



Castle Mound Montessori  
Where the magic of learning begins!

## September Newsletter

From Varsha's desk....



Dear Parents,

Let me first thank you for the trust you have placed in my staff and I in the care and education of your child. We are honored and want you to know we take that responsibility *very* seriously.

Entering school for the first time, or coming back from a long break with parents, is a *big step* for any child. Parents and teachers working *together* can help children adjust by anticipating their needs and preparing them in advance for their new school.

I *firmly* believe, and I'm committed to going through a process to help both the child and parents make a happy and easy transition from home to school.

The process includes scheduling several time periods for visiting the school with the goal of familiarizing the child with the teacher, classroom, and school; as well as providing the teacher opportunities to get to know the child and plan more effectively before he/she becomes a member of the class.

I also believe it is important for parents to share any concerns or special considerations regarding their child, such as certain fears, toilet training history and food allergies.

It is my *hope* that your child's actual first day here, or first returning day is a *happy one*. We will work together to help make that happen.

As a mother, and as one who has now witnessed many "first days at school", I do encourage you to keep a *brave heart* if you find the first few days are a little rough. Young children sometimes experience separation anxiety or shyness initially, but our teachers are *trained* to help them adjust. If your child cries at drop off, *try* to remain calm and positive. Say a comforting, but upbeat goodbye as you *reassure* your child that he/she will be okay and that you will be back later.

During the first few weeks of school, teachers and parents sharing information about how they think the child is adjusting to school *helps very much* in the transition process.

Spending a little *extra* quiet, one-on-one time with your child during the first weeks of school has also been found to make a difference in the wellbeing of a young child during difficult times.

*If* you have the time and ability to do so, after the first couple of weeks of school, volunteering in the classroom periodically will help your child feel their school and family life are linked.

Being in the classroom is also a *good* way to develop a relationship with your child's teacher and classmates, and allows a firsthand look at the classroom environment and routine.

I look forward to a *fantastic* year with your child and family and believe *together* we have a great opportunity to prepare them for a wonderful life ahead.

Sincerely,

Varsha



## Welcome to the 2009-10 school year!

The teaching staff, support staff and school administrators give a hearty welcome to new families and a warm welcome-back greeting to our returning families. We are so grateful you have placed your trust in us for this very important time in your child's life. We want to work with you as a trusted partner in your child's care and development. If you need to speak with us at any time during operation hours, you can call the school or simply stop by the office for a visit. We want to provide your child with the best education available and you with exceptionally great customer care.



## School closed for holiday

Castle Mound Montessori School will be closed **Monday, Sept. 7th** in observation of the Labor Day Holiday. We hope you enjoy the holiday and we look forward to seeing your child back at school on **Tuesday, Sept. 8th**.

## Parent Education Night focuses on Practical Life curriculum

Castle Mound Montessori will host Parent Education Night on **Tuesday, Sept. 22nd from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** The session will be taught by Assistant Director Jennifer Nelson and a fellow Montessorian from our school. All parents are encouraged to attend this free session. We ask that you please register your attendance interest in advance at the front desk so that seating and childcare can be arranged for the session.

## Capturing those precious smiles...

Group pictures for each class will be taken at school on **Thursday, Sept. 24th** and Individual photos will be taken the following day, **Friday, Sept. 25th**. More details will be posted to the parent communication folders in the lobby as the date approaches.



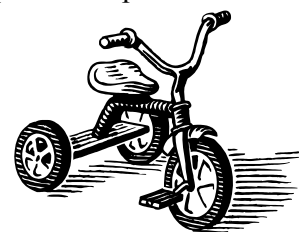
## Rev up the engines....Trike-A-Thon is back!

Castle Mound Montessori is excited to participate in the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Trike-A-Thon program. The Trike-A-Thon event will be held **Wednesday, Sept. 30th**. Funds raised in the event will make a difference in the life of children suffering from cancer and other catastrophic diseases, making it possible for St. Jude to treat ill children regardless of their family's ability to pay.

Trike-A-Thon is a fun, week-long program that teaches children riding/toy safety lessons while raising money for St. Jude. At the end of the week, the children will practice the rules learned with the Trike-A-Thon event.

The program is solely voluntary and you may freely decline. We do understand this is a very busy time for many parents. For those who will be able to participate, a sponsor form envelope to list the names and donation amounts of family and friends who are sponsoring your child will be available. The children will need parental help in collecting all donations and returning the sponsor form envelope.

