

Montessori in Motion Newsletter

"Bringing love and laughter to learning"

April 2008

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Key Dates

- Apr. 5 Parent Workshop
- Apr. 7-11 Spring Break - Childcare is available
- Apr. 19 Parent work Party
- May 8 Mother's Day Tea Party
- May 26 Memorial Day – school is closed
- Jun 18 Last Day of School-Graduation Day
- Jun 19-20 No school – summer setup days. No childcare.
- Jun 21 Parent work day
- Jun 23-27 No school – Childcare is available.
- Jun 30-Jul 25 Summer Session I
- Jul 28-Aug 22 Summer Session II
- Aug 25-29 No school – teacher setup week

Dear Parents

Parenting Workshop Held Saturday, April 5th, 2008

Thank you Carolyn, Julie, Jenny, Mathew, Sharon and Greg for your willingness to spend your time, money and focus for deeper perspective of what your job of a parent is. As the pioneers of Montessori In Motion's first workshop of its kind, the day was a complete success. You were self-disclosing and intimate and I hope others will join us in the expansion of this program and well as with follow-up 'skills and tools' courses.

If you are interested in me scheduling a 'How to Talk so Kids will Listen, and How to Listen so Kids will Talk' 8 or 10 week class, please email me at: BoldVision@Comcast.net The best evening for me is Thursday. Your input is welcome.



An Important Lesson for our Children...

"If someone hits you, hit them back!"
How many of us received this advice from our parents?

Read why this is not necessarily the best advice to give our young children on page 3 in the Big's article.

General Reminders

- Please label everything that comes to school. Check the lost and found basket in the multipurpose room for lost items.
- Call the office when your child is going to be late or not coming to school.
- Remember your snack day and keep it healthy.
- Check your folder and the bulletin board daily for messages.
- Remember to sign-in and sign-out your child each day. If we do not see a sign-out time, we will assume your child was checked out at 6:00pm and you will be charged for childcare hours.
- Tuition is due on the 1st of every month. A \$25.00 late fee is charged for tuitions received after the 5th of each month.

Sharing Program

Little's: Every day is a share day. Bring something from home "labeled" in a cloth bag.

Big's: Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Children are encouraged to tell what's new and good all 3 days! We request that children do not bring anything from home until further notice.

Kinder's: Every Tuesday and Wednesday. Children are encouraged to tell what's new and good on both days! We request that children do not bring anything from home until further notice.

April School Events

Sat April 5 8:30-5:30 Parenting Workshop \$189 per person

Sat April 19 Parent work party

Little's News



This month or should I say last month just flew by! My birthday, March 4th was a success and so much fun. I love spending that day with my very best little friends.

As most of you know, my mom was in the hospital in Florida and I needed to be with her for a week. I can report that she is home and doing better.

Julianne and Kelsey seemed to have had a great time with the children while I was away. I returned to find Sofie and Maya in the Big's class. Now Laney, Jack and Luka have risen to the top. Welcome to Solomon, Sophia, Jenna, Meechu and Niki along with their families.

Spring is here and we are going to be investigating the great outdoors. So many flowers and trees and colors, please bring in any flowers you may have in your yard. We will be cutting, pasting and painting our own blossoms for you. Please remember to send a sharing daily and keep your cubbies full of spare clothes. See you all on Saturday April 19th at our work party.



Shelley and Julianne

Big's News

Spring has sprung! We are witnessing a huge growth spurt in the children. Along with their new found abilities and skills comes a surge of energy which runs across our play yard and carries the theme

"If someone hits you, hit them back!"

When we were children, many of us were told by adults that, "If someone hits you, hit them back!" And, many of the children are told by their parents, "If someone hits you, hit them back." While in some cases physically defending yourself is the best option, there are alternatives to hitting that we teach the children. Especially now, where for many this is their first lesson in conflict/resolution, and their first shot at communicating a sense of healthy self-interest.

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Why Not Hit Back?

