

MONTESSORI PATHWAYS' NEWS

The First Week of School (August 22— August 30,2019)



Welcome to Montessori Pathways—
your child's home away from home!

Notes from Ms. Alena

(Head of School)

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! We are excited to have you as a part of our Montessori Pathways family this year!

We are so happy to see a lot of returning friends who grew up over the summer so much and are ready for their new level of exploration. And we are always thrilled to meet new friends and show them the best way to the world of discovery!

Montessori Pathways Team —

our experienced and enthusiastic teachers who will be helping your children become strong and independent learners, as well as responsible, kind, and helpful individuals:

- ◆ **Ms. Alena** – Director of Montessori Pathways School
- ◆ **Ms. Bridget**– Elementary I-II Teacher in the North Room.
- ◆ **Ms. Karen** – Elementary Assistant Teacher.
- ◆ **Ms. OnDreia**– Primary Teacher in the East Room; Kindergarten and Pre-K Extended Day Teacher
- ◆ **Ms. Carole** – Primary Teacher in the East Room; Preschool Extended Day Teacher.
- ◆ **Ms. Kathy** – Primary Teacher in the South Room; Kindergarten and Pre-K Extended Day Teacher.
- ◆ **Ms. Urana**– Early Morning Arrival; Primary Assistant Teacher in the South Room; Preschool Extended Day Teacher
- ◆ **Ms. Donna** – Morning Arrival, Late Afternoon Teacher, Elementary Gym Teacher
- ◆ **Ms. Jennifer** – Kindergarten and Elementary Art Teacher.
- ◆ **Ms. Cynara**— Music Teacher
- ◆ **Ms. Jennifer R.** —Late Afternoon Teacher; Substitute Teacher



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

- ◆ **Monday— 3:00—3:50pm—Taekwondo**
- ◆ **Tuesday – 3:00 – 3:45pm – Yoga**
- ◆ **Wednesday – 3:00 – 4:00pm – SNAPology**
- ◆ **Thursday – 3:00 – 4:00pm – Dance**

The program begins right after Labor Day

And so we discovered that education is not something which the teacher does, but that it is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being. It is not acquired by listening to words, but in virtue of experiences in which the child acts on his environment.

The teacher's task is not to talk, but to prepare and arrange a series of motives for cultural activity in a special environment made for the child.

~ Maria Montessori,
The Absorbent Mind

Each month, we will be sending out a newsletter to let you know about everything that has happened at school, as well as to announce upcoming school events. We understand the parents' interest and curiosity about their child(ren)'s first few days at school, so we have prepared a short newsletter for the first week.

For most of our students, the beginning of the new school year was smooth and organized. Some of the children are returning students and are a great help for their new friends.

Many of our new students had also attended our summer camp, which helped them build a strong relationship with the school, as well as learn the rules and procedures of the classrooms.

I would like to thank the teachers, who spent a lot of time, energy, and creativity in preparing such a wonderful environment for our students.

Our newsletters will contain information from each individual classroom, but we suggest that you take the time to read all of it. Oftentimes the teachers include helpful information, interesting recipes, and other tips to be used at home, as well as a greater picture of what is happening around the school. These newsletters also serve as a starting point for conversations about school with your child.

Have a wonderful Labor Day!

Ms. Alena



COMING SCHOOL'S EVENTS

- ◆ **September 2 (M) - No School in observance of Labor Day.**
- ◆ **September 6 (F) at 5:30—6:30pm - Ice Cream Social (Rain Day—September 13)**
- ◆ **September 10 (Tu) - 1:30-2:30pm— Kindergarten and Elementary Class Field Trip to Nature Center in Crystal Lake for “Plants and Trees” hiking program.**
- ◆ **September 20 (F) at 10:30am—Fire Drill**
- ◆ **September 20 (F) at 11 a.m.,** children from Pathways School will sing "*Light a Candle for Peace*" in celebration of the **United Nation's Annual International Day of Peace.**

Beginning in New Zealand and finishing in the Hawaiian Islands, the song "Light a Candle for Peace" will be sung continuously for 24 hours by Montessori school children around the world.

