



Community Events:

- ✿ Infant Massage Courses Starting April*
- ✿ Summer Camp Registration*
- ✿ International Picnic 4/13*

*More info in newsletter

In this issue:

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DUAL-LANGUAGE CLASSROOMS STARTING 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR!

What does this mean for my child?

MHFC:

- Lead guides continue presenting lessons in English.
- Toddler assistant guides converse in Spanish 100% of the time.
- EC classrooms will begin Spanish class in August 2018. Additionally, morning assistant guide converses in their native language 100% of the time (currently, spoken languages include Russian, Mandarin, Hindi and Arabic).

ELEMENTARY:

- Lead guides continue presenting lessons in English.
- Assistant guides converse in Spanish 100% of the time.
- Spanish "specials" class continues vocabulary.
- Expanding the Spanish curriculum with concrete language materials.

A Letter from Our Teacher...

Dear All,

I feel very lucky to have a career in the Montessori method, work for an established Montessori school, and to share my classroom with my daughter. One of the most impressive factors of learning with the materials and method is how we stay out of the way of their curiosity, exploration, self-correction, risk taking, and learning from failure.



Students manage their own desire to learn. As a parent and teacher, I trust the long term positive effect of the Montessori philosophy which allows the child to be successful. This success is a meaningful reward because each child builds upon their own understanding of the materials each day. I know as a parent, we unintentionally interfere by stepping in to support our children in a way that we think is helpful. Learning in this environment is anchored in self-discovery and realization, and our well-intended actions interfere with the space students need for discovery. In the words of Maria Montessori, children are asking us to "Teach me to do it myself." The long-term results and power of this approach is that students, at a young age, gain and maintain self-confidence and understanding derived from authentic learning. The second beautiful observation is that students connect joy and confidence to learning rather than output and product. They internalize that acquiring knowledge feels good and that they themselves are more than a tangible product of learning. The Montessori classroom is the laboratory where students experiment with the process of learning. Students are hyper aware of how and when learning occurs for them. This realization, on an individual basis, occurs multiple times each day. Over the course of the three-year cycle, the children are emerged in deep understanding of the materials that evolve as they mature in the understanding of deeper concepts as well as the power of their problem-solving skills and creativity. As a teacher, I am often asked by parents "What happens when they go to the real world?" And my answer is, we want the world the students will build. A better world, built with the skills developed from the Montessori environment.

Francisco Albornoz

Parent and MHES Lead Teacher

Upcoming Events:

- 3/8 Parent Enrichment Webinar 5-6pm
 3/9 ECO Action Meeting #5 1-2pm **Rescheduled – See Below**
 3/9 Summer Camp Enrollment Due
 3/12-3/16 Spring Break: (Full-day students only)
 3/21 Legacy Wall Artwork Due
 3/23 ECO Action Meeting #5 1-2pm
 3/23 PAV Community Meetup 5-7pm: Exploration Park
 3/29 Parent Enrichment: EC&EL Language Night 6-7pm
 3/30 School CLOSED: In observance of Good Friday
 4/3 PAV Meeting 8:30-9:30am
 4/9-4/13 IOWA Testing for 3rd-Year Lower EL Students
 4/12 Parent Appreciation Coffee 8:30-9:30am
 4/12 Parent Enrichment: Webinar Watch Party 5-6pm
 4/13 International Picnic: George Bush Park 5-7pm
 4/19 EC&EL Parent Enrichment: Science/Cultural Night 6-7pm
 4/20 ECO Action Meeting #6 1-2pm
 4/27 Early Release
 4/27 PAV Community Meetup 5-7pm
 5/1 PAV Meeting 8:30-9:30
 5/3 Teacher Appreciation Day
 5/10 Parent Coffee 8:30-9:30am
 5/18 Moving Up Ceremony 9:30-11am
 5/25 Last Day of School: Early Release
 5/25 PAV Community Meetup 5-7pm
 5/28 School CLOSED: In observance of Memorial Day
 5/29-6/1 Staff In-Service: (Full-day students only)



Handworks Studio Update

The *Maker Space Studio* will offer Pop-Up afternoon workshops, which will be conducted by independent instructor(s) to complement the summer camp program themes. Workshops will be from 2:30 to 4pm in 8 weekly sessions and will include woodworking, cooking, textiles, sewing, and STEAM creations. Registration will be handled by the instructor and will be available by April 1. We are looking forward to a fantastic summer, with lots of memorable experiences!

Notes from the PAV...

Dear Parents,

We would like to offer a special welcome to all new students and their families to our school!

Montessori House for Children & Elementary school's PAV would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank everybody who has given up their time to get involved in the PAV from volunteering, donating, and even simply attending meetings.

