Upcoming Events...

• Sun Jan 21 1:00-3:00pm
  Open House for prospective new families
• Tues Jan 23 at 6:30 - ScreenAgers the Movie ($7 per person)
• Fri Jan 26 - Contracts out to returning families for next school
• Feb 5th - Muffin Monday
• Feb 8th - 6:30pm 9-12 class performance of Shakespeare's Henry IV Part 1
• Sun Feb 11th - Bolton Ice Palace - family skate 5:30-6:30
• Feb 19th - President's Day and No School
• Feb 20th - Teacher Work Day - No school
• Thursday Feb 22 - Families Moving Up Night 6:00pm

We will be rescheduling the Parent Education Night - postponed due to snow day - date and time TBD

Join Us Tuesday January 23rd at 6:30 for

This award winning film probes into the vulnerable corners of family life and parenting and depicts the difficult struggles over social media, video games, and academics. The film offers solutions on how parents can help kids navigate the digital world.

This screening of ScreenAgers is open to the public. Please invite your friends, neighbors and family to join us. Admission is $7 person (this will hopefully cover our costs of the screening). Children 9 years and older are encouraged to join their parents and watch this documentary. We will provide childcare for the Oak Grove community children. Please sign up in the lobby so we can get a sense of how many viewers to plan for. The film is 1 hour and 10 minute long and we will follow the viewing with a discussion.

The link below is the official trailer of the ScreenAgers movie. For more information go to www.screenagersmovie.com.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQx2XBxXgZg

When I started the film, I was a mom having a hard time with my own teenage kids. My 14-year-old son wanted to play more video games, and my 12-year-old daughter was always on social media. I was at a loss. I would suddenly get mad and then feel guilty. I realized speaking with other parents that we all felt paralyzed about our kids and screen overload and that it’s only getting worse.


If you have not read Have Smartphone’s Destroyed a Generation?, it’s worth the read!


Even possums are unhappy with the extremely cold winter!

This little guy found shelter and warmth in the chicken coop!
Happenings around the Grove...

A perfect Winter Concert and Winter Solstice Celebration. And the little dusting of snow made it so special!

Gingerbread House and Cookie Making Afterschool Enrichment with Robyn and Audrey

Here's to a Joyful and Peaceful 2018
More Happenings around the Grove...

Here’s the challenge... create and manage a program that serves children that differ in ages from 3 to 12 years old. Add to this fundamental challenge that these kids are tired from a long day of school. Add to that challenge New England’s unpredictable weather. Add to that challenge that some kids are in the program for only a half an hour, some for an hour and some for two and a half hours. Throw in children who are not in the program, yet are given the privilege of sharing the outside space that this program utilizes during the same time. I know from experience how difficult these challenges are. So, here is a shout out to Kyle Dunnack and Emilie Ackerman for not only meeting these challenges, but for far exceeding them. Kyle and Emilie have created a program that is safe, fun, engaging, and meets the needs of the diverse ages of children. Kyle and Emilie follow the expectations and foundations of our Montessori programming. They keep things fresh and interesting. The laughter and joy heard each day coming from the outside area and the aftercare classroom is testimony to their hard work and collaboration. Thank you!
Why Montessori?

I am often asked why I chose to dedicate my work to Montessori education and why I chose to have my children be educated in a Montessori school. I think about this often. And the answer is simple. I truly believe that the children are the future. Now more than ever, when the world seems unsettled, I am reminded of how important Montessori education is.

The conversation on education in general is long and loud. There are many theories and ideas of how and what American school children should learn. There have been volumes written, brain studies done and years of research gathered, to determine how children learn best. All of these studies point to changes that are needed in the education system. From these studies has come what is now known in the world of education as the 5 Cs. These 5 Cs are universally agreed upon expectations that quality schooling teaches essential skills and values, not simply skills, that if and when they stick, will result in young adults who will be successful contributors and leaders in their families, their communities, their workplace and the world. The 5 Cs – critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, and character.

However, these 5 Cs only offer us goals for education, and not a road map to obtain the goals. Montessorians have been shouting from the rooftops for years. “We agree with the 5 Cs, and we have the road map!” As “new” ideas emerge in education about the benefits from differentiated learning, experiential learning, and collaborative learning, Montessorians find it hard to not be frustrated knowing that these principles have been the core of Montessori education for over 100 years.

We must focus on developing the whole child, his character, passions, and tendencies. This is how we can prepare our children for the unknown landscape ahead. Dr. Montessori identified 4 distinct stages of development. Using these stages of development, she went on to create the roadmap for facilitating the child’s self-construction at each stage. The heart of the roadmap called for a “prepared environment,” which is different for each of the four stages of development and each prepared environment is designed to specifically respond to the tendencies and needs of that particular stage.

The prepared environment, although different for each stage of development, contains five consistent elements.

1.) **Mixed aged communities** consisting of children in the same plane of development, in which the child lives and practices the skills of community life.

2.) **Freedom and discipline**, coined by Dr. Montessori to describe the basic principles of successful community living and citizenship.

3.) **Independent work periods** in which the child has uninterrupted time to do the work of self-construction – a time for trial and error, repetition, self-paced and deeply meaningful learning.

4.) **A highly trained Teacher** well versed in recognizing and responding to the signs of the developmental tendencies and sensitivities which optimizes the child’s learning opportunities. The teacher is trained to facilitate self-construction and to remove any obstacles in the way.

5.) **Didactic materials**, that when manipulated by the child, uncover the keys to, and the language of the constants of our vast and ever increasing universe. These materials are specifically and scientifically designed to develop and sharpen the child’s skills of observation, comparison and judgment.

These five basic elements, seemingly so simple, yet utterly complex, are the road map to a child’s self-construction and will support the child in gaining the 5 Cs. It is as relevant now as it was 100 years ago because it nurtures the child’s inherent human qualities and skills crucial to success across all times and cultures.

To become peaceful citizens of the world, Dr. Montessori believed that children need to be independent, critical thinkers who will not blindly follow others. Their behavior needs to be controlled by self-discipline and not by an authoritarian figure. They must value the contributions of others and come to understand the interdependence of all living things.