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Preparing your child for life's experiences.

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OCTOBER 2021 Newsletter

MS. MARIA'S WELCOME NOTE

School Year 2021-2022 opened with a bustling of personalities. We welcomed our new and returning families in both the Primary Environment and Toddler community. The students showed lots of different emotions like excitement, fear, happiness, shyness, anxiety, anticipation, surprise and joy. After the first week, our little learners started settling down and began getting used to the routine, showed much excitement to work and meet new friends.

The MMA faculty and staff all look forward to another safe, healthy, productive, and fun-filled school year.

HARVEST AT THE BECKMANN'S GARDEN

We thank Ty and Meegan Beckmann (Genevieve & Josephine's parents) for inviting our students to harvest some kale, flowers, and tomatoes from their garden. The kids had a blast in their backyard.....



.....plus they even saw some deer on our way back to school!



HANDWASHING



WEAR A MASK



DISTANCING

HELLO FROM THE TODDLER COMMUNITY

The students in the Toddler community have acclimated well to the classroom environment and routine.

It is always a pleasure to observe the students build their social skills by learning each other's names and greeting one another as they arrive in the morning.



They are working on their care of self by clearing the table after they eat, using the toilet, and retrieving and putting on their shoes during transitions indoor and outdoor.



The students are also developing their care of the environment by carrying their work carefully with two hands, the organization of their work, and pushing in their chairs before replacing their work back on the shelf.

We are truly impressed with how quickly the students have gained order and independence in the classroom, and we look forward to observing so much more as the school year continues.

PRACTICAL LIFE EXERCISES – PRIMARY ENVIRONMENT ONE

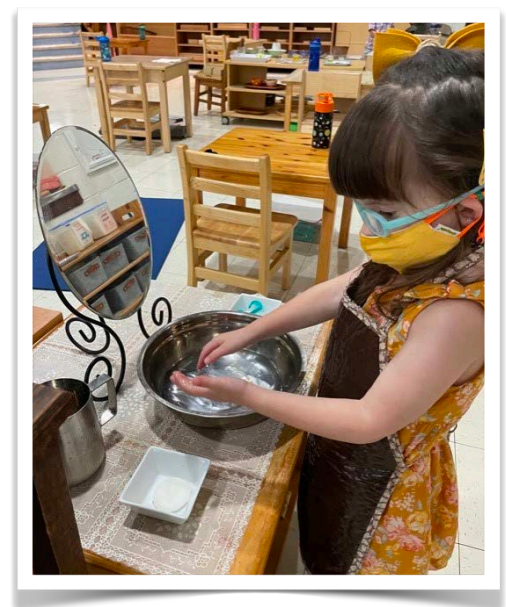
“Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed.” ~ Maria Montessori



Young children love to help and they love to mimic adult tasks and roles. Practical Life activities, or exercises, are the activities of everyday life. The child observes these activities in the classroom environment and gains knowledge through the real experience of how to accomplish life skills in a purposeful way. Practical life activities help give the child a sense of being and belonging, established through participation in daily life with everyone around them. Generally, in the Primary classroom, these activities revolve around **four areas**: ***Caring for the Self, Caring for the Environment, Grace & Courtesy, and Movement.***



The importance of **Practical Life** activities cannot be overemphasized. You can encourage your child to engage in these activities at home too, with very little preparation or set up of materials. You may have to make adjustments, such as making items more accessible by using a step stool, or using smaller items that fit your child's hands. Toys are not substitutes for the materials and supplies you'll need and use. Naturally occurring routine tasks like **sorting laundry, wiping the table, sweeping the floor, gardening, caring for pets, and preparing meals** are ideal for children between the ages of 3 and 6. These daily activities may not seem "academic enough" at first glance, but they offer profound opportunities for your young child or children to concentrate, follow a logical sequence of steps, and ultimately engage in truly meaningful work in the context of your loving family. Below is a link to suggested Practical Life activities or tasks at home, by age, that your child can engage in easily. These activities are functional, purposeful and fun! <https://cdn.naturalbeachliving.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Chore-Chart-1.pdf>



PRIMARY ENVIRONMENT TWO

Perspective:

I could not help thinking of a jet taking off as I wrote this. There is much preparation of our Montessori environments, so that all systems are "go!" The initial path of the runway has us motivated, maybe a little anxious, and alert as we enter the school year. Once leveled off, we can focus, concentrate and go about our work. A few bumps may occur, but mostly there are great moments each and every day.



"Work" is the word Maria Montessori used to describe what children do in the classroom. She said "The child can only develop by means of experience in his environment.

We call such experience work." These first six years are the formative years. We aim to create a loving and supportive environment where your child learns to absorb language, attitudes, manners, and learns to love and appreciate themselves. They learn to contribute and feel needed.

New students, and younger students, are just being introduced to the new environment. While more experienced students are challenged to build on what they know, and even become mentors to the younger children.



Learning:

Learning in our class occurs in many areas, that are interrelated. One such area is called PRACTICAL LIFE. When children experience the practical life work, they become more successful in all other areas of study and relating to others. For example, children may learn to cut and arrange flowers, adding beauty and sharing their creations with others. Other works include carrying, pouring, cleaning, folding, polishing. At home, you can give your child work that contributes to family life, such as scraping their dinner plates into the trash or compost, setting a table, folding some washcloths or towels, or pouring juice into their cup from a small pitcher.



Special Events:

Some special events included celebrating Maria Montessori's birthday, and reinforcing her teachings about peace. Ms. Marides, Primary One's Lead Guide, coordinated our Peace Day event, and all Mosaic classes shared a beautiful moment in which all children contributed, through art, movement, and song.

Birthday greetings again to the following September and October celebrants: Rui Lin Yao, Madelyn Sied, Margot Sardenberg, Mimi Nash, Cora Kawakami, Jax Taylor, Jack Magpantay, Lucia Barahona, and Leonardo Serrone!



Oak Park School of Music (OPSM), headed by its director, Joann Cho, generously provides group music lessons for MMA students to enjoy this school year. Music classes with Ms. Eunice started this month, and each classroom will have basic music lessons every other week. The children



have been introduced to new songs, and are enjoying lessons on rhythm, beat, as well as high and low notes.