

Montessori Children's School

March 2011



Dear Montessori Families,

This week marks the **Montessori Education Week**. All of our classrooms will be talking and learning about Maria Montessori to honor the amazing Montessori method. We are part of a **unique form of education**, and we are very proud of that. Your children are not taught academics in the traditional sense, they learn through the use of specific materials and the direction of their teacher. This is why we refer to our teachers as "Director" or "Directress". The lessons are designed for them to be able to figure out as much as possible on their own. This develops their problem solving skills, sequential order and rules of deduction. This is one of the fundamental life skills missing in most traditional learning environments. Combine that with taking care of their environment, themselves and others and your child is experiencing the ideal methods of learning for development of the whole child. Hats off to you for providing your child this amazing opportunity.

Next week your child will be participating in an awareness program about children with disabilities, specifically neuromuscular diseases. They will be watching awareness videos, discussing how all people are different and yet the same and raising tolerance and awareness of children's strengths and weaknesses. On Friday March 11th, we will have a **Hop-a-Thon** with all students participating. Those Toddlers that do not come to school on Fridays are encouraged to come to participate in this important event. In addition to building awareness in our children it is an opportunity to raise funds for the MDA. In your child's take home folder this week you will receive a pledge sheet for friends and neighbors to pledge a certain dollar amount per hop so every child can raise funds for this important organization. This helps our children to become stewards of our community and is the foundation for future giving. The Montessori curriculum supports helping others and this is an effective way to do so. Once your child has completed his/her hopping, you collect the pledge money and turn it in to the office. Our school goal is for each family to raise \$20.00. All proceeds go to help children with muscular disabilities. Check your folders for more details.

During the month of March our enrollment process comes into full swing. I would like to review some of our enrollment procedures so everyone is aware of how the processes work. If your child is in our Toddler class and will be age three by September 1st of this year, he/she is eligible for enrollment in our Primary program. If you are interested in enrolling your child in the Primary program, it will be necessary for you to fill out an application form. The \$100.00 application fee will be waived. You will receive an application form in your child's take home folder after Spring Break if he/she is eligible. If your child turns three by the end of 2011, they *may* also be eligible for enrollment, based on available openings, so please fill out an application form and indicate your desired start date at the top of the form so we are aware of your intentions. Once you have filled out a form, your child is on our waitlist and you will be contacted to schedule an interview based on age, which will take place during the months of April, May and June. During the interview process, the child works with one of our Directresses and I speak with the parent(s) regarding the program and how it works. The Directress interviewing the child has no bearing on which class the child will be enrolled in. We may opt for your child to visit the classroom in lieu of an interview if we feel that's the best approach. It will still be necessary for you to visit with me, to discuss your child's placement and how the Primary program works. I will forward you our enrollment procedure before the end of the month.

If you have a child or know of a friend who's child turns 2 years of age by September 1st, 2011, they are eligible for enrollment in our Toddler program. Children do not need to be interviewed for this program, it is based on a first-come, first-serve basis and families will be required to attend an orientation day in either April or May. We currently have space available for August enrollment. We offer part-time and full-time programs for toddlers. We are holding our **Open House on Saturday, March 26th from 9-11am**. Please spread the word. If you or a friend are interested in any of our classes, please attend our open house. Staff will be on campus to answer any questions you may have. We also have observations on Wednesdays or Thursdays in all classrooms. If you would like to take advantage of this please sign up in the office.

Peace in Education, *Kim Livingston*

JEWELRY SHOW!

Make it a Girls Night Out

Please see the attached flyer for a **Jewelry - Ladies Night Out** fundraising event to be held tomorrow night, March 2, 2011. Jewelry sales are to benefit the Montessori Children's School. Come to the party and bring a friend. If you can't make it, then send some friends over to take advantage of this great event. The details are on the flyer and the jewelry is beautiful! All you need to do is spread the word and post the flyers anywhere you can for maximum exposure. Make it a girls night out mom, you deserve it!

OFFICE NOTES

- **Sign In and Out** - DCF requires that we have parents sign their children in and out of school, PLEASE REMEMBER this important safety and legal issue.
- Please keep your contact information updated in your child's file.
- Please arrive to school ONTIME with your child. Please review your parent student manuals regarding policies and procedures

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Our after school care program is very full. Be sure to call if you need after care to ensure availability. Regular aftercare ends at 5:30pm sharp. Those children who are not picked up by 5:30 will be charged a late fee.

Thank you for your efforts to pick your children up in a timely manner.

Kim L

2011 Class Yearbooks

We are extending our deadline to preorder your yearbook. Our yearbooks will have class pictures of all children along with class information and pics. This is a momento you don't want to pass up. If you preorder before Spring Break, the cost for the yearbook is only \$12.00. to obtain a yearbook after that date, the cost will be \$15.00. You may still put an ad in the yearbook or send a word to your Kindergarten graduate! Pick up an order form in the office or email nikki@montessorikeywest.com and she can email you a form. Please return your order forms to the office.

To aid life, leaving it free, however, that is the basic task of the educator.

Maria Montessori