



School News

Montessori Children's School "Achieving Peace Through Education"

October 18, 2011

On Saturday, it was my pleasure to join our school/classroom assistants at a full-day Montessori Conference in Miami. We all learned really interesting things and ideas to bring into the classroom so our children can benefit. I concentrated on attending sessions with an administrative focus. We had an amazing Heads of School brainstorming session sharing ideas for the future and what we offer at our schools. Comparatively, MCS is a small school, however, the concentration on programs and the comprehensive curriculum we offer is more than comparable with school with 500+ stu-

dents. When I think about what we offer, the enriching, respectful environment, the passionate and dedicated staff, the pottery and enrichment programs, I realize how amazing we truly are. The average tuition for a Pre-Primary (Toddler) full day program is between \$9,000.00 and \$12,000.00 yearly. The full day primary tuition is in the same range. The education your children receive is absolutely comparable at a fraction of the cost. How fortunate we are to be a part of an important education choice for our your community. MCS is a school of choice. The families are an important com-

ponent to the success of our school. By having an entire school community, that works for the betterment of the child, we will continue to contribute to our community by the well rounded, intelligent children that are fortunate enough to be a part of our school. Thank you to you, the parent for making such a tremendous choice of education for your child. We are all the same but different, recognizing our similarities while respecting individual differences allows the children of our school to contribute to fairness and peace in our world.



"The first six years of the child are the foundation of all the characteristics, attitudes and abilities of his adulthood constructed in such a manner that it lasts throughout his whole life." ~ Dr. Maria Montessori

Coffee With Kim

Join me this Thursday in the aftercare room at 8:30am for coffee and an informal talk. We will be

discussing specific point about the Montessori approach to education and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Communication

is the key to a successful relationship. This is one of the many ways we can communicate. Bring a snack if you would like, coffee is on me!

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Dates to Remember

- Wednesday - October 19** - School pictures, Banyan room
Thursday - October 20 - School Pictures, Mangrove room
Thursday - October 20 - Coffee with Kim @ 8:30am in the aftercare room
Friday - October 21 - School Pictures, Gumbo Limbo room
Monday - October 24 - Pigeon Plum room—3day class
Friday - October 28 - Early Dismissal, Costume March & Bake Sale - Kapok class
Friday - October 28 - Fantasy Fest liquor booth, sign up to get your fundraising hours, it's a blast!
Sunday - October 30 - Children's Day at Bayview Park - Sign-up for fundraising hours
Monday- October 31st - Professional Day - childcare available \$30 - limited space
Saturday - November 5 - Pre-Primary playground workpay party, please speak with your child's teacher!
FYI - Dates for picture make-ups will be forthcoming for Kapok and Pigeon Plum classrooms



School Safety

Safety First!

Last week our children practiced our evacuation procedure in case of fire. Throughout the year, we teach the children about what to do in case of emergency. The month of October is Fire Prevention Month and our the Key West Fire Department will be coming to our school so the children can check out the fire truck and speak with the men and women who

serve our city in case of a fire or emergency. This is a great time to practice your home emergency procedures. Do your children know where to go in case of a fire, do you have smoke alarms and fire extinguishers in your home? Check the National Fire Prevention website: NFPA.org for more information on how to keep your family safe.



FYI

- Please check both our lost and found boxes for any items that you may be missing. One is located at the side entrance to the office and the other is at the bottom of the aftercare steps. Any items not claimed will be donated to the school or Salvation Army.
- Please be sure to sign your child in and out of school and aftercare. We are required by the state of Florida to keep accurate records of children's attendance.

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~ Dr. Maria Montessori*

House and Grounds

At MCS we take pride in our environment. Over the past two years, our parents and Board members have dedicated their efforts to improve both the indoor and outdoor space. We have seven buildings on our property half of which are over 100 years old! Needless to say, it takes a lot to maintain. If you have the knowhow and availability to do some of our monthly maintenance tasks, you can steadily chip away at your workpay obligation and contribute to keeping our children's space as beautiful and safe as can be. View our areas of need on the following list and please contact Ms. Kim if you can help out.

- Change our A/C filters every three weeks
- Leaf blow our front yard
- Take out the recycling once per week
- Clean the gutters!
- We need someone who can do minor concrete work
- Carpentry needed to fix our side driveway gate—HIGH Priority
- Help clean in the classroom on early dismissal days and Professional Days



"FUN"draising Corner

Upcoming events.....

Friday October 28th - Fantasy Fest booth on the corner of Eaton/Duval. All volunteers will receive an email next week regarding the finer details about this incredible event!!

Sunday October 30th - Children's Day - There are still a few more opportunities to sign-up for this fun event, particularly for any budding Grillmasters out there! If you can't volunteer then bring the family and support the school at the booth on the day. We look forward to seeing you there....

Notes for the Diary.....

Pampered Chef - 5.30pm, November 7th - A Pampered Chef demonstration evening where you can swap your home recipes, view the goods on sale and taste some yummy food. The entire month of November is a Pampered Chef month. Products can be bought at the demonstration night or ordered online,. Using a special code will ensure 25% will go to the school!! More details and catalogues to come.

November 30th - Get ready for Christmas and attend a **Mary Kay** demonstra-

tion with lots of gift packages for Christmas. MCS gets 25% of all sales. It will take place on Campus, more fun details to come!

Thursday, December 15 - Conch Tour Train Christmas Caroling! Fun family event, check next months news for details.

Friday December 16th - Scholastic Books Day - Seana Cameron has very kindly volunteered to co-ordinate the sale of Scholastic Books. Expect to see the Scholastic books catalogues coming soon in the take-home folders. You can order books from the catalogue or alternatively there will be a Scholastic Books Day, to view and purchase books. The school will benefit either financially or through donated books for the school library from your orders!

Volunteers/help needed.....

Organization of the Scholastic books is a huge task and volunteers are sought to help Seana with the Book Day, and with orders throughout the year. All help will be hugely appreciated and will count towards fundrais-

ing/workpay hours!

Friends of Montessori Card - This is a discount card which costs \$25 to buy, \$20 of which goes direct to the school. We have some excellent discounts already offered on the card but are always searching for more. If you know of anyone who owns a business and would like to sign up then let us know! Unlike the current locals card available round town, sign-up to our card is FREE. Our card will offer discounts locally, however it can be used worldwide, and there are schools all over the US and the world who are signing up to this card! Cards can already be bought at the school office although we will be having visible sales at Fantasy Fest, Children's Day and throughout the month of November and December. For more details or info go to www.FriendsofMontessori.com or ask Melissa Trader.

The next fundraising meeting will take place in the Aftercare Room at 8:30am, November, 9th. We have a great team so far this year, but there is always room for more ideas and enthusiasm - if you think you would like to help then we'd love to see you there.

Any questions, ideas, comments or suggestions, please ask Melissa Trader or Nikki