

AUGUST 22, 2011

GUMBO LIMBOS

“There is in every child a painstaking teacher, so skillful that he obtains identical results in all children in all parts of the world. The only language men ever speak perfectly is the one they learn in babyhood, when no one can teach them anything!”

Maria Montessori

Welcome back children

and parents to what promises to be the best year yet. Throughout the summer months we have prepared an indoor and outdoor learning environment that has been designed to optimize your child’s educational experience. The spacious, light filled classroom is stocked with materials that will address all of the questions children have about the way our world operates. The cornerstone of the Montessori philosophy is to **teach peace through education** and we believe this begins with a sound understanding of all cultures and religions. We chant, we pray, we sing, we ask why and we laugh, all in an effort to learn. **THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO YOUR CHILD’S POTENTIAL!**



Kindergarten.

Friedrich Froebel coined the term Kindergarten, meaning “children's garden”. He believed that through the nurturing of plants in the garden a child’s awareness of the natural world is stimulated. Indeed it is through daily observation that children learn to understand the cycles of life. This year the children will have the opportunity to toil in the garden as part of their daily schedule.



FRIEDRICH FROEBEL, pioneer of childhood education, founded the first Kindergarten in 1837.

DID YOU KNOW.....



MARIA MONTESSORI was invited to the USA by Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, and others, Dr. Montessori spoke at Carnegie Hall in 1915. She was invited to set up a classroom at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, where spectators watched twenty-one children, all new to this Montessori method, behind a glass wall for four months. The only two gold medals awarded for education went to this class, and the

education of young children was altered forever.

They will participate in all aspects of growing, harvesting, and preparing nutritious, seasonal produce.

"Children are like tiny flowers; they are varied and need care, but each is beautiful alone and glorious when seen in the community of peers."

Froebel

As an educational tool, the garden will provide real world applications of core mathematical and scientific concepts. Throughout the year we will endeavor to link gardening activities with indoor lessons for truly integrated experiential learning. The garden will be carefully planned to grow a wide variety of seasonal produce that favors our unique tropical climate. As parents you can help participate by purchasing seasonal herbs and vegetables. I will post a monthly wish-list that

will itemize the plants and seeds that we will require.

I am particularly excited about this years cohort of students as they will be involved in our garden from it's inception. They will shovel the soil into the beds, lay the watering system and plant the first seeds and seedlings.

Thank you

I would like to extend a special thanks to Jason and Brian Barroso for building our beautiful raised beds. It is through their

efforts that we now have a garden for the children.

I would also like to thank the parents that helped paint and move furniture over the past few months. Thank you Theresa Paturno for our beautiful blue floors and Stacey Burke Eggers for our crisp white table and chairs in the peace corner (and this weeks snack). Without the help of committed parents like yourselves our job would be considerably more challenging.

LIKES

- * Recycled art projects
- * Organic food for snacks and lunches whenever possible.
- * Independent thinkers and doers

DISLIKES

- * Precut foam and plastic project materials that will be on the earth for the next 400 years.
- * Preservatives, additives and food colorings in children's food.
- * Limiting a child's learning experience, by doing everything for them.

ESSENTIALS FOR THE NEW YEAR



Change of clothes
Cloth napkin for Lunch
Photo of your child
Fresh Fruit for snack
A bag of mulch



Classroom Etiquette

We would like to extend a special welcome to our new families. Over the next three years we will embark on an educational journey that promotes creative thinking and advocates tolerance and peace. These valuable lessons will stay with your child throughout their life. In order to truly reap the benefits of a Montessori classroom, it is important that parents encourage independence in their children. Begin by allowing your child to walk to the classroom. Carrying your child around the campus is counter-productive to what we are trying to achieve and often makes separation more difficult. Holding

hands and a quick kiss goodbye at the top of steps demonstrates support and nurturing, while encouraging confidence. Ironically, it is the little things that have the greatest impact.

The most academic part of your child's day occurs during the three hour work cycle which begins at 8:00 am. Please avoid lingering and socializing with other parents in the classroom, as this provides an unnecessary distraction for the children. In our experience a more expeditious drop off leads to rapid normalization of the class.

Academic Excellence can not be achieved without developing an internal discipline and a love of learning. The relationship between the parent and teacher ensures consistent support for the child. It is vital that we work together, so please feel free to communicate with us if you have any questions or concerns.

Peaceful Play

In the classroom we resolve conflict through peaceful communication. The "Peace Rose" is a symbol exchanged between individuals when situations need to be addressed. I encourage parents to use a similar technique for resolving conflict in the home. It is also important to provide the children with a Peace Corner. This is a quiet area that the child can retreat to when needed. Pillows and ornaments from nature make this area all the more welcoming to the child. Ask your child for advice about the Peace Rose or setting up a Peace Corner.

As I know you are aware, the level of violence that the children are exposed to today, through the media, ultimately desensitizes them. I always encourage parents to use the television as a tool to enhance their child's learning, rather than pollute their minds. The same can be said about computer games.

We don't advocate gun play on the campus.

Contrary to popular opinion, guns have no relationship with peace.



CLASS SCHEDULE



8:00 - 11:00: Morning work cycle

11:00-11:45: Circle time

11:45-12:45: Lunch

12:45-1:00 : Rest and Read

1:00-1:30: Story time

1:30-2:15: Enrichment*

2:15-2:30: Classroom clean up

2:30 Pickup and daycare

*Afternoon Activities;

Monday: Yoga

Tuesday: Reading

Wednesday: Art

Thursday: Chess

Friday: Fun Friday (Free Play)

STAR OF THE WEEK



Your child will be chosen as a “Star of the Week” once throughout the year. We try to align this special week with your child’s birthday, however this is not always guaranteed.

Monday: Bring in snack for the week. Sugars and chemicals in food affect learning and development. Snacks are designed not only to nourish but to diversify the palate. The children enjoy pita, humus, fruits and vegetables more so than simple carbohydrates. In a peer setting its amazing what a child will eat.

Tuesday: Design a poster-board with a timeline of your child's life.

Wednesday: Craft project. We encourage parents to design projects that include recycled materials. We discourage the use of foam and plastics (unless recycled), on the basis that “ plastic is forever”. There are 28 Children in the class and the project needs to cater to all age groups (3-6). This special morning is a memorable experience for both you and your child. Ms Ana, as always, will be on hand to assist

Thursday: Bring in a favorite book and song for Circle Time.

Friday: Bring in 5 favorite things to show during circle time. People, pets or possessions.

PLEASE NOTE

**DUE TO ALLERGIES THE CLASSROOM
WILL BE A NUT FREE ZONE**