



The Adventurer



Montessori Adventure School

February 2009

350 W Capitol Dr Appleton WI 54911-1025 (920) 738-0325

www.montessoriadventure.com

School Staff

Head of School & Directress

Emily R. Forslin

Toddler Teacher

Eileen V.

Toddler Assisting Teacher

Buffy C.

Preschool Assisting Teachers

Ann B.

Stephanie G.

Plus Assisting Teacher

Colleen S.

Preschool Substitute

Janet H.

Office Staff

Anne Z. Office Manager

Perry Lou S., Treasurer

Parent Advisory Board

Jennifer L. – Chairman

Barb M. – Vice President

Gloria M – Secretary

Jennifer T. – Treasurer

Dawn D. – At Large

more school days. If toddler parents would like to come to observe, they are welcome but this would not be a time that their children could come with them. A sign-up will be posted.

Happily, nothing upset conferences and I thank both Children's House and Toddler community parents for their complimentary remarks as well as the kindness of the staff for all their help.

Maria Montessori insisted on carefully designed developmentally appropriate environments staffed by peaceful, respectful, enlightened staff. There they could guide children to teach themselves according to each one's own individual timetable and interests regardless what disposition and talents they have or what modality (auditory, visual, etc.) they need to learn. As we all know, that's a very big task, even to accomplish with one child, let alone a group, but it continues to happen. How? The Montessori Method with the insistence that staff *must* become expert observers and provide only what each child needs to help himself within the prepared environment.

As food for thought before we all move past this conference period, I am including the Preschool Assessment Forms from the book, *Discover Your Child's Learning Style*, one of whose authors took Montessori training.

The second suggestion I have is for parents who'll be making kindergarten choices to visit several elementary programs including the Johnson Montessori Charter School. Two of our parents, Trisha L. and Karen W., have children both there and here and are happy to share information.

Founder's Forum

Dear Parents,

We all seem to be recovering from winter's recent icy blast which closed our area's schools but also caused us to cancel our preschool Mother's Night and reschedule it, replacing Father's Night, January 29th. As February 13th is our Valentine Party day with party hours, I would be happy to meet with preschool children and their dads from 6:00pm to 8:00pm but not later because the 14th is a big day for all of us. The other possibility for dads is to come with moms on January 29th as I do not want to lose any

As you know, I am sold on the Montessori program's ability to meet each child's learning style and inspire them to believe in their ability to handle all life's challenges successfully, but each child's timetable of acquisition is unique and the family is the primary educator.

As you already know, we need to work together, and I am here, thankful for our conference time together.

Sincerely,

Emily Forstin

Preschool - Kindergarten News

Dear Parents,

With our country's election this year, interest in matters of voting and running for office is already part of class discussions and books being read. Normally this kind of interest doesn't emerge until President's Day (celebrating the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln) comes and our class Valentine's party is over.

This year children are initially more interested in what it takes to get friends to vote for them than planning a Valentine card for their parents. I'm sure in another week Obama interest for most of the children will have died down, especially when you parents begin helping them plan what their one "special" valentine for their class will be.

I am willing to tackle a Mardi Gras celebration for preschool children only, if I can be put in touch with a Samba Dancing parent or exchange student and if parents are willing to have their children don costumes.

Do let me know what you think. Let's hope Mother's Night weather will be mild and everyone can come.

Fondly,
Emily

♥♥♥♥♥ A Note About Valentines ♥♥♥♥♥

Rather than exchanging individual cards, we are again asking that each child bring in a Valentine for the whole school. We encourage you to work with your child on this project. In the past we have had Valentines such as a decorated tree or plant, a homemade mobile, an edible Valentine, large cards, small cards, children's performances, songs, and even special guests. If you and your child would like to give separate Valentines to friends, please mail them from home to the friend's home, as we will not pass them out here.

