

"Five Little Penguins Slipping on the Ice" by Steve Metzger
 "Little Penguin" by A.J. Wood
 "It's Snowing!" by Olivier Dunrea
 "Hello Snow!" by Hope Vestergaard
 "The Snowman" by Raymond Briggs
 "Oh Snow" by Monica Mayer
 "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats
 "Snowmen at Night" by Caralyn Buehner

After reading "Snowmen at Night" the children were asked what they would do if they were a snowman at night. Some kids would sip cold cocoa, some of them would go sledding, and some of the friends would simply go home.

GAMES:

- * Match up Snowflakes
- * Pillow scoot race: children either sat on top of a pillowcase or put their feet and legs inside of a pillowcase and scooted to the finish line. One child would call out "On

your mark, get set, GO" before each race.

- * Four Corners: Colors were placed on four chairs that were set up in a large square. The children were standing in the middle of the square. Different movements were called out to do as they went to the color that was called. Tiptoe to the red chair when all had made it to the red chair we would go back to the center and call out another movement and color etc.
- * Cups and Pompoms: version 1 put a medium plastic cup on the line and stand back from your cup then toss the pompoms into their cup. Version 2 take one pompom in one hand and the cup in the other hand then toss the pompom straight up and try to catch it in the cup. Version 3 they called it popcorn where pompoms were placed in their cup and on the word "GO" they threw the pompoms up into the air where they quickly picked them up and threw them up again.

SONGS:

- * Ten Little Snowflakes
- * All Winter Long
- * Snowflake, Snowflake (actions that went with the song: Twirl around, Touch the ground, Land on my nose, Freeze my toes, in the air, tickle you everywhere).
- * The Animals in the Forest (tune: The Wheels on the Bus)
 foxes--slink, Owls--hoot, woodpeckers--peck, deer--leap, squirrels--nibble, bears--growl, rabbits--hop, skunk--spray.



ART:

- * Egg carton penguin
- * Marble painted snowman
- * 3-D Snowman
- * Chinese New Year Lanterns



MORE WONDERFUL MOMENTS AT PATHWAYS IN JANUARY



TRIP TO LEGOLAND DISCOVERY CENTER (ELEMENTARY AND KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS)

