

Montessori in Motion

March 2011 Newsletter



Contents

<i>"Big's" Class: Taya & Karina's Class...</i>	1
<i>"Kinder Capers": Linda and Meg's Class...</i>	2
<i>"Little's" Class: Shelley and Caitlin's Class...</i>	3
<i>MIM Afternoon</i>	4
<i>Panda Bear Mobile Gymnastics at MIM</i>	5
<i>Music at MIM</i>	5
<i>Snack/Cooking/Gardening</i>	6
<i>After School Learning</i>	8

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, April 11 to Friday, April 15, 2011 - Spring Recess (childcare available)
- Thursday, May 5, 2011 - Mother's Day Tea Party
- Monday, May 30, 2011 - School Closed - Memorial Day
- Thursday, June 16, 2011 - Graduation Day
- Friday, June 17, 2011 - No School

General Reminders

- Please label everything that comes to school.
- Call the office when your child is going to be late or not coming to school.
- Check your folder and the bulletin board daily for messages.
- Remember to sign-in and sign-out your child each day.
- 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.

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"Big's" Class: Taye &

Karina's Class...

Can you hear the hum of the children busy working? From pouring sand to sounding letters, from sequencing numbers to grating cheese, the children are thriving! I am continually inspired to stay ahead of them! Creating new work is fun because they become so excited to try new things.

I think of our class as the solid foundational structure into the world of reading and writing. From tweezing teeny objects to a plate, to picking up two items individually with each hand at the same time, from becoming silly animals in front of the group, to counting everything on their plates, the children learn by doing. Even dressing themselves provides the mastery required to leap into the world of text that's just around the corner.

But we certainly don't stop there. We continue to learn about our own feelings; identifying, describing, talking about situations and our reactions to them, while engaging in the bigger questions, "What's mine, what's yours, what's ours?" The objective is to learn how to relate to one another in a world that's beyond home.



The first step in knowing how we are feeling comes when there is conflict or stress. Active interest between two people is not necessarily something that is taught but something that is felt when it happens. Mutual understanding is always the goal for it is out of that place of feeling understood where we begin to step out and take risks. Trust is the invisible mystery that produces feelings of worthiness. My definition of worthiness is a core internal environment that is able to take in love.

The other day Cameron took a piece of cheese from Alina's lunchbox and it was not Sharing Food Day. Alina abruptly told Cameron, "Stop! It's not Sharing Food Day! Cameron, you have to wait!" And then she looked for confirmation from me when she asked, "Taye, what day is Sharing Food Day?" I reminded everyone that Sharing Food Day is on Mondays in 4 more days. Cameron

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slumped back into his chair, his teeth now exposed while grinding the cheese. As soon as he swallowed it he said, "Ohhhh! OK Alina, I forgot. Will you bring that again on Monday?" Alina nodded. Her face flushed into a smile that said with complete conviction, "Yes I will!" Who says they need a teacher?

This and That.....

Sharing something from home, however, is every day! Please remind your child to bring one item from home to share with the class (preferably not a toy!)

Please also bring photos of favorite people, pets or places. I'd love to make a photo album with the children for them to share. (Send pictures you can part with please!)

Thanks Geraldine and Angela for helping me cut shapes for our art projects and for bringing me craft goodies to create new lessons with.

Please make sure your child has extra clothes at school including extra socks, rain gear & shoes. Just say, "rain walk" and they're lined up at the door!

"Kinder Capers": Linda and Meg's Class...



The week before last, the weather was abnormally warm. I took this opportunity to begin dialog about the signs of spring. Children are especially aware of their surroundings and they were able to easily tell me of the many signs they had already observed. We then decided we would paint cherry trees in blossom and put them on our bulletin board to coax the nice weather to continue until spring officially arrived in March. Well, the very day I pinned them on the board, the temperature began to plummet and the rain drenched the same earth that had been warmed by the previous week's sunshine. It was a good lesson for all of us about the unpredictability of the weather. Now, we are sporting coats, hats and gloves and still complaining about being cold. Then at the end of February, the children again embraced

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the frosty winter when the weather reporters predicted snow in our neighborhoods. "Sorry kids", the weather really is unpredictable!

During our class discussions, we are still learning about the digestive system and what foods are healthy for our bodies. They are learning about the functions of the digestive organs and how they relate to the whole body. The sharing board will no longer indicate what the share is for the week. I think it is important for the students to try hard to remember what the verbal assignment is. If your child really can't remember by Monday, ask me on the "q.t." and I will let you know. The items will be designed to increase the children's vocabulary. If they do not bring their share on Tuesday, they can share it on Wednesday. Please try to keep the toys and stuffed animals to a minimum.

