

KINDERGARTEN CORNER

Once again we have begun an exciting period in kindergarten. Light bulbs are going on spontaneously. Reading is getting smoother and the children are enjoying the stories they read independently. Addition and subtraction have moved to a more abstract level with the stamp game. Multiplication is next. The more the students feel this sense of pride the more they want to do. It's great.

Super star weeks will be beginning in February. Everyone has a week in which they are in the spot light, sharing their favorite things including a guest. We look forward to their lessons.

Mark your calendars:
School pictures will be taken
between March 4-7

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

When asked what he did at school by his mother one day last month Robert replied, "I painted Monet." His mother was extremely impressed that he knew Monet and told Robert's teachers. Thanks to Jen Harms for her ability to capture the children's attention by presenting artistic techniques in language our students understand and enjoy!

On the same note, acknowledgment to Sandy Spitz for all of her musical contributions as well as Mrs. Lynch & Mrs. Weber for keeping our mind, body and spirit fit in our yoga practice.

Thanks to the Howell Fire Department for coming to our school with their truck and discussing fire safety with our students!



MONTESSORI ENRICHMENT CENTER

Howell, New Jersey 07731

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Montessori Enrichment Center

NEWSLETTER



Many visitors to our school ask if we are a “true” Montessori school. Is the school certified with the American Montessori Society? Are the teachers Montessori certified? These questions, as well as others, need to be asked of the school you are interested in. For our school the answer to these questions is yes. Our staff is certified and continue their Montessori training by attending the annual New Jersey Montessori conference. Our assistants are trained by the teachers, all of whom have been in our school for many years. The directors, Maureen Peruzzi and Michele Lynch, have experience in special education, public school and other private pre-schools in addition to being Montessori certified. When considering a Montessori school, keep in mind that, unfortunately, a school may use the Montessori name and materials but may not be Montessori trained or certified. An educated parent always makes the best choices.

TODDLER TALES

The Child’s Purpose

The child’s reasons for, and methods of, working are different from ours. We adults will usually choose to carry out a task in the most efficient and quickest way. A child, on the other hand, is working is working to master the activity and to practice and perfect her abilities. She may scrub a table for hours, but only when she feels the urge. She may sweep the floor every morning for two weeks and not again for a month-because she will be occupied with mastering something else. If we expected her to keep carrying out every new activity every day, there would be no time for sleep. There are many physical, emotional and mental values at work. Through these activities the child learns to be independent. There can be no intelligent choice or responsibility at any age without independence through thought and action. She learns to concentrate, to control muscles, to focus, to analyze logical steps and complete a cycle of activity. It is precisely because of the valuable work in practical life that children in Montessori homes and schools are able to concentrate, make intelligent decisions and master the beginnings of other areas of study such as math, language, the

(Toddlers cont.)

arts and the sciences. But the purpose of this work is the inner satisfaction, and the support of the optimum development of the child. Following a successful, complete cycle of family work, a child becomes calm and satisfied and, because of this inner peace, full of love for the environment and for others. (Permission to reprint portions of *The Joyful Child, Michael Olaf’s Essential Montessori for Birth to Three* has been granted by the Michael Olaf Company, www.michaelolaf.net)

Green Alert :

Our school is currently testing new environmentally friendly cleaning products. Our aim is to use products less harmful to the environment that do not sacrifice cleanliness and protection. We have found Sun & Earth and Shaklee to be two of the leaders in the industry. Hopefully, our small contributions will keep our planet healthy for our future students!



PRIMARY PRESS

If you have a child approaching kindergarten eligibility you may be wondering if your child is “ready” to start. Mrs. Houman, our Parent Education director, recently had a meeting addressing this topic. Here is a brief list of the most important things to look for when considering kindergarten readiness:

- ~Can express himself effectively and clearly in complete sentences, including feelings and emotions.
- ~Cooperates without manipulation when playing games with other children.
- ~Respects the rights of other children to work independently without interfering.
- ~Has a non-aggressive, independent approach to solving his own problems to the best of his ability.
- ~Can listen without interrupting.
- ~Takes care of his own clothing needs.
- Accept changes in school routine calmly.
- ~Works things out for himself without help from the teacher at each step.
- ~Is able to see a task through to completion.
- ~Follows verbal direction.
- ~Follows adult leadership readily.
- ~Takes care of classroom materials.
- ~Moves easily from one task to another