

Welcome to a new school year at Hope Montessori!

The summer flew by and now we are experiencing the beginning of our school year. We had a few tears shed the first week, which is expected, but now the children are happily coming in to school and hugging their teacher. ☺ While I was walking around our school this morning there was such a sense of calm throughout the classrooms. The babies and toddlers are busy in their own right. Movement is the key to all of their successes!! The two year olds were pouring water, dusting, sweeping, sorting, coloring and counting. With every child doing their “work” with concentration and great thought. It was wonderful to see the preschool children preparing their own snack, cutting and arranging fresh flowers, and working with math and language materials. It made me smile to see all of this work at the beginning of our school year. Very exciting to see!!

Thank you to all of you who attended the Open House. We enjoyed sharing what is planned for the school year and talk about any “housekeeping” items to keep the year running smoothly. If you were not able to come, please look in your child’s cubbie or file folder for important information about your child’s classroom.

We are excited this year to be having our Silent Journey and Discovery. You received information last week about this fabulous opportunity to learn more about your child’s experiences in a Montessori environment. Please look over the flier and put on your calendar to join all of us on this fabulous journey. You will come away with a new understanding and appreciation of why the Montessori environment helps to create a respectful, calm, peaceful child. The Silent Journey and Discovery is Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00pm and Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> 8:30-11:00am. We are offering care for your child so that you will have the opportunity to join us. It is an event that you won’t want to miss! Two years ago we offered a Silent Journey and Discovery at our school. One parent said to me as they were leaving on Saturday morning, “thank you so much!” “I have learned so much about what my daughter does during her day. It was such a very special time for me. Thank you for offering this opportunity to us.” Please RSVP by Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

On September 21, 2016, the United Nations is hosting its annual International Day of Peace. Montessori schools from all over the globe will be joining together for a special Sing Peace Around the World Celebration. The song *Light a Candle for Peace* will begin on the shores of New Zealand and continue to travel from country to country, and time zone to time zone until it reaches the Hawaiian Islands 24 hours later. In Sing Peace 2009 they had over 65,000 children sing for peace as one of the largest UN ‘Day of Peace’ celebrations ever. Our children will be signing at 10:00am on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

We have many wonderful experiences going on at our school. We look forward to a very exciting school year. Please feel free to come by my office. I enjoy all of my conversations with the children and parents.

Respectfully,

Anne Dolan

## **Grandparent Tea**

The preschool children are looking forward to having their grandparents celebrate Grandparent's Day with us on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-10:30am. The children enjoy having their Grandparents at school to enjoy a snack and show off their classroom. The children are very proud!

## **Scholastic Book Fair**

The scholastic book fair will be going on in the common area Tuesday-Friday, September 6-9<sup>th</sup>. Please enjoy looking at the books. We have staff eager to help in making choices and assist with purchasing books.

## **Silent Journey and Discovery**

The Silent Journey and Discovery is an immersion experience in Montessori education for parents. Parents are welcomed into the school on Friday evening, September 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:00pm for a brief, group introduction to the Montessori philosophy, followed by a "silent tour" of classrooms throughout the entire school. You then return on Saturday morning, October 1<sup>st</sup> 9:00-11:00am to experience the work that your child does each day at school or will be working on in the future. What does my baby do all day? Why does my child pour water and wash tables? What is the golden bead material? These and so many other questions will be answered for you over these two days. We look forward to seeing you!

## **Snack Preparation**

The children in the 2's and preschool classrooms have begun the school year preparing their own snack. The assistant teacher will cut fruit in large pieces for the children to then use the spreader knife to cut their fruit into smaller pieces. This Practical Life work is a skill that will help the children gain independence, concentration and refinement of movement. The children are able to choose preparing their snack when they are feeling hungry. It is so nice to see the children's faces of accomplishment, satisfaction and joy.

## **Important Dates:**

September 6-9 – Scholastic book fair

September 9<sup>th</sup> – Grandparent tea in preschool classes

September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Apple picking fieldtrip (preschool classes only)

September 30 & October 1 – Silent Journey and Discovery

October 7<sup>th</sup> – Fall Festival 6:30-8:30pm