



Montessori Children's School

February 2011

Dear Montessori Families,

February is upon us and it will be a busy month for our students and families. Attached with this newsletter you will find a flyer for our kids carnival fundraiser "A Day of Love and Play". Please print out the flyer and post it at your place of business or anywhere else you feel it would help to advertise for this fun filled event. Everyone is invited, bring your family and friends. We still need parents to help at the event. Area's of need: set-up, snow cone making, bouncy house, kids games and silent auction. Please sign up outside the office. We have been getting positive feedback regarding the sale of tickets and some families have come to pick up more. Way to go everyone, hopefully we will do really well this month with fundraisers and meet our goal. We do need donations for our silent auction, if you have anything we could use, please bring it to the office. This also counts as fundraising/workpay hours, so please get some gift certificates or items for our auction. Ways to earn extra fundraising hours:

- Every five tickets you sell in addition to your 15 required, you receive 1 hour
- Every silent auction donation, you receive 1 hour if worth over \$250 its 2 hours
- Sign up to help out at the event and receive real time hours

As Valentine's Day approaches the question of Valentine cards for the children comes into question. We do not encourage passing out Valentine cards to the children in our classrooms at MCS. Many of the children at this age are just learning to write their name and we do not think we should ask the parents for this additional chore. If your child wishes to give his or her friends Valentine cards, please make homemade cards, no store bought cards. In this way the child will truly feel like they did something for their friends. If you choose to bring cards in this manner please get them to the class by Thursday next week the latest for classroom distribution. Some children get very sad when they see a card in someone else's cubby and not theirs, so be sure to give to the teachers so the children can distribute a card for every child in your child's class. Do NOT send candy to school, this goes against our policy. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

I would like to thank Jamie Strunk for spearheading our "LICE Mission". Jamie has coordinated parents to come in the morning to check heads. If you can assist in this manner please do so. This is a school issue and as such we all need to work together. If you don't think you have the skills to check heads then you should come in and get a brief lesson from Ms. Kim so you can be sure you are properly checking your own child. Thanks so much for all the parents who have been helping so far.

We have a "workpay party" this Saturday at school beginning at 8:30am. We will be working on the grounds to beautify for our Love And Play event the following week. Please take a few hours to help out and make our school shine.

Enrichment classes begin this week and they are going strong. We are so thankful to have talented artists working with our children. We still have space in Yoga on Wednesdays if you are interested.

FYI. Our tax ID # is: 59 - 1395046 for tax purposes.

Yours Sincerely,

Kim Livingston

Montessori and Moral Development

Many theorists question when important moral development is learned by a young child. Moral development is one of the important foundations in Montessori and in the development of a contributing adult in our society. We strive to use every opportunity at school to expound upon the potential of moral development in each child. It is only through his own actions that a child can develop morality. Morality exists as a matter of choice and one day each child will have to make a choice on his own, a choice of compassion or selfishness, one of generosity or greed, one of love or hatred. The only thing that will guide him at that critical time of independent choice is the sum of all the choices he has had the opportunity to make prior to that moment. Maria Montessori made a profound discovery about the child. She realized that the freedom to *choose* moral action must be present in the child's life both at home and in the classroom. She directed that the classroom offer and protect these opportunities for choice, and therefore development. Each aspect of the Montessori classroom serves the development of the moral child. It is in this way, that Montessori is a preparation for life, rather than a method of education. By working together we can use the life experiences of your child to further develop good moral value in them, and in turn, the world.



If education is always to be conceived along the same antiquated lines of a mere transmission of knowledge, there is little to be hoped from it in the bettering of man's future. For what is the use of transmitting knowledge if the individual's total development lags behind?

-Maria Montessori