On the Trike-A-Thon day, **Wednesday, Sept. 30th**, your child may bring his or her helmet and riding toy or bike to the school. Please ensure every item you bring is clearly marked with your child's name. It is also recommended that you bring all donations that you have collected in the provided sponsor form envelope. For the children's safety, the event will be held in our gymnasium. Students in the Primary classes will participate in coned area of the parking lot and toddler students will ride in the gym.



## Yearly calendar set and available

In order to plan your year, the Castle Montessori 2009-10 calendar is available on our school website in a downloadable PDF file format.



## Procedures in place for ordering school lunch

If you would like to order school lunches for your child, please take the order form for the upcoming month and circle each meal you would like to order. Make a notation on your own home calendar as well and return the form to our front desk please. If you should forget or are unable to provide a lunch on a day you did not previously order a meal, please stop at the front desk to place an order. This will ensure a lunch is provided. The menu order forms will be placed in your parent communication folder on **Thursday Aug. 27th**. We ask that you return the completed form on **Monday, Aug. 31st**.

**\$500 tuition credit helpful to families**

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!

### 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. We also have navy and red plaid jumpers with white blouses for the girls. For their safety, please do not allow your children to wear open toe shoes/sandals, flip flops or crocs-style clogs.



### School logo tote bags becoming popular

You may have started to see our large red tote bags with the school logo on the front all throughout the school. 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).



**Plaid jumpers now available for female students**

We now have in-stock a supply of darling red and blue plaid jumpers for our young ladies at Castle Mound Montessori. The cost is \$18 each, and we would be happy to bill you on the purchase. Please stop at the front desk if you would like to add this item to your daughter's school uniform options. We highly suggest you add a small pair of shorts (or tights as the weather becomes cooler) under the jumper for modesty when your daughter wears the outfit.

**Programs begin at 8:30**

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 a top priority**

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. We would also like to ask you to please turn off your car engine when coming inside the building for drop off and pick up. Thank you for helping us maintain the safety of all of our children



**OPEN DOOR POLICY VITAL PART OF 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. It is very important to us that you feel involved here at the school. Jennifer Nelson, our Assistant Director will be in the halls and will gladly walk the children to class beginning **Monday, Aug, 24th** if you would like to say goodbye in the lobby, or you may choose to escort your child inside his/her individual classroom.

**Children's office files required by state licensing**

If you have not done so, please stop by the front desk and pick up 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.

**Why is My Child Pouring Beans?  
Normalizing the Child  
through Practical Life**

Practical Life is the central focus of the Montessori classroom. More than likely the class will be “normalized” through the Practical Life materials. The peace that is developed within the child during his/her time spent in this area is immeasurable. A child in stress or with low momentum can be redirected by the teacher into Practical Life and will almost always find a positive result. There is a sense of permanence and safety in performing these tasks that is calming to the child experiencing difficulty. Each work in Practical Life is presented in a logical order with a definite beginning, middle and end. This logical sequencing provides a natural foundation for the child to establish order as a way of life. Not only does it provide order for her external life but also sets the pattern for an organized internal being. Through the direct movement towards independence in the child’s external world, the paths are laid indirectly for the logical order to math and reading.

Montessori said “Everything in the living world is active, Life is activity at its peak, and it is only through activity that the perfectionism of life can be sought and gained”.. “ the hands are connected with mental life and the child’s intelligence can only develop to a certain level without the help of his hand. But if it develops with his hand, then the level it reaches is higher, and the child’s character is stronger.”

**“The greatest sign of success for a teacher... is to be able to say, "The children are now working as if I did not exist."”**

**-Maria Montessori**

The Practical Life area allows the child to move while he is learning. Large and small motor skills are developed through whole body movement while performing the exercises in the Practical Life area. Allowing this movement is also vital to the development of the intellect. The child’s first laid tracks in the brain are of order and success. The information acquired through movement is ingrained in a permanent place in the brain. The classifications that are beginning to be understood and organized in the brain are clearly defined. Much as a computer has an exact base language to clearly read software, the works in this area allow exact information to be programmed in the brain. As the child’s academic life continues each new piece of information (pathway) that is obtained will have this as its foundation.



**Castle Mound Montessori  
3200 Peters Colony Rd.  
Flower Mound, TX 75022**

**Phone: (972) 539-3333  
Fax: (972) 539-0033**