

Spring is in the Air! Happy March!



Hello from the Director!

Hello, March is pretty mellow this year. The 2023 Summer Enrollment Agreements and the 2023-24 Fall Enrollment Agreements are out. Our teachers are working on a theme for the summer, and your children will have lots of fun. We will have water days and walks to the park. April will bring in our Spring Break - April 3rd - 7th, Spring Pictures - April 13th, our Spring Parent/Teacher conferences - April 17th - 21st, and our School Community Work Party - April 22nd. (We would love as much help as we can get.) Thank you all for your support.

Hello from the Aspen Classroom

Time sure does fly. Hard to believe that we are already in the month of March. Welcome Malcolm in our class ! We're happy and excited to have you. We are excited to share with you that our infants are picking up new skills - grasping , rolling over , waving, laughing , sitting, standing, cruising , walking (some with a little bit of support and encouragement), and respond appropriately when talked to. Some even know how to feed themselves. It appears to me that every day, they are learning something new. This month of spring, we will be learning about insects and baby animals by using pictures and story books. I will also provide a spring basket filled with items for children to explore both for circle time and individual learning. For self-help skills, we will continue working on folding, peeling, scooping transfer activity, pouring, wiping up spills; and daily routines like washing hands, self feeding, putting shoes on and taking them off. The sensory table will be filled with plastic colored eggs covered and layered with paper confetti for children to work with and will be alternated with real looking plastic insects and plastic colored balls to be picked up or scooped from the water by those tiny little hands. Baby animal puzzles will be added to our Math shelves along with shape and color puzzles and alike for children to work with. - Ms. Emi



Hello from the Pinon Classroom!

Happy March! This month we are adding new materials and rotating out our well-loved items. So far we have added a lot of Practical Life work and Literacy lessons. Please be reminded to check your child's temperature before sending them to school. We want to be diligent about keeping sick kiddos home in order to limit illness among students and teachers. March 17th is our St. Patrick's Day party. Refreshments will be provided. Ms. Cydney

Hello from the Juniper Classroom

Dear Parents, This month we will continue working on: - Name tracing & recognition - Sounding out words and letters - Spelling 3 letter words - Each student will continue working on numbers on their own and will ask for help if needed. - For circle time we will discuss how we respect ourselves and others bodies. - We will be creating art weekly Ms. Marissa



Hello from the Ponderosa Classroom!



We are already well into month but there is still some news to report. March 14th is Pi Day, which will feature a circle of activities and a pie-eating contest. March 17th is St. Patrick's Day and we will be making ourselves a feast of corned beef, mashed potatoes and soda bread for lunch. And on March 29th, Mr. Mosier will be doing something unprecedented - taking a vacation during the school year. The trip was originally scheduled for Christmas but the dive boat schedule changed so he had to reschedule for spring break, which is a week shorter but allowed for knee surgery instead. Anyway, Mr. M will be out from March 29th to April 17th. Fortunately, Ms. Alexa is well-versed in the classroom and the individual students by now and is more than capable of picking up the slack. She will most likely be doing the last Friday library trip. We have cast our spring musical, Tales of the Chinese Zodiac. We are not yet to the point of worrying about costumes and sets but any ideas or resources from parents are always welcome. The play will be held on May 17th.

Montessori Corner

THE MONTESSORI METHOD . . . of educating children, at home and in school, to develop their fullest potential and happiness

CONCENTRATION Where the magic happens! When work and concentration on activities appropriate for the child's stage of development are protected the potential for optimum development is seen in ways previously not thought possible. A human being is revealed who knows that happiness does not come from things or fame, who exhibits a love of silence, a natural impulse to do good work, to learn, and to help others. This is the magic of Montessori.



"The greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say, The children are now working as if I did not exist."
—Montessori

This means children are so busy concentrating they don't notice where the teacher is! To help a teacher change from the traditional collective lessons, to the Montessori 1:1 lessons and protection of concentration, Dr. Montessori developed the following observation tool. It tracks the developing concentration ability of a child over the period of 3 hours each morning. This 3-hour work period is free of any scheduled activities such as "circle time", group outside play, group snack, specialist teacher giving lessons, etc.

Group Lessons: If we observe a large group lesson in a class, the level of concentration during this group lesson will go along the "line of quiescence" and many children will become bored and wiggly during a group lesson. This is why as a rule, in an established and "normalized" class we do not find group lessons.

Concentration is an individual activity: Concentration: Valuable, spontaneous concentration occurs in many ways, but it does not include screen time. Montessori "work" is fun, the child's choice. Sometimes it is called "play" just because it is so enjoyable. It includes physical activity—of the whole body and the hands—work on real "practical life" activities, dance, art, music, and these skills combined with projects in academic subjects.

Love: Providing for and supporting this deep need of the child is an act of love on the part of the parent, grandparent, or teacher.

You may read the complete article at <http://www.michaelolaf.net/newsmay2015.html>, Montessori Newsletter for Parents and Teachers, #18, where I referenced this information.