



Montessori Messenger

Why stay?

The Importance of the Kindergarten Year in Montessori

A child who transfers from Montessori to a traditional kindergarten program will probably miss out on a great deal of learning that normally occurs during this crucial year.

The kindergarten year is a critical component of the three-year Early Childhood Montessori program. This is the year when children's earlier experiences are internalized and reinforced. When they leave Montessori before kindergarten, many of their earlier learning experiences may be lost because they are not reinforced or commonly understood.

Five-year-olds are normally the leaders and role models in the Primary Montessori classroom. They help to set the tone and serve as an example of appropriate behavior for the younger children. They often help the younger children with their work, actually teaching lessons or correcting errors.

Most five-year-olds have been waiting for the longest time to be one of the 'big kids.' The experience of playing the leadership role does wonders to reinforce the five-year-old's sense of autonomy and self-confidence.

Many parents ask, "Won't my five-year-old spend her kindergarten year taking care of younger children instead of doing her own work?" No, not at all! When older children work with younger students, they tend to learn more from the experience than their 'students.' Experiences that facilitate development of a child's independence are often very limited in traditional schools.

One important difference between what Montessori offers the five-year-old and what is offered by many of today's kindergarten programs has to do with how it helps the young child learn how to learn.

A great deal of research shows that quite often students in traditional programs don't really understand most of what they are being taught. Psychologist Howard Gardner goes so far as to suggest that, "Many schools have fallen into a pattern of giving kids exercises and drills that result in their getting answers on tests that *look* like understanding."

Montessori is focused on teaching for understanding. In a primary classroom, three and four-year-olds work with the concrete Montessori learning materials, gradually forming a mental picture of concepts, such as: *How big is a thousand? How many hundreds make up a thousand? And What is really going on when we borrow or carry numbers in mathematical operations?*

Research is very clear that this is how young children learn best, observing and manipulating their environment. The Montessori materials give children a concrete sensorial impression of an abstract concept, such as long division, that is the potential foundation for a lifetime of understanding.

Montessori gives children a foundation for abstract understanding, but the process is anything but complete as they begin kindergarten. Two-, three-, and four-year-olds absorb impressions from the world around them like sponges. Their learning is generally unconscious.

Five-year-olds are beginning to reflect upon the world. They pay closer attention, notice more details, ask more questions, and begin to explain the world in their own terms. The kindergarten year is a time when the child begins to integrate everything she learned in the first few years.

When children do not have the opportunity to complete their kindergarten year in Montessori, they miss out on experiences that are rarely duplicated in other types of schools, and it is a loss for the child who leaves, as well as the younger children who remain.

Love of Learning Montessori School

Volume 7, Issue 1

Friday, January 9, 2009

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!!

☺ **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

☺ **25th Anniversary
Winter Wonderland
Gala invitations have
been sent out. Look
for yours in the mail!**

☺ **Please check out our
new Lunch Program,
in partnership with
Your Dinners/
Rumsey Road Deli.
Order forms are
available on our web-
site.**

☺ **Please turn in your
RSVP cards ASAP so
we can get your con-
tract out to you in
time to take advan-
tage of the Early
Bird Registration
program.**



love of learning
MONTESSORI SCHOOL



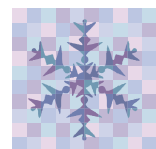
An International Community

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"...to nurture and develop the complete child."

Our Community



CALL TO ACTION: PHOTOS NEEDED

for the 25th Anniversary Slide Show!

If you have a photo of your child with other children or teachers from LOL from any of the past 25 years, please send it/them electronically to Bernette Downs at:

bernette@thespeechfactory.com

THANK YOU!!!

New Lunch Program Starting Jan. 5th!

We are pleased to announce a new lunch program being offered at Love of Learning Montessori School. Orders can be placed as late as the day before you want the lunch delivered, and you can order ahead-for the entire semester if you like!

Our neighbors at the back of our building, Your Dinners and Rumsey Rd. Deli, have offered to start delivering lunches to our community in a dependable, healthy and cost-efficient manner. Lunch boxes will cost \$4.50, and will include your choice of one of six different entrées, a small bottle of water, a fruit of the day, a snack (i.e. pretzels, Goldfish, etc.) and a packet of mustard and mayonnaise on the side. Entrée choices include chicken nuggets, or one of the following sandwiches: grilled cheese, ham, turkey, bologna, or tuna salad, each with your choice of American, Swiss or provolone cheese.

Please see the attached School Lunch Program order form for more information, and to place your order!

<http://www.lolms.com/docs/YourDinnersLunchProgram.pdf>



Mark Your Calendars!

- Friday, Jan. 16 PTO Bake Sale
- **Mon., Jan. 19 SCHOOL CLOSED: MLK, Jr. Day**
- Friday, Jan. 23 PTO Pizza Lunch
- Tuesday, Jan. 27 PTO Meeting, 7-8pm
- Friday, Jan. 30 CH & EL Progress Reports
- February 9-13 Teacher Appreciation Week
- Friday, Feb. 13 Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- **Sat., Feb. 14 25th Anniversary Event
Winter Wonderland Gala
Sheraton Columbia 7pm-Midnight**
- **Mon., Feb. 16 SCHOOL CLOSED: Presidents' Day**
- Thurs., Feb. 19 CH Concert: Columbia Orchestra
- Friday, Feb. 20 PTO Bake Sale
- Friday, Feb. 20 PTO Pizza Lunch
- Tues., Feb. 24 PTO Meeting, 7-8pm
- Wed., Feb. 25 Elementary Cultural Fair
- March 2-5 Upper El. Model UN Trip to NYC
- Fri., March 20 PTO Bake Sale
- **Fri. March 20 NOON DISMISSAL**
- Fri., March 20 Parent Work Afternoon 2-5pm
- March 23-27 SHARE YOUR CLASS WEEK
- Fri., March 27 PTO Pizza Lunch
- Tues., March 31 PTO Meeting, 7-8pm
- **Thurs., April 2 NOON DISMISSAL
Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- **Friday, April 3 SCHOOL CLOSED:
Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- **April 6-10 SCHOOL CLOSED: SPRING BREAK**
- Fri., April 17 PTO Bake Sale
- Fri., April 24 PTO Pizza Lunch
- Tues., April 28 PTO Meeting, 7-8pm
- Thurs., May 7 Mother's Day Tea
- Friday, May 8 CH Field Trip: Super Scientific Circus