

HAPPENINGS AT HOPE MONTESSORI

Notes from Anne

The summer flew by and now all of the students are back and enjoying some of the new work, seeing their friends and making new friends. I love this time of year; the weather a little cooler, and the hustle and bustle of the children. It is so rewarding to see the infants exploring their environment, beginning to crawl and some now walking. The toddlers are active and certainly enjoy being outside using their large and small muscles. The children in the two's and preschool classrooms are busy working on developing their independence and concentration through the work. It warms our hearts to see such good work happening!

We had three busy workdays before school began. On Wednesday, all of the Hope staff went through a rigorous Tier One Tactile Intruder training. As intense as it was, we all felt that it was well worth our time and have a deeper understanding of what we will do if such an episode would occur. We certainly understand the hardship that some families had to go through having an extra day off, and we appreciate your understanding. Of course, the safety of all the children is our #1 concern.

Another layer of safety is the fingerprint check-in and check-out that we have implemented. Thank you for being patient as we have all of the families and extended families registered. We are currently getting the tuition side set up which will enable you to pay for tuition when you check your child in or out. Stay tuned for this section to be implemented!!

Silent Journey:

On Saturday, September 23, 2017, 8:30-12:00pm, Hope Montessori will be hosting the *Silent Journey*. This is a fabulous time to get a deeper understanding of what your child does during the day, what work they choose and why, and see how independent they are. It is an immersion into understanding the Montessori Method of teaching. You will have a silent walk through all of the Montessori environments and then be able to use the work that your child uses. You will see the process that your child goes through to become a confident, competent learner. Infant and toddler families: this is a great opportunity to see what your child is doing and what the next step is for them. Two's and preschool parents: you will have a deeper understanding of the work that your child is talking about. One of the parents who attended last year said, "Thank you so much! I learned so much and have a deeper understanding of Montessori. I look forward to making some of the "work" for my child to use at home. Thank you again." Hope all of you can join us for a very enriching experience!!

Fall Festival:

The Fall Festival is on Friday, October 6th, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm and is held at our school. It is a fun event for the whole family. Each classroom will have a fun activity for the children. Homemade chili, vegetarian chili, nachos and vegetable trays are served for dinner. This is a great way to meet other parents and friends that your child has made. Rain or shine this is a very popular and fun event Hope puts on. We look forward to seeing you there!

Calendar of upcoming events:

Saturday, September 23 ~ Silent Journey 8:30am-Noon (child care provided)
Friday, October 6 ~ Fall Festival ~6:30-8:00pm
Friday, October 13 ~ Purina Farms fieldtrip – Preschool children
October 16-20 ~ Parent teacher conferences – Two's classrooms
Thursday, November 9 ~ Parent Child Night – Preschool children
November 13- 17 ~ Parent teacher conferences – Preschool classrooms
November 13-17 ~ Usborne Book fair
Thursday & Friday, November 23 & 24 ~ Thanksgiving Observed – school closed

Safety:

This past week we heard of an infant being left in a car for several hours. As a staff we talk about how we can avoid such a tragedy happening to one of our children. We don't point fingers, we pray for the family and the staff of the school who cared for this child. We keep talking about safety and want all of our children to be safe. The information below is from www.stlouischildrens.org

TIPS to Keep Your Child Safe in the Car

TIPS to keep your child safe and secure as a passenger in the back seat of your car:

- Never intentionally leave a child alone in a car – not even for a minute.
- Teach your child never to play or hide in or around cars.
- Make your child as visible to you as possible in the car. Place rear-facing car seats in the middle of the back seat if possible.
- Put your child's things, such as a diaper bag or small toy, in the front seat as a constant reminder of his/her presence even when you cannot see or hear them.
- Use a memory device, such as a stuffed bear, hang tag or Sophie's KISS key chain. Move that item into and out of the car seat as a reminder.
- Place your purse, briefcase, cell phone, or other personal items in the back seat near your child to provide one more reason to check the back seat.
- Develop a standard way to communicate about who is in the car. After months of a routine, even a small change can have devastating consequences.
- Check the back seat every time you exit the car. Make it a routine to make sure no one is left behind.

As a school, we ask that if your child is not coming to school for whatever reason, out sick, staying with grandparents, or just taking the day off, please call school and let us know that your child will not be at school that day(s). If we see that your child is not at school, and we have not received a call, your child's teacher will be calling to see if everything is ok. This is another layer of safety we will utilize.

"Watching a child makes it obvious that the development of his mind comes through his movements. Imitation is the first instinct of the awakening mind." Maria Montessori