Our school is excited about joining the many other Montessori schools to "Sing Peace around the World". It is a chance to connect our regular lessons of encouraging the children to treat each other with respect and dignity. To show compassion, patience, and kindness to others are values nurtured in the Montessori environment as the children work together each day for a peaceful classroom. In the words of Maria Montessori, "*The child is both the hope and promise for mankind.*"



- ◆ **September 24 (Tu) - Mums Sale School Fundraiser.**
This year, the raised money will go toward to playground restoration in spring..
- ◆ **September 27 (F) - Elementary Parent / Teacher Conference Day (North Room)**
 - * No School for School Day Elementary students
 - * Child Care is provided for Extended Day (7:45am — 4:15pm) and All Day (6:45am-6:00pm) Students.



NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASS (NORTH ROOM)



Ms. Bridget

Montessori determined through her observation that children ages 6-12 are storytellers and enjoy collaboration. Thus, her lessons and materials require a lot of storytelling and collaboration in the Montessori elementary class.

This week has been full of storytelling:

Me Bags brought by the kids and me to tell about us as people- our interests and what makes us unique.

Summer homework: assignments where the students were able to tell what they did over the break and then they shared the adventures on the first day of school.



The Great Lessons of Maria Montessori: told by me to bring to life the coming of the universe, the coming of life, the coming of humans as well as the stories of the beginnings of language and numbers..

I began the year with Montessori's first Great Lesson which she called "The God with No Hands" which shares the story of how some people believe the universe and all in it came to be. We talked about this being a folk story, mythology, and all cultures have this type of storytelling about things they did not understand. How did all we see come to be in existence? We then learned about the scientific notion: The Big Bang.



Next was the Second Great Lesson: The Coming of Life. I tell this story of the new beginnings of life once the Earth cooled and life was able to happen when water appeared. There is a timeline showing many creatures that came to be.



The Field Museum has an excellent exhibit about this called Evolving Planet.

We will continue with the other 3 as the week progresses.

I have also shared through storytelling some notable historic legendary characters: Gilgamesh, Beowulf, Aladdin from Arabian Nights and one story of the Canterbury Tales. The kids cannot wait until I finish the books to peruse the text and pictures in better details.



It is a great place for working together and telling stories. I hope that they are coming home to tell you some of our stories of recess, research, new lessons and read aloud. Enjoy every story with your child.



NEWS FROM THE SOUTH ROOM

Ms. Kathy, Ms. Urana



Our first week of school was very busy and exciting. We began our days outside, socializing and enjoying the expansive playground. Some children engaged in group games while others choose to run and explore the equipment. The group games allow new children to meet others and feel welcome. It is very important for each child to feel safe and welcome into our community. A sense of security is essential to success outside of the home.



Our very first lesson was on, how to line up. Each child needs to leave a space around the front and back of their own body, keeping hands at our sides and following each other into the building slowly. The children then learned to exchange shoes, hang their jacket on a hanger and zip, button or snap and before entering the classroom. All hats are hung on a hanger until we return outside.



At the beginning the school year there is both an early morning and post work cycle line time. The morning line time is very informative and full of basic presentations. We sing songs about community, friendships and name songs. I am sure you have heard a few of them. These songs strengthen the sense of community and help each child to feel a sense of belonging within the group. Our formal lessons began with carrying a rug, rolling and unrolling a rug, as well as how to walk around a rug and within the classroom. We use walking feet, inside voices and gentle hands. Safety is the most important rule in our room.

Lessons on Grace and Courtesy are also given at this time. We did quite a bit of role-playing as older children modeled how to ask for help, how to wait, and how to watch another child.