Toddler Talk

Dear Parents,

Well, the first half of the year is done already; where did the time go? There are only four months to go and the children are all working well. The conferences went well and I feel the children have all done well with the Montessori Method. We still have some more lessons to work on. Potty training is in full swing. MWF toddlers are working on a lot of Practical Life skills, such as cutting bananas, washing dishes, using buttons, and handling spoons, scoops, and tongs. Their communication skills are also improving. TuTh toddlers are working on improving their scooping and pouring skills and learning some basic math and science concepts. We've also had fun with puppet role-modeling.

We will be working on projects for our Valentine's Day party which will be held on February 13th at 10:00am. All toddlers are invited to the party and there will not be regular Friday class hours that day. You will be hearing a lot about hearts ♥ – what the heart shape is and what it stands for.

Thank you again to all the parents who were able to come to conferences and share what your child is learning. Thank you, Mrs. C., for all your help with the children.

Hoping for warmer weather...and dry pants!

Eileen V.

A Note on Arrival Times:

An increasing number of preschoolers are arriving late to class, causing disruptions to the class schedule. We would rather you come 10 minutes early than 10 minutes late. It would also improve parking lot safety if parents weren't feeling rushed. And, please, parents, do not attempt to navigate the parking lot while talking on a cell phone. Small children + large vehicles + inattentive drivers is a recipe for tragedy. Let's keep each other safe.



Appleton Area School District Free Developmental Screening for 3 ½ - 4 year olds



The Appleton Area School District will be offering Free Developmental screening for children ages 3½ and 4 years of age during the coming months. If the child's birth date falls between September 2, 2004, and December 31, 2005, he/she is eligible for the screening.

The screening is a very valuable tool in assessing a young child's abilities in the areas of:

- Visual-Motor Adaptive – fine motor skills, eye-hand coordination and memory.
- Language and Cognition – language comprehension and verbal expression.
- Gross Motor Skills – large motor control.
- Social and Emotional Skills

The results of the screening help determine if future services are needed.

Parents accompany the child during the screening. The screening will take about one-half hour to an hour. Letters will be sent out to families that have registered with the school district. If you have not received a letter and are eligible, please contact your neighborhood school and set up an appointment for your child to be screened.

For more information, visit the district website at aasd.k12.wi.us and click on "Parents" or contact the district Screening Coordinator, Kimberly Quinn, by phone at (920)997-1399 ext 2121 or email: quinnkimberly@aasd.k12.wi.us.

Other school districts, such as Menasha, also offer screenings for their residents.

FROM THE OFFICE:

Reminder:
Tax Statements for Donations

If you made a cash or non-cash donation to Montessori Adventure School in 2008 and would like a statement of acknowledgement for your records, please leave a note in the office for Anne or email her at anne@montessoriadventure.com.

Happy Birthday!
Aidan M. – February 19



Fall Registration

Currently Enrolled Students

Fall registration for currently enrolled students will begin February 1 and end February 15. If you register and pay the registration fee* (\$175 per child or \$225 per family if more than one child will attend) during this period, your child's spot will be reserved for the 2009-2010 school year. Please note that the optimum Montessori experience for the Kindergarten year is the extended day (8:30 – 2:30 Monday through Thursday, Friday's 8:30 – 11:30) in the prepared environment. It is VERY important that you re-enroll your child by Feb. 15 to guarantee a place in the fall! This includes all toddlers expecting to enter the preschool.

After February 15, enrollment will be open to the public. Any additional openings will be filled first with siblings, next transfer Montessori students and then youngest children on our waiting list. If you know of anyone who might be interested in sending a child here next year (toddler or preschool), have them call the school or give their name to the office to send a registration packet and schedule a visit.

Prepaid Tuition Deposit

Toddlers & PLUS: Your one-month tuition deposit is applied to the last month of the school year. The deposit you paid last year will cover the May tuition for this year. If you re-enroll in a toddler class for the fall, the payment you make in May 2009 will be your deposit for May 2010 (adjusted for any tuition increase and the actual class your child will attend in fall). Parents of **toddlers moving up to preschool**, please be aware that you now need to pay *two* months' tuition in advance, unless you are signing up for the PLUS program.

