



May 2017 Newsletter

From the Director

Dear Parents:

It is hard to believe that May is here. I truly believe that it is the busiest month around here. So many wonderful things have happened this year. Children have made new friends, had many new experiences, and have grown and developed new skills - academic, social and emotional. It is truly amazing! I want to say thank you to all of our Hope families. Thank you for sharing your child with us and for trusting the Montessori approach to education.

Children learn from the adults they spend their days with, and I am blessed to say we have amazing teachers and support staff at Hope. Every day the teachers arrive with open hearts, positive energy, and a desire to make a

Mark your calendars:

May 12

Mother's Day Celebration

May 17

Spring Musical

May 26

Last Day-Montessori Classes

May 30-June 2

Interim Week

difference in a child's life. The entire Hope staff continues to impress me on a daily basis.

This time of the year is definitely bittersweet for all of us at Hope. Many of our Hope children will begin new schools in the fall, and it is our greatest wish that we have managed to give them both roots and wings. I know in my heart that children are deeply aware of how much we care for them. It is our hope that they take the feeling of love and respect with them, always. Our door is always open for each of you to come and visit us. We are deeply grateful and only wish the very best for your child and for you.

Theresa

**Mother's Day Celebration, Friday, May 12,
3:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

Treat yourself to a "picture perfect" afternoon with your child and other Hope moms as we celebrate Mother's Day. Come celebrate with photo booth fun and have your picture taken with your child at our professional photo booth provided by Photograph & Video Innovations. You can have fun with your child making silly poses with funny props - all you need to bring is your smile! Cookies and lemonade in the multipurpose room will complete the celebration.



June 5
Summer Camp Starts



CLASS PICNICS

RM 1 THURS, MAY 11, MILLENNIUM PARK

RM 2 THURS, MAY 18, HOPE

RM 3 FRI, MAY 5, MILLENNIUM PARK

RM 4 TUES, MAY 9, MILLENNIUM PARK

RM 5 WED, MAY 24, HOPE

RM 6 TUES, MAY 23, MILLENNIUM PARK

RM 7 FRI, MAY 19, DRACE PARK

KDG THURS, MAY 25 (P.M.), MILLENNIUM PARK



Spring Musical – May 17 - 6:30 p.m.

Drop your child off at Hope and walk over to Andrews Academy for the 7:00 performance. The theme for this year is “Around the World”.

The children will perform a short musical on May 17, 2017. Please mark this date on your calendar. Each class performs for 3-5 minutes, so PLEASE do not arrive late. If this is your first year, you are in for a treat. It is remarkable to watch. The doors at Andrews open early, seating is open, but we do ask that older siblings sit with you. Also, a DVD of the performance will be available to purchase. We have noticed that families who buy the DVD can truly sit back and enjoy the performance.

Generally, children are picked up early so they have time to freshen up and eat dinner at home before coming back to Hope. The building will be locked between 6:00-6:30 p.m. Parking is a bit tricky, and the parking lot fills up very quickly. If it is a nice day, you might want to park at Infant/Toddler Community or Millennium Park.

Some reminders

1. Please arrive on time.
2. Consider coming in one car - parking is limited. Additional parking is available at our Infant-Toddler Community & Millennium Park. **Please do not park in the driveways or around the islands at either Hope or Andrews.**
3. Think about enjoying the performance without a video camera. If you do videotape, you will need to stand at the back so you do not block anyone else's view. Please be considerate. DVDs of the entire performance can be purchased for \$12.00. Order forms will be at the front desk next week.
4. Do not talk during the performance - please show the same respect for all of the classrooms.
5. Children will return to their morning classroom to be picked up after the performance at the preschool.

THANK YOU & ENJOY THE PROGRAM!

Office News

Attention Parents! If you haven't yet paid your May tuition, you may want to check with Patti in the office to confirm your school year-end balance. Just a reminder – the new tuition rates will go into effect June 1; full-day tuition is \$1,781 and half-day tuition is \$1,251. Thank you!!

Reminder . . . CompuChild holds computer classes during our Summer Camp in June and July only, not August. Also, credit card information for summer will have to be reauthorized. If you have any questions, please check with CompuChild or Patti in the office. Thank you!