I am delighted that the kinders are participating in the cooking project every Wednesday. Caitlin has begun to gather students to prepare the soil, so that we can enlarge and plant our vegetables. Zerene even brought a pear tree cutting. I hope it will "take".

We will be attending a performance the first week of May (the 3rd) at San Rafael Civic Center. If you think that

you can help us out that day, please make a note to set aside time from 10:30 to 1:30 because if weather permits, we will have lunch and play time at the little park next to the lagoon.



Your children tickle and warm our hearts every day.

"Little's" Class: Shelley and Caitlin's Class...



It's already March and the littles keep marching on. We've sent several from our little class to the bigs and we're looking for a few new 2 year olds. Welcome to Amelia, Jesse, Leila and Mila and their families. En-yu, Brittany,

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and Sarah and Allison are seniors and of course, we are working towards big boy and girl panties.' We're learning our colors, shapes and numbers and doing lots of water works (washing vegetables, pouring). We're stringing cereal on yarn which is quite a challenge of postponing gratification. Valentines day and Chinese New Year brought lots of red into our room. March is a green month and we're getting the garden ready for planting (Don't forget St. Patrick's Day). We'll soon be having a spring work day, where we will all get down and dirty.

We are seeing tremendous growth and change in all the children, not the least being their language development. Please remember (or begin!) to send a sharing bag with one object to help your child develop narrative skills.

Littles have been seeing new foods on the snack table thanks to our new healthy snack program. We have started a list for each child in our classroom to keep track of foods we see the children trying and liking. This way, parents might become aware of foods they didn't even realize their children will eat.

Caitlin and I love working and playing with the children. We feel so close to all of them. It is truly the most

wonderful job in town. Thanks for sharing.

MIM Afternoon

Alyssa, Karina and Carol are having fun in the afternoons with our rainy days and now as the weather is beginning to get sunnier. With the addition of



Karina with the bigs and kinders and Carol with the Littles we have been playing more with paints, play-dough and gluing projects.

We also have been having fun with our high school volunteers Beep and Taylor, our alumni students. The kids love them and they bring with them that youthful energy. A big thank you to Shane and Chantal for the new snack program; ever since this has begun we've enjoyed new and yummy snack for the afternoon. Also, thank you to Magaly for helping us clean on Tuesdays and Wednesdays it has helped us so much! A little reminder, all children need a blanket for rest time. Blankets should be labeled and kept in a re-usable bag on your child's hook. The

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children like to have something to snuggle with during our library time with Shelly! We have been talking a lot about science during library days and Shelly has brought in several different science books about animals, dinosaurs, space and energy. Please feel free to bring a book on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to share during this time. As Spring time comes we will transition from rainy day movies and inside dancing and jumping to outside walks around the neighborhood or possibly just to the climbing rocks down our drive-way. Please be sure to bring good walking shoes for your child as well as sunscreen. We hope to do more art projects and gross motor play with the kids.

Panda Bear Mobile

Gymnastics at MIM

We have two 45 minute classes here at Montessori in Motion for the preschooler and pre-k students every Tuesday, starting at 1:00 p.m.

Panda Bear Mobile Gymnastics is a gymnastics program designed especially for children starting at 2 1/2 to 5 years old. Our equipment is scaled down for the preschooler and pre-k child. We do obstacle courses and balance beams,

tumbling, vault, bars, trampoline, springboards, music, balls and ribbons and much more. All of these activities assist in building



children's confidence, expands motor development skills, increases coordination which leads to happy, smiling kids.

As the Owner of Panda Bear Mobile Gymnastics, I have had 20 plus years of coaching experience. I am CPR certified, Safety Certified and Kinder Certified. The most important thing to me is to have fun safely and see how happy it makes your children to learn different skills that will stay with them through their childhood and beyond.

Debbie Cerrudo

Music at MIM

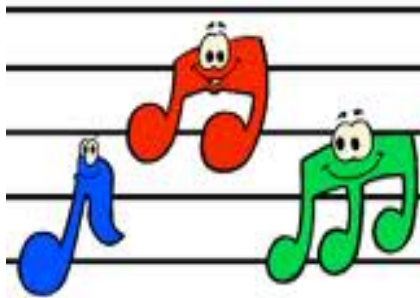
We meet every Thursday, starting at 11:00 a.m.

The Littles and Bigs have been learning songs that help them repeat melodies,

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use movement, and feel the joy of music. The songs include nursery rhymes, songs about parts of the body, days of the week, holidays and different cultures.

They learned many songs from the African American heritage and will be studying songs about springtime and growing up.



The Kinders are mastering the words of many songs and expanding comprehension of the words. They also will be adding some simple folk dancing, and already do lots of clapping. The overall design of the program is to get the kids started on rudiments of music making and well along the way to experiencing the joys of music and its connections to all other learning.

