

Montessori Matters

Week of February 14, 2017 • www.msasc.org • (864) 226-5344



Dates to Remember :

Feb. 13-17

Jump Rope for Heart

Feb. 14

Grandparent/Special
Persons Day

Feb. 16

UEL Poetry Night

Feb. 18

Mock Trial Regional
Competition

Feb. 20

Presidents Day Holiday
Extended Day Available

Feb. 23

PSAT for 10th Grade

Feb. 24-25

HS presents Bocon at
Clemson Little Theatre

From the Head of School

“Education” comes from the Latin verb, *Educo*, which means, “to draw forth and change from the *inside out*.” This is a significant concept when you consider Montessori learning.

Imagine a time before computers and cell phones when facts weren’t so “Fingertip Ready.” Our education system responded to needs of the time by educating from the “outside in” – pouring facts and figures into children that would grow up to fuel the Industrial Revolution’s need for production and demand fulfillment. For a number of decades, this model propelled Americans into a solid, upwardly-mobile middle class.

Fast Forward to 2017 – and with it – students have all the facts and figures available to them in their phones. So what? There are now issues created by Information Technology that demand a more self-motivated, thinking citizenry that can operate individually and collectively from the *inside out*.

Even from the beginning, Dr. Montessori knew that educating from the outside-in was counter-intuitive to how we learn best. Consider your own learning style. Don’t you learn best when you are intrinsically motivated to do so? When I see toddler students choosing their own diapers and setting their own lunch tables, and freely choosing how they will move their little bodies in their physical space, I see intrinsic motivation to learn being created by Montessori’s prepared environment. When I see Primary and Elementary students choosing their academic works, and writing their weekly work plans, and voluntarily settling their own conflicts peacefully, I see intrinsic motivation to learning being created by Montessori’s prepared environment. And when I see my MSA high school seniors grapple initially with a year-long senior capstone research project – and work through the awesome responsibility of choosing a passion with which they will spend an entire year of their lives working on, I see the lasting results of intrinsic motivation to learning bearing real fruit in their academic and personal lives. As a teacher, there is nothing more gratifying, to be sure.

Everything we do with our students is aimed at creating an environment that honors their intellectual curiosity and encourages them to explore and learn and grow and share – not because we asked them to – but because they need to for themselves...
From the Inside Out.



Yours in Montessori Education,
Vance

Grandparent/Special Friend Day



Junior Girls Basketball

Congratulations to our Junior Girls basketball team for their great sportsmanship and awesome season! In the championship game they overcame a 13 point halftime deficit to bring it to within one point during the final minute. We are so proud of them for their second place finish in the ACAA tournament!

