

Hope

MONTESSORI ACADEMY

Creve Coeur

February/March 2018 Newsletter

From the Director

Dear Parents,

As Montessori educators, we treasure this time. Children return from the holidays with a fresh, eager dedication and focus. We observe this every year. Children can barely wait for new lessons, and their intellectual and social growth is tremendous during this period. With that said, I would encourage you to make certain that your children arrive in a timely manner each day. The Montessori work time is an essential ingredient in our approach to education. We thank you for your support.

As you can see by the calendar, we have many events coming up in the next two months. It is an opportunity to

Mark your
calendars:



February

Black History Month

February 13, 2018

2018-2019 Kindergarten

Orientation

February 14, 2018

Valentine's Day Celebrations

communicate with your child about the activities in their classroom and what they are doing to prepare.

I recently read an interesting article about communication with your child and how to avoid the "I don't know" or "I don't remember" answer we so often receive. Questions to ask your child instead of "How Was Your Day"...

What made you smile today?

What did you do that was creative?

Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?

Was anyone in your class gone today?

What was the hardest rule to follow?

What made your teacher smile?

Did you like your lunch?

Tel me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday?

What kind of person were you today?

As always, thank you for your trust and confidence as we work together to provide a loving and safe environment for your child.

Warmly,

Theresa

February 15, 2018

Thanks-a-Latte Coffee Event

February 16, 2018

SCHOOL CLOSED

Hope Professional
Conference

February 19, 2018

SCHOOL OPEN

Presidents' Day

February 20, 2018

Chinese New Year

March 4, 2018

Grandparent Tea

March 9

Parent Breakfast

March 19-23, 2018

Spring Break

Just a reminder...Calendar Changes in our previous newsletter

- Grandparent Tea has been rescheduled to Sunday, March 4.

- The school spring musical performance will be on Friday evening, May 11.

- The Mother's Day Celebration has been moved to the late afternoon of May 4.



FROM THE OFFICE.....

New sign in/out procedures will be implemented in the upcoming weeks that will replace signing in and out manually on paper with an electronic fingerprint scan. You will receive an email with more specific details of how we will set up the new attendance tracker.

Year-end tax receipts are available in the office for pick-up. They are located behind Patti's desk next to the tuition receipt book. The tax i.d. number for Hope is 23-7240338.

The flu season is still very active so please be vigilant of observing any sick symptoms in your child and keep them home if they are exhibiting symptoms or running any type of fever. The child must be symptom/fever free for 24 hours without medication to return to school.



**2018-2019 Kindergarten Orientation,
February 13, 2018, 4:30-5:30 p.m.**

Mark Robinson, Norlita Simon, and I invite you to attend a Kindergarten Orientation Meeting on February 13th at 4:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. This meeting provides an opportunity for you to meet the teachers, learn about the curriculum and the Hope Kindergarten program. One of our Hope parents will also share their insights about our Kindergarten. We always save time for you to ask questions. We know this is a big decision for parents, and we welcome your attendance at this meeting. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the lobby. Parents are also welcome to observe the Kindergarten class any afternoon between 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Please call or email the office to arrange a visit.

This meeting is geared toward those families whose child is eligible for Kindergarten in 2018; we use the cut-off date of July 31st. Families who are interested in their child attending Kindergarten for future years may stop by the office and place their child's name on a waiting list. Our Kindergarten program generally is full, nearly a year ahead of time. The class size is limited to 16.



Valentine's Day Celebrations

The classrooms will celebrate Valentine's Day on Wednesday, February 14th. Check with your child's teachers on the specifics for their room's celebration. If time permits, you might consider making valentines with your child - the ones they bring to share can be very simple. The teachers ask that they do not address the cards to anyone, only to sign your child's name - it makes the distribution much easier. The Kindergarteners may sign and address their cards.



Thanks A Latte Coffee Event - February 15, 2018, 7:00-9:00 a.m.

Sometimes it is hard to find the right words to thank our Hope families for everything you do. We are so fortunate to have such committed, caring families. For the past several years, we have treated our families to an early morning cup of delicious coffee, tea, or hot chocolate. Carol Schuermann from *The Friendly Cup* brings her espresso machine and delicious flavorings and makes each coffee individually. Please be sure to schedule a few extra minutes on your morning drop off on February 15th, she will be serving between 7a.m. to 9 a.m. in the lobby. You will not be disappointed and the line is shorter than at Starbucks

Annual Teacher Professional Conference, February 16, 2018 -School Closed

On Friday, February 16th, the entire staff from all of our schools will be attending a professional conference at The Doubletree Conference Center in Chesterfield. Approximately 350+ of our St. Louis staff will be in attendance. **School will be closed on the 16th**; classes will resume on the following Monday.



Chinese New Year, February 20, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

One of our favorite days of the year is our annual celebration of the Chinese New Year. Each class creates a dragon/animal head for the children to parade behind. Some play instruments; others wiggle under the long red cloth. On February 20th, at 10:00 a.m., Hope will host its annual Chinese New Year Parade. Parents are welcome to join us. The entire parade takes only 15 minutes, so if you plan to join us, please be sure to come on time. Weather permitting, we will parade outside. If you are interested in sending a special Chinese dish for lunch, please talk with your child's teacher. **Please do not send dishes with nuts or pork.** Many countries in Asia celebrate the lunar New Year; please feel free to send in dishes from Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam.



Grandparent Tea, March 3, 2018

Sunday, March 3, 2018, is our annual Grandparent Tea. This is a very special event for both children and grandparents. It is always such a joy to see the love and special relationship between children and their grandparents. We just wanted to alert you to the date, realizing that some children's grandparents do not live in the area and might require a little more notice if they plan to attend. And if it is not possible for them to attend, your child is welcome to bring another relative or a friend of the family. More details will be available in a couple of weeks.

Parent Breakfast

March 9, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Throughout the year at Hope, we try to organize several breakfast events offering

both a delicious breakfast and a presentation that we hope will be helpful to parents. The breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. We do our very best to finish by 8:30. The feedback from parents has been very positive about these meetings. Our next breakfast is with Friday, March 9, with Mark Robinson. He will present "The Language of Montessori". If you are interested in joining us for a delicious breakfast and an interesting discussion, please register at the sign-in desk.



Spring Break, March 19-23, 2018

During the week of March 19-23, Hope will be open regular hours for childcare; however, there will be no Montessori classes.



MANY THANKS ...

All the many parents and grandparents who helped make potato latkes and Christmas cookies in the classrooms. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have families who are so generous with their time to create special moments for our Hope children.

To Tal Barak Manela (Daniel and Maya, Rm 6) and Gal Ben-Herzel (Neta, Rm 6) for sharing the story of Hanukkah with us. To Lenny Minkovich (Aria, Rm 6) who joined Mark Robinson by playing the ukulele at our Hanukkah celebration, and Gayle Dorshow (Llbrarian) for sharing her beautiful voice with us. Our celebration was truly inspiring.

To Mark Robinson and Jonathan and Beth Chu (Benji, Rm 1), members of the St. Louis Symphony orchestra, for sharing their musical talents with us. Their exquisite performance enhanced our program more than words can express. And to Joan and Jonathan Kwong (Rm 7) for sharing the story of Christmas along with their beautiful nativity set.

All of the families who donated so generously to the Staff Holiday Gift. The staff and I thank you so very much! And a special thank you to Jake and Denise Winters (Raymond, Rm 3) for all of their time and efforts in organizing the collection. It is very much appreciated by all the staff!

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