



# Castle Mound Montessori

Where the magic of learning begins!

## March Newsletter



### From Varsha's desk...

Well, we are moving into the third month of our second semester. Time is definitely flying by us. I want to start by apologizing for not having a February newsletter. I was out sick with the flu for over a week and by the time I got back into swing of things at the school, half the month had already past by me.

January was a busy month with our first annual Kindergarten Night to speak to all of you about the importance of having your child continue their education at Castle Mound Montessori during their Kindergarten year. If you did not get the opportunity to be with us during this eventful evening, please stop by our front desk and pick up the reading material that was given out that night. You may also check out the DVD that was shown to the families that attended the Kindergarten Night. Thank you to all of our Lead Primary Directresses for helping us host this wonderful evening.

During February, we had our annual Friendship Day and the children were able to exchange friendship cards and have a party in their classrooms. Thank you to all of our parents who helped bring in food items to make this day special for all of our children.

Finally, March is here and we are getting ready for our parent teacher observations followed by the conferences in April.

As always, my heartfelt appreciation goes out to each and everyone of you and all of your children for making Castle Mound Montessori such a wonderful warm and loving place. I truly enjoy seeing all of your children's' faces every morning and watching them grow day by day. Thank you.



### Montessori Qualities

#### A Montessori Child

- I learn because I can and I want to know everything.
  - I question everything.
  - I learn by making mistakes and it is OK.
  - I try to cooperate and be respectful.
  - I have friends younger and older who help me.
  - I take care of my classroom.
  - I like to trace and write letters and numbers.
  - I love to read and to read to my friends.
  - I like to think and do things at school.
- I am a learner.

#### A Montessori Teacher/Directress

- I inspire my children to think.
- I nurture individual curiosity, creativity, and imagination.
- I pass down a sense of wonder.
- I encourage my students to question, not simply accept what I, or anyone else, tells them is true.
- I teach and model learning from mistakes, and to not be afraid of learning something new.
- I model kindness, honesty, empathy and respect, and support them to not only behave, but to act with a sense of honor and self-respect.
- I show and tell them how to apologize when they have been disrespectful and to mean it.

I show and tell them how to resolve conflicts and to win friends and earn their trust and loyalty.

I instill the need to write and then I challenge them to write every day.

I help them to learn to read and then to teach them to love books and hear the author's words.

I have my children show me how they solved their math problems, using their brains, not a calculator.

Most of all, I help my students to learn how to learn on their own, so that they will succeed in school whether or not the teachers that they have in the future are inspiring and effective. I want them to become independent learners and teacher-proof.

**Why do I teach?**

**Because I can make a difference!**

### ***Parent Observations*** **March 2nd—13th**

*The parent observations are an opportunity for your child to share with you a dynamic picture of what life is like in a Montessori environment complete with friends, teachers, learning materials, as well as the less tangible atmosphere that is "home" for the child during their working day. We know from experience that what you will actually see is colored by the excitement that your child will have during your presence. To minimize this excitement factor, both for your child and others in the class, we ask that you observe the "Suggestions for Observing" handout, which will be provided before observations begin. We also offer hints for observing and interpreting what you see.*

### **Academic Program Will Be Closed**

**March 16th— 20th**



During the week of Spring Break, our lead directresses will be off. The school will be open for all regular hours. During this week, the children will not be working on their Montessori work. The children will be engaged in our Spring program which will be taught by our assistant teachers for each classroom. Their regular Montessori classes will resume on Monday, March 23rd.

### **Parent/Teacher Conferences** **April 6th – 24th**

Just around the corner...Parent/Teacher conferences will be held in April. These conferences are designed to give you an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with the Lead Directress. Montessori is a non-graded method so the discussion will be centered around where your child is in his personal, emotional and mental development. During the weeks of March 2nd-13th you will be able to sign up for an observation time. Observation of your child's classroom is very important for you to be on the same page as your teacher during the conference. I must emphasize that you are observing the class process... not your child... in most circumstances, your child will not work at his/her normal task level. He/She will be acutely aware of your presence and will either attempt to work above or below true task level. As time passes and more observations are done, normalcy will come much

easier. Please look for the conference sign up sheets the week of March 23rd. These will be located in a binder on the front desk.



### **Spring Frolic April 9th**

Castle Mound Montessori will be having our annual Spring Frolic on Thursday, April 9th during each classes outside time. The children will enjoy an egg hunt, prizes, and lots of Spring time fun!



### **School Closed**

Castle Mound Montessori will be closed on Friday, April 10th in observance of Good Friday. Classes will resume on Monday, April 13th.



**Lights, Camera,  
Action Book Fair .....  
April 27th—May 1st**

**8:00am—6:00pm**

Roll tape and take one with our Book Fair. The whole school is excited about our upcoming Book Fair. An amazing selection of books is headed our way!!! Books transport us to places and into stories that take us out of the ordinary and into the world and minds of imaginative authors. The wonder of reading is still as important today as it was before the emergence of computers and DVD's. The precious minutes spent reading to your child (or letting them read to you) is a gift of time that can not be replaced. It is also generational. You can be assured that one day your child will pass on his/her love of reading to your grandchildren ... and the wonderful stories move forward and forward!!! Please note, not only is this a perfect opportunity for you to gather more books for your child's library, it will also help our library grow. The school will receive books in accordance with your purchases and the teachers created class "Wish Lists". We thank you in advance for helping us provide new and exciting stories for our children.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Mar 2nd — 13th Parent Observations

Mar 16th—20th Spring Break—Academic Program  
Closed

Mar 23rd Academic Program Resumes

April 6th—24th Parent/Teacher Conferences

April 9th Spring Folic

April 10th School Closed—Good Friday

April 27th-1st Book Fair



### **Maria Montessori Quote of the Month**

“...education is a natural process carried out by the human individual, and is acquired not by listening to words, but by experiences in the environment.”