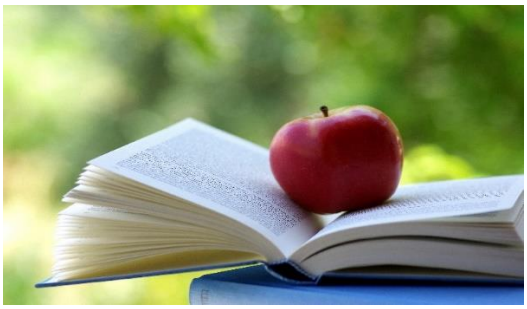
Montessori Beginnings Newsletter



Charles will be five.
Amelia Meadows will be four.

SEPTEMBER 2018

Welcome back to another wonderful year here at Montessori Beginnings School! How do we know it's going to be wonderful? Because you and your child are here! We have also begun to settle into our routines and welcome new and old friends!

"House Keeping" Items:

- Label – Label – Label everything (coats, shoes, slippers, clothes, wipes, boots, ointment, backpacks.) If you don't want it painted, dripped or stepped on – keep it home. ☺
- **Arriving on Time**: school begins at 8:45. Please arrive before then, not after; it is too disruptive. If you must be late, phone on 508.477.7730 to let faculty know. Thank you. Please pick up your child from Extended Day on time as staffing is based on children enrolled to their contracted time. Thank you so much for your help with this.

  Parking: Please be mindful when dropping off and picking up that our spaces are limited. We ask that you do not block the driveways/pull into a designated spot. Drop off and pick up should be brief. If you need to speak to a teacher at length, please let them schedule a time to give you their full attention.
- **Toothbrushing:** Please send in 4 toothbrushes for the year and a small tube of paste.

Dates to Remember:

September 10th : "Grand Persons" Get To-Gether = 2-3pm. If your child's Grandparent or special someone would like to come spend some time together, please have them join us on our play space for a playdate. We like to take this time to recognize that extra special someone in your child's life.

September 19th : Back to School Orientation (6-7pm). Come visit your child's classroom, meet the teachers and learn about the upcoming school year

September 21st : "Whirled" Peace Day/Sing along. Our children and many around the world gather and sing "Light a Candle for Peace," talk about what peace means and how we can be peaceful. We will post our video on our Face Book page (Montessori Beginnings School).

September 20 – October 19th: Our annual 'For Small Hands' fundraiser happens! You can purchase great, child centered materials for your little one (Christmas is coming…) and the school will earn a portion of the proceeds to purchase and replace school items.

On a more somber note, we have had to wish Kathleen a sad goodbye. She was unable to return following her vacation last week. She has been caring for her mother. We wish her all the best. We will miss her, her passion for our outdoor curriculum and care of the children. We will be looking for a new educator who we hope will be just as passionate about our outdoor space and child development.

TODDLER ONE ROOM NEWS

Welcome to Toddler One!

We will be concentrating this month on establishing our routines and getting to know each other. Our concepts this month include: exploring the classroom environment, following the classroom routine, and developing relationships with peers and teachers. Amelia and Jennifer are looking forward to watching your child grow in confidence and abilities.

Materials will be added and rotated as the year goes on. Keeping the materials interesting and challenging for each child is our goal.

Examples of works in the classroom:

Language:
* Mystery bag with different objects to name.
* Object to picture matching
* Books: "If You See a Kitten" John Butler
"Fall Apples" Martha E.H Rustad
"Animals in Fall" Martha E.H Rustad

Science/Exploration: Cutting up an apple to explore how it looks, feels, and tastes. We will be making applesauce and then enjoying it.

Practical Life: Practical life exercises teach the child basic living skills such as hand washing, vegetable preparation, pouring, ect.
*Scooping large buttons from one bowl to another.
*Sponge squeezing
*Washing a fire truck work
*Pouring water and milk during meal times

Math/Sensorial:
*Stacking wooden ring work
* Posting work/ color work
* Pincer grasp transfer work
* Puzzles
* Building blocks
** Water table fun - toddlers and water go together, so don't be surprised if your child has a bag of wet clothes at the end of the day! This is a wonderful tactile experience for children and they can practice many skills including scrubbing and pouring.

Art: Apple printing/ large crayon coloring

Song of the Month
"Way Up High in the Apple Tree"

Way up high in the apple tree
Sat two apples smiling at me,
I shook that tree as hard as I could
And down came the apples,
Mmm good. Mmm good.

Then continue to one apple then none.

BOOKS

TODDLER TWO ROOM NEWS

During the month of September, much of the curriculum in the Montessori classroom consists of reinforcing daily routines such as taking off coats, hanging them up, putting on our slippers, sitting for morning meeting and getting their own snack and cleaning up afterwards. Wow, that is a lot of work! Learning these skills is relevant and important to the Toddler's development and independence. Throughout the year we will be getting the children ready to transition to the PrePrimary room.

We look forward to a fun filled September. It is such a joy to watch your children explore the classroom and experiment with all the new materials.

Works:

Materials will be added and rotated as the year goes on. Keeping the materials interesting and challenging for each child is our goal.