Here are a couple few accomplishments we would like to acknowledge:

- Wonderful PAV monthly Community Meet-ups, allowing our children to play while parents meet other Montessori House Parents.
- A successful Pancake breakfast, with surprising news, Silhouette artist, Patti Rishforth, owner of Heart Paper Scissors, graciously donated 50% of all proceeds from her services.
- Total Raised for MEFI: **\$4,901.32**

Reminder: Check out the **Legacy Wall** in both the EC & Elementary buildings – they serve as a beautiful reminder of the children who are part of our school. Order form, art paper and instructions went home with your child on Friday, Feb. 16th. [Click Here](#) for more information. Thank you for your continued support!

Warmly,

The Parent Association of Volunteers

Interested in donating to MEFI?

Montessori Education Fund, Inc. is a non-profit entity that exists to provide financial assistance to current families, supplement professional development for faculty, and provide family enrichment to the community.

Have questions?
Call front office at
281-239-3400



Eco-Action Team Update

On behalf of Montessori House School and the Eco-Action Team, Reisha and Stacey wish to THANK each and every one of the students and parents who came to out to work during our Family Garden Prep Day this past weekend! Everyone worked super hard and we hope you feel accomplished for the work done – the gardens look great!

We would not have been able to make this garden prep day a success without YOU!



Looking

Back...

❁ In February, our teaching faculty attended The Institute of Montessori Education's (TIME) New Year's Conference: Supporting Intrinsic Motivation in Montessori Students! They thoroughly enjoyed the full-day conference and immediately began implementing what they learned.

❁ In February, we hosted the Houston Montessori's Center's Infant/Toddler seminar on "The Prepared Environment" where adult learners from the Houston Montessori Center toured our classrooms and were presented information about how to best prepare the learning environment for toddlers and early childhood classrooms. It is an honor to be recognized for our beautiful environments.

❁ In March, we hosted a Houston-area Infant & Toddler Montessori Assistant Training, which many of our staff attended, along with toddler assistants from Montessori schools in the Houston and surrounding areas...continued on page 7



CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD
SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION FORM »

Look at the 2nd Semester Anniversaries We Celebrated!

Mary Russell	12 yrs	Cook
Pam Nelson	12 yrs	Owner
Barbara Nelson	12 yrs	HOS
Juana Wigginton	11 yrs	Lead
Lima Haikal	6 yrs	Assistant
Maria Aguilar	6 yrs	Lead
Liyuan Jin	5 yrs	Lead
Blanca Smith	3 yrs	Admin
Lakshimi Thirumalai	3 yrs	Lead
Shirisha Choppakatla	3 yrs	Sub
Megan Richard	2 yrs	Assistant
Juanita Hinojosa	2 yrs	Assistant
Elsa Rodriguez	1 yr	Assistant
Gargi Ghose	1 yr	Sub

Summer Camp Information

As mentioned above, **The Maker Space Studio** will offer Pop-Up afternoon workshops, which will be conducted by independent instructor(s) to complement the summer camp program themes. Workshops will be from 2:30 to 4pm in 8 weekly sessions and will include woodworking, cooking, textiles, sewing, and STEAM creations. Registration will be handled by the instructor and will be available by April 1. We are looking forward to a fantastic summer, with lots of memorable experiences!

Looking back continued...

A flyer for an Infant Massage course. The title "Infant Massage" is in a large, stylized font. Below it, a cloud-shaped icon contains the number "5" and the words "Week Course". To the right, the text reads "Come and Learn How to Massage Your Baby". At the bottom, it says "WANT TO LEARN MORE? CLICK HERE FOR FULL FLYER »".

- March 1st, we hosted an “It Ends with Me” presentation, teaching parents the 5 steps necessary to protect our children from child sexual abuse. If you were unable to make this presentation, you can find the powerful PowerPoint presentation, [here](#).

A heartfelt thank you for an act of kindness...

Duluth Montessori School (in Georgia) recently partnered with Usborne Books to hold a book fair with the aim of helping a school that was impacted by Hurricane Harvey, to rebuild their school library. Thanks to a mutual connection through a school friend (and author) Vicki Horton, our school was identified as the recipient for Usborne book credit in the amount of \$1,344.03!

MHFC has decided to “pay it forward” and gift each MHFC family affected by Harvey (9 in total) a \$100 credit to purchase children’s books for their home. The remaining \$444.03 will be used to purchase books for our school’s library.

Thank you Vicki Horton, Duluth Montessori and Usborne Books, for making this possible!

Parent Resources:

Early Childhood Parents:

<http://www.mariamontessori.com/2011/09/25/the-three-year-commitment/>

<http://philomathmontessori.org/the-benefits-of-a-third-year-in-montessori/>

<http://www.mchkids.com/early-childhood-program-director-blog/the-importance-of-the-third-year-kindergarten>

<http://www.montessorischools.org/blog/the-importance-of-montessori-for-the-kindergarten-year/>

Elementary Parents:

<https://www.leportschools.com/blog/five-differences-that-enable-montessori-elementary-students-to-thrive/>

<http://ageofmontessori.org/five-big-differences-between-traditional-and-montessori-for-the-elementary-years/>

<http://www.pebblecreekmontessori.org/elementary-exposure-advantages-of-montessori-math/>