



September/October 2017 Newsletter

From the Director

Dear Parents,

We are in our third week of school, and I just walked through the classes to visit both the children and the teachers. The children and teachers appear calm, happy, engaged and settled. Children are separating more easily in the morning, making new friends, reacquainting with old friends, and building relationships with their teachers.

The early days of school are really important...the importance of developing predictable routines, the emphasis placed on respect, and the effort placed on building a community. These early fall days lay the groundwork for the entire school year. It is also an important transition time for parents as well as the children. I hope you will take the time

Mark your
calendars:



September 7

School Picture Day

September 14

to read the notes on the bulletin boards outside of each class in addition to the weekly email updates and use them as a way to chat with your child about her/his day. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you or your child adjust to this new phase in your child's life.

The teachers, staff and I are looking forward to a terrific year. Thank you for choosing to be a part of our Hope community.

Theresa

Preschool Night for
Parents

September 21

Montessori Sing for
Peace Around the
World

October 7

Parent-Child Work Day

October 9

Columbus Day
School Open

October 19

Diwali Celebration

October 27

Parent Breakfast

October 31

Halloween Celebration

Fall Calendar

If you do not already have a copy of our school calendar, it is posted on our web site at: crevecoeur@hopeacademy.com .

We make every effort to list the days we are closed and special events well in advance. Please make it a habit to check the sign-in desk and lobby area routinely for posted parent information.



FROM THE OFFICE.....

Signing In & Dropping Off Your Child

Located at lobby desk is a daily sign-in and sign-out sheet. Please be sure to sign your child in and out each day.

If your child is joining us for breakfast, please say goodbye at the top of the steps to the multipurpose room. A staff member will help your child transition to hang up their coat if necessary and get seated for breakfast. With the cooler transitional weather in the morning, please have your child dressed to play outside in the early morning. If his/her jacket or sweater is in the classroom when you arrive for breakfast, please go get it and hang it on the pegs in the multipurpose room. This assists us greatly in our transition outdoors after breakfast. It is difficult to escort each child individually to get a jacket from the classroom.

If your child is not joining us for breakfast, please take him/her to a teacher. Generally, the early morning staff and children are in one of two places - the hallway toy area or on the playground. Our staff members arrive at various times; if your child's own teacher and/or team member is not yet available, another staff member will welcome your child. If you arrive after 8:30, please take your child directly to his classroom. Please do not leave your child unattended in the hall or at the sign-in desk.

The art of saying "goodbye" is a little like jumping rope the double Dutch way. It is easy to lose your footing and get tangled up! Plan ahead for how you see separation happening. Plan a little extra time. Your child will take the clues from you. Be positive. Wait to say goodbye until you mean it. Once you have said goodbye to your child, it is time to go. If the transition is difficult, please feel free to call school and check on your child.

Safety

PLEASE do your part to ensure the safety of every child and Hope family. **Please do not use your cell phone while on the parking lot or in the building.** Drive slowly....under 10 miles per hour while on school property and be aware of pedestrian traffic. Also, please do not leave younger or older children unsupervised in your car.

What Time is Breakfast?

Breakfast begins at 7:00 a.m. and ends at 8:00 a.m. If you are planning on your child joining us for breakfast, he/she should be seated at the breakfast table by 7:45 a.m. so they can be finished eating by 8:00. If you find you are running late, please make other arrangements for breakfast.

Photos of our Staff:

To assist families in learning the names of staff members, there will be photographs of each team member on the bulletin board just outside your child's classroom. Please check the board routinely for classroom information, field trip information, school events, etc.

School Directory

A draft directory is available for review at the sign-in desk for you to verify that all of your information is listed correctly before distributing it to each school family. Please advise the office any time you have a change in your contact information (cell/work/home phone numbers, address, emergency contacts, email addresses, etc.). It is extremely important that we have current information on file to reach parents as needed.

The Honeywell Instant Alert is the system we use to notify our families of an emergency or weather-related situation. Maintaining the accuracy of your profile information is essential to be able to receive important information in a timely manner. All of our new families have been added into the system with just the basic information (student name, parents' names, home phone) and provided with an instruction sheet for accessing the system to update the contact phone numbers and preferred method of communication. All families are encouraged to log onto their personal profile to verify the information listed is current. The website is <https://instantalert.honeywell.com>; extra copies of the instruction sheet are located at the sign-in desk. On Monday, September 11, at 10:00 a.m., we will run a test alert. If you have any questions regarding the alert system or do not receive the test message, please see Patti in the office.



Preschool Night for Parents

September 14, 2017

New and returning parents are invited to join us for the Preschool Night for Parents on Thursday, September 14. We will begin at 7:00 p.m. and we will end by 8:30 p.m. Parents will have the opportunity to visit their child's classroom, meet other families, learn a bit more about the Montessori approach to education, and listen as your child's teacher describes a typical day at Hope. We will also save time for questions and answers.

Some foods seem to go naturally together.... so as a special treat for all our parents, we will be serving ***Wine and Non-alcoholic beverages, paired with Cheeses***. We hope both parents can attend, but we also completely understand if only one parent can join us. This is one of the few Hope events that is just for parents. Please put this night on your calendar and book your sitter. It is an informative and fun evening.

Sing for Peace



On September 21, 2017, 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, time zone to time zone, until it reaches the Hawaiian Islands 24 hours later. In Sing Peace 2016, there were over 65,000 children singing for peace as one of the largest UN 'Day of Peace' celebrations ever. I am thrilled to include Hope in joining fellow Montessori schools from across the earth to Sing for Peace. Our scheduled time to sing will be at 10:00 a.m. We will video tape the event and provide parents with the link for viewing online.

Save the Date – Work Day, October 7, 2017

One of the best events of the whole year happens every October. Families join us for a morning of gardening, mulching, sewing, planting, trimming, painting, and pruning the nature trail. Parents sign up in advance to work on a particular project and bring tools, if possible. The event resembles an old fashioned barn-raising. In the course of three hours, it is amazing to see how much gets accomplished. At 11:30, everyone meets in the multi-purpose room for lunch. It truly is a special event.



Diwali Celebration, October 19th 9:00 a.m. – Parents Welcome!

We will be celebrating Diwali, the Indian Festival of Lights, in the morning on October 19th. We are looking for any parents or grandparents who might be interested in helping to plan the event. A sign-up sheet will be available shortly, or please stop by the office and let us know.

Parent Breakfast

October 27th, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Our next parent breakfast is scheduled for Friday, October 27th, with Krista Casagrande; Krista's topic will focus on bringing Montessori Practical Life into your home. In addition to being the Lead Montessori Teacher in Room 6, she is a faculty member with our Hope Montessori Educational Institute teacher training program. She will share her love of Montessori philosophy and the independence of the child. Hope you can join us for a delicious breakfast and captivating subject. Please look for the sign up sheet closer to the date.



Halloween Celebration, October 31st – Morning

Every fall, Mark Robinson, leads us in a fun Halloween Celebration at Hope. Each class carves a pumpkin and our center hallway is transformed into a magical space. Mark sings songs with the children, and we are also treated to a special parade by the Andrews Academy children. Again, please do not send costumes. Also, we do not serve candy to the children as part of the celebration.

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