

Castle Mound Montessori
Where the magic of learning begins!



August Newsletter

From Varsha's desk....



Hello parents,

Summer vacations are coming to a close, but it seems there is no end in sight yet for our hot Texas days. Even though the temperature are sweltering, summertime reminds me of the fun and joys of my youth. There is just a more relaxed nature to people during the summer months and just more time to enjoy life. We hope that in our schedule here at Castle Mound Montessori we have allowed enough time for the children to develop good friendships and to be a good friend. I hope they have enough time to look at a butterfly on the playground as long as they would like, or pour water as long as it holds their attention. I worry about kids when they are forever hurried from one thing to the next. Research shows, to no ones surprise, that the hurried child is vulnerable and at risk for several types of problems.

David Elkind, Ph.D , author of the book *The Hurried Child*. acknowledges hurrying children is a problem that has always been with us.

“The problem was recognized and commented on by our most gifted educational theorists. In response to hurrying they have all returned to the same fundamental principle, namely, that childrearing and education should be adapted to the growing needs interests and abilities of children.”

Our beloved Italian educator, Dr. Maria Montessori said, "The child's work is to create the man that is to be. The adult will be a fully harmonious individual only if he has been able, at each preceding stage, to live as nature intended him to."

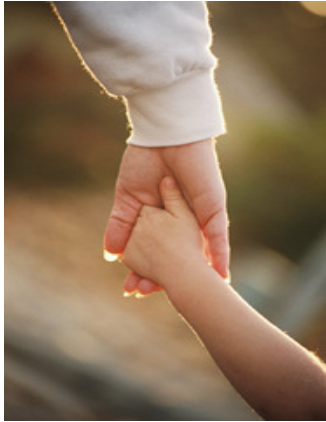
I strongly agree with Elkind in his belief that if we want healthy, happy children who can compete in an increasingly global economy we have to use what we know about healthy childrearing and education. Let's strive to do that together-at school and at home. Please enjoy what's left of summer and have a great time with your family. The staff and I are in the process now of preparing for the upcoming school year. I believe it will be a tremendous time of learning and growth for your child. We look forward to seeing you soon!!

Varsha



Programs begin at 8:30 a.m. daily

Our Montessori program begins each morning at 8:30 a.m. and we believe there is great value for your child in participating in the entire program as it is designed. Children of all ages thrive in a setting where a set routine is established and followed each day. Please arrive by starting time when at all possible to help us develop this strong routine and sense of community in your child's classroom.



Parking lot safety highly critical

When arriving and departing each day, we ask that you please take extra care to ensure all children remain safe at their school. Please park in the designated parking spaces at all times rather than in the fire lanes and have a firm grasp of your child's hand when entering and exiting the building. The children are excited to arrive at school and equally excited to leave with you, so we cannot stress enough the value of holding them tightly in the parking lot.



OPEN DOOR POLICY IN EFFECT AT ALL TIMES

It is very important to us that you feel involved here at the school. As a parent, you are always welcome inside the school to view your child during his/her school day. You do not need to call ahead or give notice to observe. We request that if you do visit during the children's work time, you try to remain as inconspicuous as possible to avoid distracting the children who are working on task. Please see the parent handbook for more information regarding the best times and other expectations during observations.

Annual School Calendar set and available

In order to plan your year, the Castle Montessori 2009-10 calendar is available and will be attached to your August billing statements. In addition, the school calendar will be available on our school website in a downloadable PDF file format. The school's website address is www.castlemontessori.com.



Children's office files required by state licensing

On the first day of the new school year, you will be given a copy of the updated parent handbook to keep for your own information. When you receive your copy, please remove the acknowledgment page; kindly sign, date and return it to the front desk. We are required by law to file your acknowledgement forms in your child's records. While you visit the front desk, please fill out a new emergency information card for your child and ask if their file is indeed complete. A completed file is needed to meet our state licensing requirements.



*\$500 tuition credit offer
a hit!*

Any family who refers a **new** family to our school will receive a **\$500** credit towards tuition after the new family has been enrolled for a 30-day period.

Please take advantage of this incredible offer and tell everyone you know about our beautiful school!