Jeff Labes

Snack/Cooking/Gardening

Thank You.... Thank You.... Thank You....

A giant thank you parents for your support with our new and upgraded cooking and snack program! Shane & Chantal have been working 'round the clock to implement this innovative hand's on food program that educates the importance of healthy eating (at the early childhood level!) Extra thanks to Angela who has been the rock behind the scenes.



And, what about the idea that "Every child deserves a garden!?" When Dave Haskell visited us from Novato Children's Center the other day he said just that. I found myself actively wondering, "If only....." and now I'm asking you, "Why not?"

ANZAC Biscuits

During World War I, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC), needed food to take with them into the field. The result? A delicious little

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biscuit that stays fresh because of its simple ingredients. Our recipe produces a slightly sweet variation and makes a great snack for toddlers; a perfect treat to store in the diaper bag.

- ✚ 1 1/2 cups rolled oats
- ✚ 1 cup unbleached all purpose flour
- ✚ 1/8 cup sugar
- ✚ 1/2 cup shredded, un-sweetend coconut
- ✚ 1/2 cup unsalted butter (1 stick), melted
- ✚ 1 tablespoon agave nectar
- ✚ 1 teaspoon baking soda, dissolved in 4 tablespoons of hot water

- 1) Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line baking sheet with parchment paper or grease with butter.
- 2) Combine oats, flour, sugar, and coconut in a bowl. Add melted butter, agave nectar, baking soda and water. Mix with a wooden spoon until mixture comes together. Mix with hands too - very fun for kids. The dough will have a crumb consistency.
- 3) Scoop balls of dough using an ice cream scoop or two tablespoons. Form into balls and place on baking sheet. Flatten gently with hand to 1/2 inch thickness.

- 4) Bake for 15 minutes, rotating half way through cooking. Bake until golden brown. Remove from oven and cool completely on a rack.

Store in an air-tight container for up to 3-5 days.

Makes 14-16 biscuits.

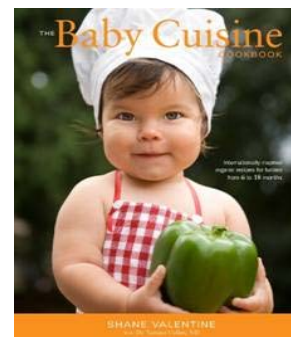
Here is a cute video of the Bigs doing the cooking project!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-PrH7DXZkd4>

Please also join our Facebook Group - Montessori In Motion! We will keep you updated on all of the healthy snacks our children are eating and cooking.

Please send Chantal Valentine a message on Facebook or by email in order to join the group:

chantal@alinasucina.com

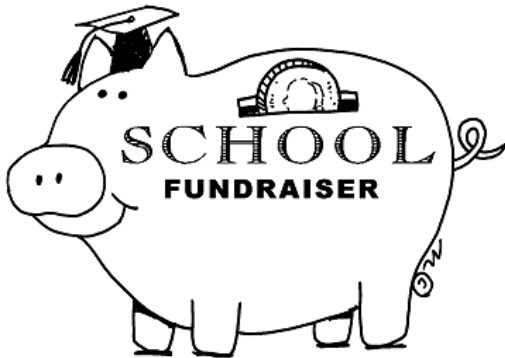


Head's Up!

Montessori In Motion Rummage Sale and Fund Raiser is coming up **Saturday, April 30th, 2011!** From the what's it worth department, my goal would be to

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raise \$1500 to seed the Food & Garden Project! Every form of participation is helpful! 100% involvement would be tremendous! Please help spread the word! Everyone welcome!



After School Learning

Learning Continues Outside of School. Anyone care to ignite a little action on the Montessori In Motion Parent Blog?

A brief description:

A place for a cup of coffee and an uplifting experience to talk about ourselves as parents. (Young children 2-6.)

To receive the best possible outcome:

- ✚ Acknowledge yourself.
- ✚ Make a conscious decision to focus upon the desired result.
- ✚ View your behavior light heartedly.
- ✚ Allow yourself to behave differently.

Let's start with the premise:

✚ Children are inherently valuable. Their value does not come from lovable behaviors.

✚ Young children make decisions about themselves from the messages we give them.

✚ Our job is to provide life affirming messages so that children will form healthy self concepts that include, knowing they are lovable, capable, valuable, important, and good enough. Ask your question? What's on your mind?

or...

Respond to what's already been said? Click the little envelope icon under any post to leave your comment.

<http://montessoriinmotion.blogspot.com/0 comments> 

Stay tuned!

Taye will be hosting another Accelerated Awakening retreat in Novato June 9-12, 2011. During that weekend she will be revealing the deepest most personal sides of herself. She will be posting the latest free 4-part video series that will describe exactly what takes place at one of these events and why it would be of benefit for you to be there too. She will place the link to it on the blog.