



# Montessori Pathways'

## News

*March, 2014*

*"It is true that we cannot make a genius.  
We can only give to teach child the chance to  
fulfil his potential possibilities."*

*Maria Montessori*

### Coming School Events

- ***Saturday, April 5 at 10am- 1:00 pm - Open House.***  
We invite you to come and discuss any questions you may have.
- ***Wednesday, April 16 at 6:00pm – Montessori Family Night “I can do it!”***  
Your child will do several presentations of his/her favorite materials in the classroom for you.
- ***April 21- April 25 – Earth Week***
- ***Registration for Summer Camp and the upcoming 2014-2015 School Year has begun.***

Thank you to all of the families who have returned the re-enrollment application for the Summer Camp and next School Year.

*If you have decided to continue your child's education at Montessori Pathways, please complete the Registration Form for Summer Camp and / or Re-Enrollment Form for the next School Year and return it to us, along with the registration / re-enrollment fee.*

**The 10% tuition security deposit is due April 15 2014.**

***Please help the school be prepared for Summer Camp and the next School Year on time.***

As always, if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, feel free to contact us via e-mail  
*montpathways@hotmail.com*

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## Notes from the Elementary Class (North room)

In the Montessori elementary classroom, the subjects of Botany, Zoology and Geography are sometimes referred to as the Cultural Subjects. The reason these all fall into the subject of culture is that Maria Montessori believed that in order for a child to understand their place in our universe, they first had to understand the origins of the universe, followed by our planet and then followed by what inhabits our amazing planet. This is all related to the study of Geography, Botany and Zoology.



Children are introduced to impressionistic lessons such as the *Five Great Lessons* and other demonstrations and experiments. These lessons fall into the category of Geography teaching about the

*lands, people, features and phenomena of Earth. This leads into the study of landforms, parts of a volcano, parts of different water features, weather and parts of a mountain to name a few.*

The subjects of botany and zoology are also related to the study of geography and culture in that we also study *what animals and plants first evolved on our planet along with what animals and*

*plants are here today and where and how they survive.*

Because the Montessori curriculum is divided into multi-year cycles (the elementary years are often divided up into 6-9 year old classes or 6-12 year old classes), children are exposed to the ideas presented in their first year a number of times, however, each year the extent to which the children study these subjects is deepened.



For example, the first year a student might be presented the parts of a mammal and begin to understand the five classes of vertebrates. In the second year, she might begin to study the internal characteristics of a mammal and choose to research different mammals or compare and contrast different types of vertebrates.



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Also during this time, students begin to study different biomes on Earth and again deepen their understanding and knowledge of the geographical features of that land along with the different types of flora and fauna. Every year, more is added and the difficulty and detail is expanded upon.

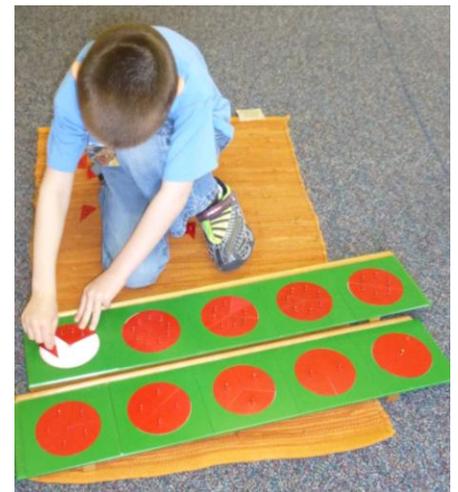
One of the beauties about the cultural subjects in the Montessori classroom (besides the wonderful opportunity to study our world and how it works) is that they can be integrated into the areas of math and language as well. What a wonderful way to be able to teach, guide and learn!

The children have all been busy working through their work plans this month. They have been setting goals in the morning for how many works they think they can complete. Below are highlights from some subject area of the classroom that the children were working on this month:

Language: The students continue their work on Symbolizing Sentences, Green Series (Long - a - spelling), Logical Analysis (sentence analysis), Syllabication, Noun, Verb, and Adverb Works, Sentence Analysis, Reading Comprehension, Spanish vocabulary, Cursive handwriting.



