

October

2015



A Newsletter for families of MVLA Montessori Children's Center

THIS MONTH @ SCHOOL

Our classrooms have been bursting with new faces and old friendships, and we have all enjoyed settling into a comfortable rhythm and routine. Our toddlers are becoming more and more acclimated to their new surroundings as our teachers have worked very hard to help with their transition. We have spent September studying the five senses, nutrition, healthy habits and of course, apples. Children have enjoyed tasting, baking, graphing and creating fall's favorite fruit.

October blows in with many fall activities like leaf rubbings, collages, and a favorite holiday, Halloween. We will be hosting a Halloween costume day on Friday, October 30th, to help celebrate. Our classrooms are being transformed to reflect the season and the holidays. The materials on the shelves will include jobs teaching about our skeletons (continuing our "all about me" theme, Christopher Columbus, the continent of North America, and the pumpkin growth cycle. We look forward to sharing our classrooms with you on Back to School Night!

What is the Montessori Method?

The Montessori Method is based on Maria Montessori's theories of human development, and how to optimize learning during each of the four developmental planes. The two basic tenets of the Montessori Method are:

- 1) we learn through interaction with our environment
- 2) we follow an innate path of development

Montessori theorized that if children were given the opportunity to freely choose and act within a prepared environment, they would follow their individual paths of optimal development. Montessori education takes place in a classroom where selected materials are freely accessible and a skilled teacher provides introduction to each item on an individual basis, according to each child's development. The day is organized into blocks of uninterrupted work time, during which children are free to choose and focus on developmentally appropriate tasks for extended periods of time.



*"The child can only develop by means of experience in his/her environment. We call such experience work."
-Maria Montessori*

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, Oct. 7
Preschool Back to
School Night

Thursday, Oct. 8
Toddler and
Kindergarten Back
to School Night

Friday, Oct. 9
Picture Make Up Day

Friday, Oct. 30
Costume Day!

Wednesday, Nov. 11
Veteran's Day
No School

Reminders:

- ◆ As cold season approaches, please remember that if your child has thick, green discharge coming from the nose, please keep them home. Also, if your child needs a Kleenex every few minutes, they also need to stay home until the runny nose becomes less runny.
- ◆ For parents picking up at 3:00, it is important that you arrive on time and that you depart as soon as you pick up your child as classes are waiting to go outside and use the playground.
- ◆ Thank you for calling or emailing when your child is not going to be at school. We appreciate it as we prepare projects for the number of children we have that day.
- ◆ It is very important that your child arrive by 9 a.m. Occasionally, if you arrive after 9 a.m. and the class is in the middle of circle time, please wait at the door until a teacher comes to greet you and your child/ren. That way the group is not interrupted.
- ◆ Please be sure to have one full change of clothes at school at all times, including socks! There are jobs which involve the transfer of water and your child may get wet using them.
- ◆ Please be sure to label everything with your child's name, including lunchboxes, napping materials, diapers, wipes, water bottles...name it all!
- ◆ If your child stays for lunch, please remember to pack two napkins in your child's lunchbox. One is used to place their food on top of and the other is used to wipe their hands and mouth. Also, don't forget a spoon or fork if needed.
- ◆ Please make every effort to pick up your children on time. The teachers plan according to the children's schedules each day. If you are running late, please call and let us know! Overtime is billed at the end of each month and is \$10 an hour. If you arrive late at the 6 pm pick-up, it is \$5 a minute, paid directly to the teacher. Thank you for your cooperation.
- ◆ If you have not turned in all of your paperwork and forms, please do so ASAP!
- ◆ If you pick up at 6 p.m. and have questions for the teachers, please arrive early to do so. Children and teachers are tired and would like to go home at 6 p.m.

You're invited to



Night at MVLA!

Hummingbirds and Busy Bees: Wednesday, October 7th

Ladybugs and Dragonflies: Thursday, October 8th

Time: 7 to 8 PM

Come meet the teachers, explore the classrooms, and get to know other parents in the MVLA community.

Please make other arrangements for your children as this is a parent-only event. If possible, please plan to walk, carpool, or park off site in order to accommodate everyone. Thanks!