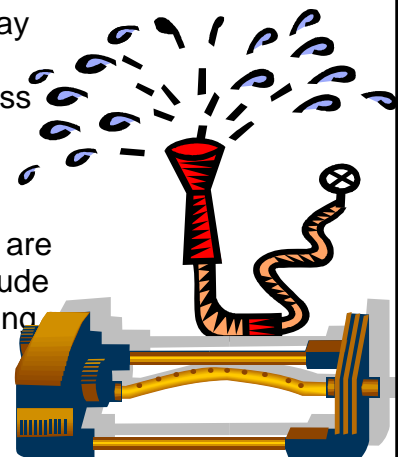
UPCOMING EVENTS

**School closure
Friday,
August 7**

Castle Mound Montessori will be closed all day Friday, August 7 for teacher in-service training. We look forward to seeing you again on Monday August 10.

Splash Day set for August 14

The school will host Splash Day for all students on Friday, August 14. Please dress your child with their swimsuit under their clothing and apply waterproof sunscreen as they are dressing at home. Please include a towel and a change of clothing from home for the event.





End of summer bash set for August 20

We are in the process of planning an end of the summer bash for the students. We will release more details as they are planned.

Parent Orientation set for August 21

Our Parent Orientation event will be held at 6:30 p.m. on August 21. All Castle Mound Montessori parents are encouraged to attend. The staff will provide an overview of school policies, schedules, goals and explain how you, as a parent, can make the most of your child's Montessori education and experience.

School uniforms important to learning environment

Our uniform policy is designed to minimize the distractions of various clothing styles and individual clothing items. We believe wearing the school uniform helps children focus their attention on the most important aspects of school life.

Primary students are required to wear their school uniform Monday through Thursday. On Friday your child may wear clothing of their choice and rubber soled shoes, with the exception of clothing depicting violence.

Our uniform consists of the following: Boys- khaki or navy blue shorts/pants (no jeans), the school logo shirts, and rubber soled shoes. Girls- khaki or navy blue skirts, skorts, pants or shorts (no jeans), the school logo shirts, and rubber soled shoes. For their safety, please do not allow your children to wear open toe shoes/sandals, flip flops or clogs-style clogs.



School logo tote bags now available

For your convenience, we have purchased a supply of tote bags with our school logo on the front. The bags are fairly large, and are the perfect size for your child's nap linens and pillow. We would like to soon discontinue the use of the plastic bags, so this is a good option for travel to and from the school. The bags are available in the lobby at the price of \$13 for one or \$25 for two bags. You may pay by cash, check, or be billed for your bag(s). We can also have the bag embroidered with your child's name on it for a minimal price.



Encouraging motor skills in the Montessori classroom

by Michelle Irinyi

“The education of a child’s physical movements is very complex . . . The child, if left without guidance, is disorderly in his movements. These disorderly movements are typically the special characteristic of the young child . . . he “never keeps still,” and he “touches everything.” This is what forms the child’s so-called “unruliness” and “naughtiness” in formative years.”- Dr. Montessori’s Own Handbook. Putnam: New York. 1965.

Dr. Maria Montessori was a firm believer that, from birth, children should be free to move and develop their physical movements. She advocated for not confining children to playpens or highchairs, but rather, to encourage independence and awareness by providing child-size furnishings for even the very young; Montessori recommends that an adult help the child learn orderly movements so that as they grow older, they gain more control over their bodies.

Montessori lessons are themselves, a guide to movement. In the Children’s House (classroom), children are taught precise and orderly movement when they are introduced to a lesson. These movements include:

- how to choose a rug from the basket
 - how to carry the rug
 - how to unroll the rug on the floor
 - how to choose material from a shelf
 - how to carry the material to their rug
 - how to set up the material on the rug
 - how to complete the work
 - how to return the work to the shelf
- how to roll the rug and place it back in the basket

Whoever touches the life of the child touches the most sensitive point of a whole, which has roots in the most distant past and climbs toward the infinite future."

– Dr. Maria Montessori

Children at this age (3-6) learn these tasks easily and take pride in their ability to do so independently. They perform them over and over with a sense of accomplishment.

As demonstrated above, the Montessori child needs to have space in order to move and work. Some children enjoy working on the floor on a rug that clearly defines their space while others prefer to work at a table. Some work lends itself better to tables, such as pouring activities. Still other work should be done while standing, such as washing dishes or painting. It is through this continual movement that motor skills, both large and small, and their minds develop.



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