Practical Life: these exercises teach the child basic living skills such as hand washing, vegetable preparation, pouring, etc.

- Scooping work (scooping buttons from one bowl to another.)
- Sponge squeezing
- Stringing work (putting spools onto a string.)
- Apple scrubbing
- Pouring

ART

Apple printing
Puffy paint on the easel

Food Tasting Activity:

Apple tasting: red delicious, yellow delicious and green granny smith.
We will ask the children which kind they liked best.

We will also make apple sauce then use it to make bread too! Yummy…

Language:

- Mystery bag with different objects to name
- Go-together cards (example: one card will have toothpaste the other will have a toothbrush)
- Matching pictures with objects
- "Goosie" by Olivier Dunrea
  "Hug" by Jez Alborough
  "Owl Babies" by Martin Waddell

Sensorial:

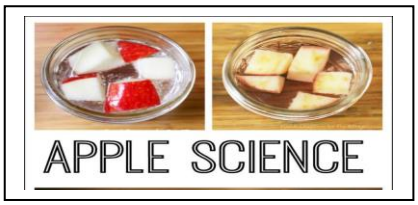
- Stacking work
- Water basin (inside and outside) Toddlers and water go hand in hand, so don't be surprised if your child has a bag of wet clothes at the end of the day!
- Nesting Monkeys
- Monkey balancing work
- Puzzles
- Knobbed cylinders
- Trains, blocks to build and play with

PRE-PRIMARY ROOM NEWS

What an exciting year we have planned. We welcome all our old and new friends to a new school year. This year the school will base their studies on the cycle of the seasons.

Practical Life = We will be getting back to the basics to start off the year. Children will be learning many lessons including: grace and courtesy - learning class room routines and getting to know each other - rug rolling - pushing in our chair – preparing and cleaning up after snack and lunch - caring for our school environment and each other. Some of the numerous works in the room:

- Both wet and dry pours
- Apple scooping
- Spooning beans from bowls
- Transferring acorns from sunflower shaped bowls
- Dressing frame: zipper
- Squeezing sponges and clothes pin works



Language Arts: Children are exposed at an early age to language. Different than traditional settings, Montessori classrooms begin with introducing children to the sounds letters make. Using sandpaper letters and tracing using their fingers (uses the senses and movement). Once they have learned a few individual sounds, they can then put the sounds together to make small words. As more and more sounds are learned, more words can be made - as children learn to make words they have the necessary "equipment" to begin to read. Reading is a natural development. In this way, it is not forced, and it is not taught abstractly, but comes to the child through a natural progression.

Science: We will be studying the life cycle of the apple. We will cut open apples/taste them/ and examine all the parts of the apple. We will graph which apples we like best, the third-year students will be doing a science experiment with apples. A nature tray with fall items, living and nonliving, and land, air, and sea will be studied. The children will also be cleaning up the herb garden and planting mums for the fall. In this area we have welcomed a new class pet. It is a beautiful blue beta fish, who we will name as a class.

Geography/Culture: An introduction to the seven continents and the peace rose lesson. The peace rose is what the pre-primary students use for conflict resolution. The children will learn the continent song and a matching Wonders of the World objects with picture cards. Starting in October, we will focus on a continent and one or two main countries from that continent.

Sensorial: In this area of the classroom children explore concepts using their senses. Each concept is isolated and explored using specific materials. Exploring is done through the use of movement - children arrange and organize materials based on the concept being explored - for example while using the long red rods the concept of length is isolated and children sort these rods according to one feature, later a second feature is introduced when using the brown stairs, children will need to recognize not only the length but also the width to put them in the right order. Much of the work in this area is an indirect preparation for later more advanced mathematical concepts. Concepts of big and small, long and short, color differentiation, texture, patterning and sequencing are all explored in this area.

Math: The Montessori mathematical materials are beautifully designed, sequential materials that guide the child from exploration of basic concepts using concrete materials to full internalization and abstraction of more difficult mathematical ideas.

PREPRIMARY SEPTEMBER MENU

A change this year is that we will be providing our community lunch on Mondays instead of Fridays. We tried it this summer and it seemed to work better for the class.

3 **Labor Day** **No school**	4 Bring Lunch	5 Bring Lunch	6 Bring Lunch	7 Bring Lunch
10 Applesauce Pancakes/Apples Sausage 	11 Bring Lunch	12 Bring Lunch	13 Bring Lunch	14 Bring Lunch
17 Fall Pasta and Sauce Cheese Sticks and Veggies	18 Bring Lunch	19 **Open House (6 to 7)** Bring Lunch	20 Bring Lunch	21 Whirled Peace Day! Bring Lunch
24 Chicken Nuggets Fresh Fruit/Veggies	25 Bring Lunch	26 Bring Lunch	27 Bring Lunch	28 Bring Lunch

Cooking:
Spreading apple butter on crackers, making applesauce and apple pie.

Art: We will focus on the color red. Opportunities for cutting, drawing, collaging, and clay exploration will be available.
Group Project: painting using different size lids in the outline of an apple.

Next month we will begin introducing an Artist of the Month.