- Early childhood lessons leave indelible impressions for life.
- The problem often doesn't go away after you hit back. More than likely, the problem just gets worse.
- There may be situations where you do need to physically defend yourself, but it's not something to take lightly.
- Children need to know that they have options for responding to any type of conflict.
- The person who hits back is usually the one who gets caught and blamed, not the person who hit first.
- Hitting can cause serious unintended injuries to both people.

Some of what we teach at school as alternatives to hitting:

- Find an adult and ask for help.
- Be assertive and tell the person with a strong voice to, "Stop!"
- Walk away.
- Practice peacemaking communication skills regularly via role playing and interactive games and discussions.



Helping Your Child Avoid Violence:

- Tell them you know it's hard not to fight and that it takes a lot of courage not to physically hurt someone, particularly because you understand how strong the impulse is.
- Children need to practice peacemaking to be good at it. Practice non-violent solutions. Role-playing scenarios and stories about bullies are extremely helpful, particularly because your child can recognize themselves as both the bully and the victim. This encourages compassion.
- Help children recognize the things that get them really angry. By recognizing their cues, they can avoid situations where they'll get upset or angry. (Better yet, practice not reacting so strongly to a situation that induces angry or upset feelings!)
- Talk to your children often. An open line of communication will make it easier to talk about conflicts when they occur.

Being such a marvelously diverse community offers a tremendous opportunity to learn how to get along.



This week's Souper Chefs were everyone in the Big's class! Thanks to all of you for making this program a complete success!

Taye and Meg

Kinder's Capers

Every year about this time the children in the Kinders class that are moving on to the big school begin to get a little anxious. It is very important for (teachers and parents) to prepare them for this big step in their young lives. Here, at our school, they know they are loved and cared for but they don't know what it will be like to enter a new school where they don't know all of the children or the teachers. It can be very scary! We will address this subject soon in many of our morning circles. I always acknowledge their fears but focus our discussions on the great positive reasons why they will be happy in their new schools. I will remind them that Montessori in Motion has an open door policy for alumni. We will be so happy if they visit and tell us all about their school and their new friends. Even if your child seems excited about going on, often times, he/she still harbors fears that they don't want to tell you about because they sense your expectations for them. Please give them an opening to ask questions that might lead to a dialogue that will ease their anxiety and put many of their fears to rest.

The children are really enjoying the unit on the human body. I think we might have some budding health professionals among our group!

Thank you, thank you to all of the parents who drove on our field trip to the dance performance. We didn't think we had enough cars, but in the end you came through with flying colors.

Enjoy this wonderful spring weather.



Linda, Dani, and Romaika

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After School Program

Stay with the group adventures

Before we leave the gate on our afternoon adventures, I ask the children to tell me the rules.

- Stay with the Group
- Listen to the teachers

I ask them, “How else can we keep you safe?” I then proceed to test them, watching who is listening and following instructions.

As the adventure continues, we weaver under bushes, roll down grassy slopes, look at sprouting buckeye trees, hide in high grass and pretend to disappear from the teachers. If the children follow the rules, they return with smiles and enthusiasm and so do the teachers. And it is great to have a parent join us to keep the group intact.



Thank you for your involvement.
Wayne and Dani

Fundraising Program

Our eScrip Program is an easy way to earn money for your school.

For those of you who are not aware of what eScrip is, eScrip allows all of us to make a substantial contribution to our school of choice just by doing what we would do anyway and that's buying goods and services from stores like Safeway, Long's United, Macy's, etc.

So how does it work? Participation is easy, by registering your most active credit cards or grocery cards YOU guarantee Montessori In Motion passive income every month allowing us to reach many of our goals for our children at Montessori In Motion. The more families who enroll, the more MIM can accomplish.

It's a co-operative effort that is easy to do requiring little effort from each of us with potentially very BIG results for our children!

Here is the log in link for eScrip: <http://www.escrip.com/merchants/search/index.jsp>

Click Sign Up

Click: Montessori In Motion or Enter Group ID Name Address City State Zip # 4749628

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