Math: kids were working on Types of Lines, Fraction Work, Solving the Addition and Subtraction problems using the Addition and Subtraction charts that lead to memorization, Polygon Command Cards, Stamp Game Division and Multiplication, Place Value to One Million, Pifagor Table.



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Our weekly trip to **Lee's Martial Arts** in Cary has been a wonderful experience for the children. The classes have focused on respect, courtesy, integrity and perseverance. The children attended class for about an hour twice a week during the month of March. During this hour the children were taught basic movements used in Tae Kwon Do, how to project their voice in a proper way and how to show respect. Master John Lee held small discussions on how the children can show respect at home, school and at class.

While planning for this trip we researched a few of the benefits of Tae Kwon Do for children. They include fitness, an outlet of energy and emotion, positive body image, self-discipline, and work in both memory and concentration, to name a few. Through observing these classes, we were able to see how the ideas of respect and courtesy are nicely tied into the Montessori philosophy. If you are able, and your child is interested, we would encourage them to continue in their study of Tae Kwon Do.



The week before spring break Ms. Terri has begun her art classes for the kindergarten and elementary kids. After studying Biomes of Africa the elementary students decided to draw a picture of their favorite animals that live in Africa.



We hope that the warm weather is finally coming and the kids will be able to do more activities and observations outside.

*Happy spring!*  
*Ms. Alena*

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# Kindergarten Extended Day News

*Ms. Patty*



As our final months of school are here, we reflect upon the wonderful memories of this past year and look forward to the final activities to come. *The children continue to expand their work cycles and push themselves to new levels of learning. This is what Maria Montessori calls intrinsic motivation- the learning that is not dependent on any outside factors-teachers, parents, or rewards.* An intrinsically motivated student likes to work at school, contribute to lessons and discussions and collaborates with others. Intrinsic motivation goes hand in hand with responsibility for self and others. It leads to a love of learning

that will last a lifetime.

During the month of March, we completed our *President's Day lap book*. The children were so excited to share their special book with their families!

We also celebrated *Dr. Seuss' week*. We read the book, "If I Ran the Zoo" and then created our own mixed-up animal drawing inspired by Dr. Seuss! We also used the Dr. Seuss books to help us find words within words (pink-ink, twin-win). The pre-k students joined us for a directed art activity, "The Cat in the Hat."

In Language, the children are becoming fluent readers. They are progressing with word-building and reading comprehension books. We are using a variety of materials to practice our sight words. Ask your child about the "sight word garden" work! We have also used colored markers to help us find mystery sight words written in white crayon on white paper! The children are enjoying these fun challenging works! We have also been learning about nouns and verbs. We use our reading comprehension books to find nouns and verbs in the sentences.



In the math area, we are beginning to learn about measurement. We are using rulers to find inches and half-inches. In the coming months, we will extend this unit to learn about other tools used for measuring (cups, scale, yardsticks, tape measure, etc.).

On St. Patrick's Day we graphed Lucky Charms cereal. Each child was given their own ziploc bag of cereal and was responsible for sorting, counting, and graphing each "charm." This was a fun and tasty way for the kindergarten students to learn about math!

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The students continue to work with the bead cabinet, place value, and addition with the thousands, hundreds, tens, and units of the Banker's game.

We enjoyed our field trip to the Raue Center to see the *Shanghai Circus*. The children were fascinated to see the acrobats perform amazing feats such as diving through 15 feet high hoops! We are looking forward to our April field trip to Akasha Yoga Studio for beginning yoga lessons!

We are so happy that we will be having weekly art lessons with Ms. Terri! We have already begun our first project....a painting of a bird with a nest.



It was a pleasure to speak with you at the parent/teacher conferences! It is so wonderful to have such a great group of students that take such joy in learning!



*Sincerely,*

*Ms. Patty*

## Notes from the South Classroom

*Ms. Patty, Ms. Ambreen*

The last few months have passed with incredible speed! The desire for more challenging work is very evident now. The children exhibit respect for each other and the classroom materials. They have evolved into a harmonious group, displaying the academic and social skills of a “normalized” Montessori classroom. *“The children are now working as if I did not exist.”-Maria Montessori*

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We had many celebrations during the month of March. During the first week *we celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday.* We read about Dr. Seuss and the process he went through to write his books. We learned that he wrote *The Cat in the Hat* from a list of 40 words that a friend had given him. We read a variety of Dr. Seuss books and completed a *Cat in the Hat* directed art lesson!