**Registration fees as of 1/30/2009*

Preschool: As always, your two-month tuition deposit is applied to the last two months of the school year. So, the deposits you paid last year will cover the April and May payments this year. That means that if you are re-enrolling for 2009-2010, the payments you make April 1, 2009 and May 1, 2009 will be your deposits for next year. These deposits will reflect any increase in tuition for the 2009-2010 school year. Any tuition rates change for next year will be based on the age of the child, the length of his school day and increased operational costs.

Tuition rate sheets and enrollment forms will be distributed at the end of January. Put any questions regarding enrollment in the office cubby in the foyer.

A Note About Forms:

Forms can be tiresome to fill out with seemingly redundant information on each, but the State of Wisconsin issues the forms and requires us to keep them updated to maintain our license. They are created for your child's safety.

Some forms, such as the Child Enrollment and Health History forms are completed at the time of first enrollment in a class and do not have to be re-submitted each year. If a child changes class, from toddler to preschool, new forms should be completed. Changes in contact information (address, phone numbers, emergency contact person, etc.) or changes in health information (e.g., new allergies) should be reported to the office immediately so the file can be updated and the staff notified. Immunization forms must be updated whenever your child receives a new vaccination.

Other forms need to be re-submitted at specified intervals. The Child Health Report, signed by your medical provider, must be updated every 2 years for children over the age of two (or every 6 months for younger children). Field Trip permission slips and Authorization to Administer Medication forms must be renewed at least annually.

Your medical provider may fax Child Health Report forms and immunization records to the school at (920) 738-6647. Changes in Health History should be made on a new form CFS-2345. Changes in contact information may be sent by e-mail to the office manager at Anne@MontessorAdventure.com. Blank copies of all forms are available in the lobby throughout the year.

FAQ: Whom do I contact about...

Administration: Emily Forslin is the founder, directress, teaching head of school and school administrator of Montessori Adventure School. She determines curriculum, staffing, school schedule, admissions, retentions, policies and fees. If you have concerns or questions about how the school is operated, contact Mrs. Forslin. E-mail her at Emily@MontessoriAdventure.com.

Finances: Perry Lou S. is our school treasurer and she handles *all* financial matters. She balances the books, collects and tracks tuition and fees, issues receipts, pays school bills and salaries, submits employee tax withholdings, and runs employee background checks. If you have questions about what you owe, or need a receipt for reimbursement of child care expenses, contact Perry Lou. Perry Lou is usually in the office on Monday and Friday mornings. Her e-mail address is Perrylou@MontessoriAdventure.com.

Clerical: Anne Z. is the office manager and she responds to e-mail and phone messages, prepares and distributes the newsletter and other communications, and tracks student files required by the State of Wisconsin to keep the school in compliance with our license. She also submits quarterly tax reports and state unemployment filings. If you have questions about your child's files, need to change contact information, wish to have something included in the newsletter or distributed to the parents, or need a letter of acknowledgement of a donation for tax purposes, contact Anne. Anne is usually in the office Mondays & Fridays, 8:30-12:30, and one other day each week, usually Tuesdays, 10:30-2:30. E-mail her at: Anne@MontessoriAdventure.com

Note: Emily Forslin is the only "full-time" employee of the school; all others are part-time. The best way to make contact is either through e-mail (since it creates a paper-trail and avoids handwriting problems) or through phone calls over the lunch hour.

Thank YOU!

♥ To the families of Morgan L. and Vani S. for the holiday cash donations.

♥ To Trisha S. for coming in to our Three Kings celebration and sharing a Spanish lesson with our preschoolers.

♥ To the family of Zahra J. for the donation of felt material.

♥ To the parents of Justin K. for their donation to the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley which resulted in a grant to the school.

Mark Your Calendars:



FEB 1ST – 15TH – REGISTRATION FOR 2008-2009
(FEB 16TH – REGISTRATION OPEN TO PUBLIC)

FEB 13TH – VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY 10AM-NOON

FEB 13TH – DAD'S NIGHT (PRESCHOOL) 6-8PM

*Looking Ahead:
March 2009*

MARCH 6 (FRI) – PAC FIELD TRIP FOR
PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTENERS

“Miss Bindergarten goes to
Kindergarten”