Everyone enjoyed having at least one turn to model different lessons. Presentations were given for basic Practical Life and Sensorial activities each morning. Work time began and everyone was excited to choose work. During the work cycle individual children are given more specific lessons catered to child's age group. These early morning lessons will continue and build upon one another other laying the foundations of each child's classroom experience.



As the weeks progress the children become more confident each day, learning new activities through both group and individual presentations given. Repetition is key to each child's individual success. Taking the time to master each activity may last from a few days to a few months. Each interaction with a material brings new aspects, defines the content and refines the child's experience.



As our first week wraps up, we would like to stress how happy we are to have a wonderful group of friends who are beginning to form friendships and cooperate and help each other learn. It will be a wonderful year! We have no doubts about it!

NEWS FROM THE EAST ROOM



Ms. OnDreia, Ms. Carole

Congratulations to all of us. We are very proud of your children as they all did wonderful these first few days. The older returning children did a great job helping out the new children with many works in the classroom, finding their cubbies and the bathroom! Don't be surprised if you child is very tired when he/she gets home for the next few weeks.



This first few weeks of school we will be focusing on Grace and Courtesy, making friends and learning the routine of our classroom. This week we started learning about apples. Many of the activities were math, and language related.

We learned:

- How apples grow
- The parts of an apple
- Printed apples with paint
- Apple stamping

We have read a few stories that we have shared together:

- "10 Apples Up on Top"
- "The Giving Tree"
- "Apple Otter Goes to School"



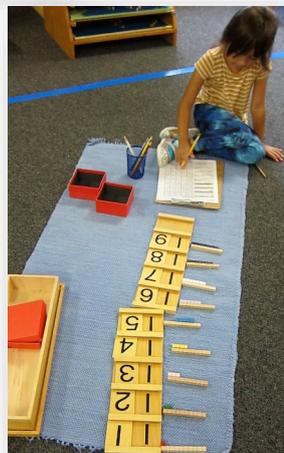
A popular work in our classroom is food preparation. The children have been introduced to apple or snack preparation. This entails the child washing his /her hands, cleaning the apple or other fruits, cutting the apple and placing it in a baggie with name to bring home or serving fruits on a tray for morning snack.



Started learning the Pledge of Allegiance, days of the week months of year and Calendar.

These are a few Grace and Courtesy things we have been working on:

- Greeting someone
- Introducing oneself
- Shaking hands
- Apologizing/excusing oneself
- Watching and observing others
- Waiting
- Taking turns
- Interrupting/asking for help
- Using quiet voice
- Coughing and sneezing
- Washing one's hands
- Respecting others and their space
- Walking around people and objects
- Sitting on the putting away a chair
- Walking on the line
- Caring for works and the environment
- Rolling a rug
- Being kind
- Making friends
- Giving compliments



We look forward to a wonderful and successful year with your children!

PHOTO GALLERY FROM THE KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-K EXTENDED DAY



Ms. OnDreia, Ms. Kathy



NEWS FROM THE LATE AFTERNOON CLASS

Ms. Donna



It has been a great beginning of the school year. When nap time is over the children put on their shoes, fold their blankets, tuck in their lovey, go to the bathroom and take their snack to a table and talk to their new and old friends. After snack we do a short activity.

At 4:00 the Pre-K and Elementary students join us where we are able to do some Art, using crayons, markers or colored pencils or working with Legos.



This a list of some of the things we have done during our circle time:

- Name game (children take turns saying everyone's name)
- Apples (match up apples that look alike)
- Little Mouse game (one child hides a white mouse under a house, then they take turns guessing witch house the mouse is hiding under)
- Creating things out of clay
- Looking at movement picture cards and trying to do the movement that is showing
- Read "Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed" by Eileen Christelow and then we acted out the parts of the book.

Outside time has had us comparing worms that were found on the playground by size and which worm could move the fastest. At the end of the day the worms were released back into the dirt. Bubbles are a big hit as well as playing soccer and T- Ball.



MORE WONDERFUL MOMENTS AT MONTESSORI PATHWAYS IN AUGUST