We enjoyed our all school field trip to the Raue Center to see the *Fabulous Fable Factory!*

On March 17th *we celebrated St. Patrick's Day.* We

learned some interesting facts about this Irish holiday. During snack, we tasted Irish Soda Bread with Kerrygold Irish butter! The mischievous leprechauns even visited our classroom and used their magic to turn our lunch milk green!

Everyone enjoyed our *"Rainbow Day" celebration!* Thank you to the parents that came into the classroom and helped out with special rainbow crafts and snack!



*Maria Montessori wrote, "The first aim of the prepared environment is as far as possible to render the*

*growing child independent of the adult."* While the

language, math and sensorial materials (as well as those found in geography, science, and art) demonstrate this philosophy, it can most easily be observed in practical life work. For example pouring, spooning, tweezing, polishing work allows a child not only to develop fine motor control skills needed for handwriting, but to experience the accomplishment of completing a task independently. The children were so excited to find a sewing activity added to the practical life shelves. After

completing his first sewing project of stitching a simple oval outline, one of the children excitedly told me, *"Miss Patty, I can't believe that I know how to sew!"*

In our language area, we have added 2 new sequencing books, "What is growing in the Egg" and "Birds and Their Nests". The children enjoy coloring, cutting, and sequencing their very own reading book.



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They continue to explore sound boxes, write stories, and use the moveable alphabet to build words. The older children are using the reading comprehension books on a daily basis.

In math, the children have been working with the money activity. They are matching the coins (penny, nickel, dime, quarter, half-dollar, Sacagawea dollar coin) to the correct card. The older children are working on exchanging of coins to one dollar. We have also added simple measurement with “inchworm” patterning cards. In the coming months we will continue to learn about measurement. The children will be introduced to the terminology: feet, inches, cups, pounds, width, length, ounces, height, etc.

In science, we have been learning about Oviparous (animals that lay eggs) and Viviparous (animals that give birth to live young). We learned that there are two mammals that lay eggs (platypus and echidna) and both live on the continent of Australia!



We celebrated Jimmy’s birthday this month! We would also like to welcome our new friend, Tommy to our classroom!

Our Chicken Soup of the Month poem for March:

*In March the wind blows down the door  
And spills my soup upon the floor  
It laps it up and roars for more!  
Blowing once, blowing twice,  
Blowing chicken soup with rice.*

It was such a pleasure to speak with each of you at the parent/teacher conferences! During the month of April, we will be celebrating Earth Day!



Warmly,  
Ms. Patty and Ms. Ambreen

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## Notes from the East classroom:

*Ms. Christine, Ms. Laxmi*

Happy Spring East Room Families! Although we are still waiting for more Spring like weather, we enjoyed our Spring Fling Craft Day on March 21st. Our sincere thanks are to Kyra's dad, Kurt, and Cate's mom, Colette, for helping with our projects. We planted grass seed, which still hasn't sprouted, decorated suns with rainbow streamers, and made flower magnets. Our classroom looks colorful and warm - now if the weather would just follow through.....



The children enjoyed *celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday* earlier this month. We have read many classic stories written by Dr. Seuss over this past month. Some favorites were "My Many Colored Days", "Green Eggs and Ham", and "One Fish, Two Fish".

We also "*went green*" in observing *St. Patrick's day*. Many beautiful shamrocks and rainbows with pots of gold adorned our walls!

March also brought Birthday wishes for Reagan and Emily. Happy 4th and 5th Birthdays to you both!

We really appreciated meeting with all of our parents for conferences; please know that we are always available to answer any questions or concerns you may have, and that we believe communication is vital to your child's well being and success at school.

Practical Life - Our monthly food *tasting activity* was sampling a variety of peppers; green, red, orange and yellow. Red peppers were the overall favorite but the kids really liked them, so we cut them up and served the remainder for a side dish at lunch.

Sensorial - The "Luck of the Irish with a Pot of Gold at the end of the Rainbow" brought interest in color mixing and sequencing the colors of a rainbow. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet were ordered and labeled on some very colorful rainbow creations.