If your child will not be attending Summer Camp and/or not returning next fall, please be sure to stop by the office on his/her last day to pick up any medications for your child that were kept here. Thank you.



Interim Session, May 30-June 2 , 2017

The last day of Montessori classes is Friday, May 26. Children should take home all art work, extra clothing, pillow, blanket, coats & jackets, boots, and also empty their drawers and cubbies. The building will be closed on Monday, May 29, for the Memorial Day holiday. On Tuesday, May 30, the children will move to their summer classrooms. The first day of camp is Monday, June 5, 2017 and swimming and other camp activities will begin that week.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Swimming lessons, field trips, outdoor play, singing, games, reading, and free swim are just a few of the fun activities planned for summer. Our goal is to provide a safe, fun summer for your child. I am adding a few frequently asked questions/answers, that I think might be helpful for new families.

Several typical questions about camp are:

How many adults are at the swimming pool?

We have one Water Safety Instructor, seven Life Guards and two Classroom Counselors present at the pool.

How deep is the swimming pool?

The part of the pool we use for swimming lessons is 2 -3 feet deep.

The deep end of the pool is 6 feet deep. ONLY children who test out and have strong swimming skills use the deep end. MOST children will be in the shallow end of the pool.

How long are the children at the pool each day?

The three and four year olds are at the pool for 20-25 minutes each day. The five and six year olds are there for 30-35 minutes. The children also go to the pool one afternoon a week for “free swim”. The exact times will be posted outside your child’s classroom.

Should I send a life jacket for my child?

No. Children cannot learn to swim in a life jacket.

Do the children really learn to swim?

Yes. Our goal for the younger children is to feel comfortable in the pool and to learn about safety and enjoy going swimming every day. The four, five, and six year olds receive actual lessons. Many parents told us how surprised they were at the improvement of their children’s swimming last summer.

Will my child be forced to get into the pool?

Encouraged but never forced. Many children learn by watching. They will get into the pool once they are comfortable.

What can I do to help prepare my child for camp?

If you have younger children, PLEASE let them practice changing into and out of their swimming suits at home. If your children are in the three-year-old class, please bring them to camp already dressed in their swimming suit with sunscreen already applied. Also, please LABEL EVERYTHING. If your child has more than one swimming suit or towel, please be sure they are all labeled.

Should I put sunscreen on my child?

Yes. We will reapply sunscreen during the day, but it really helps if parents put it on every day before camp.

Should my child bring a hat to camp?

If your child is very fair or sensitive to the sun, please send a hat.

What time does camp start?

Camp begins at 8:30 a.m. Please make sure your child is here by 8:15 a.m. because some activities begin right at 8:30 a.m. Also, the building closes at 6:00 p.m.; please be prompt in picking up your child so the staff can leave on time to begin their evening.

Does my child need water shoes for the pool?

Yes. The bottom of the pool is a little rough. Children can choose to wear their swimming shoes in the pool or take them off if they prefer. Please try to find the kind that children can put on and take off by themselves.

Should my child wear flip-flops/sandals to camp?

ALL campers should either wear tennis shoes every day and/or leave a pair of tennis shoes in their cubby. Children may wear flip-flops or sandals inside, but not on the playground. If your child arrives at camp in flip-flops or sandals, please have him/her change before you leave for the day.

All clothing/accessories should be labeled in permanent ink with your child's name. It is not unusual for there to be exact duplicates of swimming suits and towels. Flotation devices and pool toys need to stay at home. The swimming instructors will provide equipment for the children.

Please be sure your child has the following items in his/her cubby every day at Summer Camp:

- Beach Towel
- Swimsuit
- Sunscreen
- Water shoes
- Several changes of clothing
- Tennis Shoes – not sandals – to enhance playground safety
- Hat and sunglasses are optional
- Child size pillow & blanket

Additional Information

- Three year old campers need to come to camp dressed in their swimming suit every day.

- Parents should apply sunscreen each morning before camp. We will reapply during the day.
- If your child has an allergy to sunscreen be sure to notify us.

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