

MONTESSORI MATTERS

Sept. 26, 2016



This past week, our strings teacher had to be absent from school for a day. Within the first few minutes of the strings class, Mr. Jordan noticed music coming from the next room. Curious, he stepped into the class to find that the students had assembled themselves and had begun rehearsal on their own. A child had stepped up to the plate and conducted rehearsal; every child was on task and enjoying music making – a beautiful Montessori Moment, to be sure. While this situation would be anomalous in regular educational setting, it isn't here.

Dr. Montessori had much to say about the child's process of achieving independence. She wrote that "The child, in fact, once he feels sure of himself, will no longer seek the approval of authority after every step." Her suggestion that education is a natural process carried out by the child – and not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment, is one that is (finally) gaining ground among the wider circle of educational theorists and pedagogues. Here in South Carolina, the State Department of Education has developed a profile of the 21st Century South Carolina High School Graduate. Chief among these characteristics are creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration and team work, knowing how to learn, integrity, self-direction, global perspective, perseverance, work ethic, and interpersonal skills. Sound familiar? These have always been foundational outcomes for the authentic Montessori educational program; Dr. Montessori had these in mind more than a century ago as she was designing a student-centered method for educating students.

After having spent many years teaching in public high schools and even in my teaching experiences at Furman University, I have been witness to a disturbing trend that my students were increasingly unable to achieve true independence of thought and action. In a prepared Montessori environment, however, you can be rest assured that children - as young as the infant and toddler through the high school senior – are being guided toward discovering who they are as individual learners and as human beings. We live in an age where random facts are available in every cell phone. Criterion-based education where facts are "poured into students' heads" for the express purpose of regurgitation for a grade is, frankly, a disservice to students everywhere, given the challenges of the world into which they are being prepared. I've spoken to many employers who crave workers who can think independently and solve problems creatively and collaboratively. Indeed, Dr. Montessori asserted that "Free choice is one of the highest of all mental processes." I'm very proud to be working and teaching alongside colleagues who, day in and out, prepare learning environments that guide children toward mastering the art (and responsibility) of free choice in their lives.

Dr. Montessori said that we should never help a child with a task that he is capable of doing himself. In what ways are you observing this key Montessori principle with your own child?

Wishing you all a perfectly "Montessori" week ahead!



Upper Elementary students sharing precious time with our toddlers during Community Service



From MSA blueprint:
our 4th Pillar

“Service to Humanity”

Lower Elementary Prepares ...

... the weaving frame for last week's International Day of Peace. Each class was given the opportunity to write special "peace" wishes to be woven into our hand made frame.

Two are pictured below:

"I want India and Pakistan to be friends."

"Everyone should give peace a chance to create a healthier, happier environment for all."



Middle School Math



Algebra 1 and Pre-Algebra students worked through activity stations that highlighted reasoning, budgeting, ordering decimals, collecting data, and measures of central tendency!

Dates to Remember:

Sept. 27

Toddler One Covered Dish

Sept. 28

College Fair for 11th graders

Sept. 30

Primary Planet Pajama Party

Oct. 3

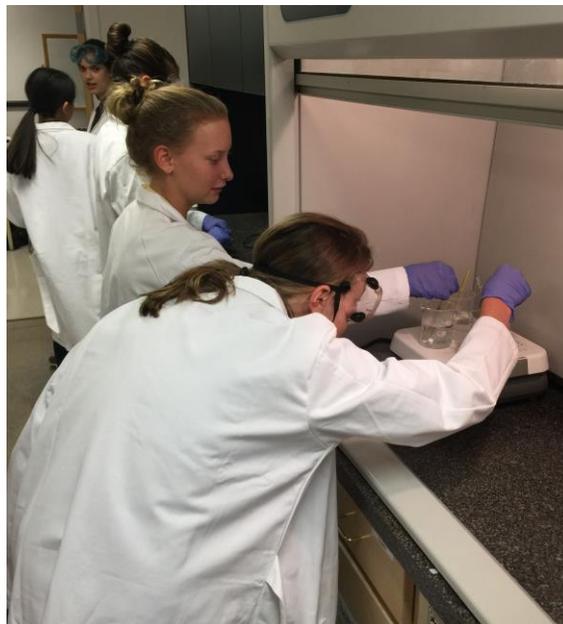
Parent meeting for high school Germany trip

Oct. 6-9

Upper School Production of "Once on this Island" in amphitheater

Oct. 17-21
Fall Break

High School Chemistry



HS Chemistry class making crystals out of alum powder.

Athletic News



- The Montessori SCISA Volleyball team has their last home match on Thursday, September 29th at Concord Baptist Church. The JV (7th-9th graders) play at 4:30 and the Varsity (7th-12th graders) will follow that match at around 5:15. Regular admission is \$4 for adults and \$2 for students - BUT if you are wearing a Montessori shirt or ROYAL BLUE we will give you a \$1 discount per person.
- The SCISA Cross Country team has been busy running in meets in Clemson, Seneca, Greenwood and Boiling Springs. Hayley Blanton came in 4th place in the middle school girls division on September 20th at the SCA Invitational in Boiling Springs. The next local race is the Schlotzsky's Invitational on Saturday, October 1st at the Anderson Civic Center.



- Basketball - We are trying to form MSA teams to put into the ACAA league - ages 5-17 are welcome. Please see sign-up form attached to the email.





MONTESSORI

INFANTS - 12TH GRADE

SCHOOL OF ANDERSON

Educating Joyful Scholars Since 1973

MSA MILEAGE CLUB

Students—Lower Elementary thru High School, Staff, and Parents are welcome!

Benefits of walking, running, & being active

TUESDAYS
3:15 - 4:00 PM
BEGINS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

Cost \$15 for the year
includes chain and Toe Tokens
(Checks payable to MSA)

- Fight childhood obesity
- Prevent health problems
- Reduce stress
- Develop a lifelong good habit
- Feel energized
- Improved productivity and concentration
- IT'S FUN!

We will be using the Toe Token system to track how many miles each person completes. Participants can earn Toe Tokens for every 5 miles they complete, monthly attendance, and special events.

It is optional for club members to participate in any area road races. The club cost does not include registration fees for those races.

***Please have a full water bottle prepared to bring to mileage club.**

***Students that are not picked up by 4:00pm will be brought back over to extended day.**



Contact
Kelsey Pillitere with
any questions
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281-841-0563

Child or Children

Parent's Phone

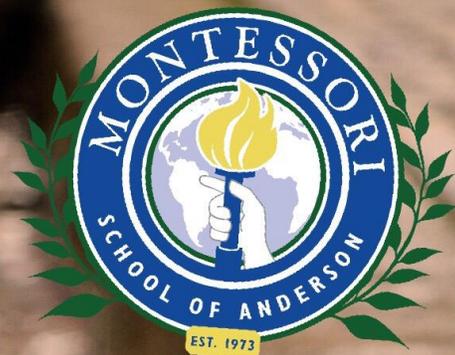
Parent's Name

Emergency Contact

Parent's E-mail

Emergency Phone

FALL FEST DUCK DERBY!



Reserve your ducks today!

OCTOBER 29, 2016
DBOUK FARM
347 BOWLAN ROAD
ANDERSON, SC