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Math - spring green counters and cards have replaced winter blue ones as we continue number solidification through the teens with most pre-K students. Work continues with skip counting, odd/even numbers, addition and subtraction, multiplication and the 45 layout, as your child is ready.



Many children are experience exchanging/The Banker's Game - exchanging 10 one cubes for one 10 bar; 10 ten bars for one 100 square, and 10 one hundred squares for one 1000 cube - a great intro to place value and concrete knowledge of the decimal system.

Language - We continue working on an individual level with all the children. Word building with objects, ending sound lists, matching pictures to words and complete sentences are a daily staple of our mornings. We have introduced word scrambles where a picture and the letters used to identify the picture are given, but out of order; thus the child must choose the letters and order them to form the proper

spelling of the object. This exercise really challenges the phonetic ordering in the spelling of the words.

Science/History - Many students choose the monthly calendar work, identifying the 4 seasons, and sequencing the planets in the Solar System. We are also learning Days of the Week and Months of the Year (in both Spanish and English!).



Botany/Zoology -

With the exit of winter (!) we are exploring the habits of Animals in winter; some hibernate (sleep), some migrate (move) and some adapt (change). Several children have chosen to make Animal Classification books using the classic Montessori puzzles as stencils. And because spring is a time of new growth/rebirth, interest in garden flowers and the Parts of a Flower are popular choices in daily learning activities.



Hope everyone is enjoying their Spring Break and we are looking forward to seeing all of our students back in class on the 31st!

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*Warmest wishes,*

*Ms. Christine & Ms. Laxmi*

## Notes from the Pre-K Extended class:

### *Ms. Ambreen*

The month of March started with the birthday celebration of the most distinguished children's book author, Dr. Seuss. Therefore, we dedicated the entire first week of March to Dr. Seuss. We read his books and joined with the Kindergarten class for a special art project.

In Math, we did addition circle charts, worked with the teen board to reinforce teen numbers and learned the different types of triangles with their respective names such as isosceles, scalene and equilateral.

In Language, inspired by Dr Seuss' 'Cat in the Hat', we created our own story 'The Fat Cat' and made our own books. We also practiced reading sight words to reinforce them.



In Science, the melting of snow into water outside led us to learn about the 3 forms of matter i.e. solid, liquid, and gas. The change of time with the Day Light Savings on March 9th encouraged us to study about the Vernal Equinox--when the night and day are equal. We also noticed the birds returning from the south and this led us to learn about the parts of a bird.

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In Geography, we studied Ireland in the continent of Europe in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

In Art, we created beautiful Rainbow paintings with poems, triangle paintings with riddles, and Shamrock leaf paintings for the Ireland posters.

To celebrate the advent of springtime, we baked delicious Monkey Bread. The kids really enjoyed it and asked that the recipe be sent in their folders. Hope you will all enjoy it.

Dear parents, please review the March folders sent home.  
We hope you had a wonderful Spring Break!

*Have a wonderful spring!*

*Ms. Ambreen*

## Notes from the afternoon classroom:

*Ms. Donna*

March was a month about green. Green painted shamrocks, tissue shamrocks, leprechauns, names on shamrocks etc. We also saw our outdoor green rugs begin to show as the snow was melting. Spring was on its way.



Art: Tracing a large shamrock, mixing white paint with green paint to make a lighter shade of green and then painting our shamrock with our regular green and our own shade of light green, cutting out the shamrock and displaying them in the hall.

Making a leprechaun print by using our hand. We used green, peach (which we made by adding white to orange), white and then added a face.

Color the shamrock sheet. Each child was able to choose his/her own colors to finish this

project. They all looked great.

Our class book for this month "If I caught a Leprechaun, I would wish for?" The kids would draw their wish.

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Games: Walk around the foam shamrocks circle. When the music stopped, everyone would stop by the closest shamrock, if there was a cold coin you could pick it up. This would continue until all of the coins were collected. Then we would do it again.

Pass the pot of gold (a version of Hot Potato). The pot would be passed around in the circle. When the music stopped and if you had the pot you would take out a gold coin. This would continue until all of the gold was out of the pot.

Our singing game was picking out the shamrock which had our name on it. When their name was mentioned in the song they would then find their special shamrock.



Gym: Working on locomotive skills and ball skills.

*As always,*

*Ms. Donna*

