

# September

2015



A Newsletter for families of MVLA Montessori Children's Center

## Welcome to the new school year!

Welcome to the 2015-16 school year at MVLA! Our teachers have been working hard, planning for an incredible year of growing, learning, exploring and making new friends. As your children blossom and develop this year, we hope to form a partnership with each and every one of you as together, we facilitate the process. As Maria Montessori said, "Our work as adults does not consist in teaching, but in helping the child's mind in its work of development." What is Montessori preschool?

Early childhood education has come to accept today what Maria Montessori discovered long ago: Children under six have extraordinary powers of the mind. They have a universal, once-in-a-lifetime ability to absorb knowledge from their surroundings just by living. They take in their environment—the physical space, the language and movement of adults and children— with what Montessori called the "Absorbent Mind." The absorbent mind is at its peak

receptivity during the preschool years. In order to be calm and happy, children under six need to explore and discover. They see the world through "new" eyes and are therefore curious about everything. And since they learn by touching and manipulating objects, they want to touch everything. They are keenly attuned to everything that stimulates their senses: shapes, sounds, smells, textures and tastes. They also respond to order because of their innate need to know where things belong and how pieces fit together. They want to master the movements of their own bodies by learning to balance, run, skip, and jump. And they are fascinated by the customs and traditions of people in their lives. Because of the absorbent mind, preschool aged children do not need direct teaching in order to learn. The MVLA Montessori classroom allows them to move, touch, manipulate, and explore. It gives them the freedom to choose their own work without unnecessary interference from an adult. In this environment, they learn to work independently, based on their own initiative, which builds concentration and self-discipline. Before Maria

Montessori made these discoveries, it was generally taken for granted that many subjects— geometry, grammar, geography, botany, zoology, and so on – were limited to older children. But the Montessori model of education reveals the extraordinarily high levels of learning— both conscious and unconscious— that can come with ease to children under six. Furthermore, Montessori early childhood education not only enhances young children's knowledge in the present; it also establishes the foundations for true comprehension on a more abstract level later in life.



## IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, Sept. 7th  
Labor Day, no school

Wednesday, Sept. 23  
Picture Day

## This Month at School

Our studies for the next few months will include "all about me;" learning about healthy choices, nutrition, and our five senses. Children will learn about healthy habits like washing hands, brushing teeth, getting enough sleep, drinking water, making healthy eating choices, and exercising. They will also learn about tasting, smelling, seeing, hearing, and touching.



## Hot Shots

We are pleased to announce our gross-motor development program called "Hot Shots" which began this summer. Children experience a new lesson each week as Coach Dave guides your children through developmental milestones. Payment for this program should be made directly to Hot Shots by the first week of school. All preschoolers and kindergartners participate in this exciting new adventure on Thursday mornings.



## Hot Lunch Program

Taste Nutrition Services continues to offer great hot lunches for your children. Please visit their website for ordering information. Use our school code, "MCC" to create an account if you have not done so already. (www.tastenutrition.com, phone: 408-274-2706)

## Drop Off Time

Drop off time can be stressful for parents if their child is anxious. Please consider our helpful hints to ease the drop off procedure:

**Develop a Routine:** A consistent morning routine is very important in alleviating any anxiety in the beginning. Children's sense of security comes from predictable routines. Knowing what to expect gives them confidence.

**Talk to your child:** Tell your child at the door that you are excited they are going to have a great day at school. (Hint: Give the anxious child a picture of you to have in his or her pocket.)

Please do not come into class with your child. It only prolongs their anxiety. If your child is too upset, we will definitely call you! Don't worry! We love your children and can alleviate their fears very quickly! *Call us if you are worried. Feel free to peek in the windows, too!*

## Reminders:

- ✂ New parents: tuition, payments, notes, etc. can be left in the top drawer on the sign-in/sign-out table
- ✂ 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.
- ✂ Please 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, please do so by the first day of school. State law requires that files be complete for each student by the third day of school.

NAME

## The Montessori Family's Role (By P.Donohue Shortridge)

The Montessori experience is a partnership between the school and the family. Here are some strategies for parents and young children at Montessori.

### Learn about Montessori Philosophy

Create and maintain active dialog with school and respect school policies  
Read handbooks, notes, newsletters and handouts

### Arrival and Departure are Very Important

Adequate sleep  
Proper daily nutrition  
Pleasant morning routine  
Refrain from DVDs/radio/cell phone use in car

#### **Arrive on time**

#### **Child walks into school**

Child carries own possessions into school

#### **Mom/Dad shows confidence, rather than effusive emotion or ambivalence**

Parent and child greet staff person/parents  
refrain from cell phone use  
Child is not discussed with teacher in front of child  
Return when you say you will/refrain from cell phone use  
Take time to greet child/allow for natural transition  
Tell child you are happy to see him rather than ask what he did that day  
On ride home, notice things, sing, tell jokes, stories, allow for silence  
Refrain from DVDs/radio/cell phone use on ride home  
Tell child about what is happening next/keep routine the same  
Upon arrival home, child is expected to put belongings away

### Tips for Daily Life

Routine, routine, routine

Your child can do just about everything for himself

**"Every useless aide arrests development"**

#### **M. Montessori**

Everyone does chores/show her how

Hands-on activities are best

Beginning, middle and end of all activities

**Limits are needed for your child's optimum development**

Your child shows you he needs more limits when he acts out

**Unstructured, slow time in nature is crucial every day**

Your child's intelligence grows through purposeful movement

Organized sports can wait

Computer skills can wait

TV, movies, DVDs, computer games can wait

Most of your extra-curricular activities may also have to wait

**Do not negotiate that which is not negotiable/"OK?" at the end of a sentence**

Slow down; your child can't move, think, talk or transition as fast as you

Together, sort through your child's toys, books, remove many of them

Each possession has a place

Be present; your child does not understand "later"

More conversation and laughing and less badgering

Your word is your bond/your child is learning trust from you

Enjoy and accompany your child through her development

Parenting is the biggest work you will ever do. Your child needs you to do it well.

*"Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and the strength, use it to create."*

*-Maria Montessori*