

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

2nd and 3rd Year Classes

Dear Parents,

We welcome all of you to our new school year. How good it feels for us to once again be in our classroom with your children. This year the CDC says desks can even be touching! What is particularly rewarding is seeing the joy and excitement in their faces when they arrive, and most especially having their friends nearby. We take this re-entry into school at a slow pace. There is much to get used to.

During our first 3 days last week we spent a lot of time practicing "being-back-in-school." Everyone is seeming more comfortable now. Our next big focus will be the actual work we will do - what it is, how it is to be done, where it is turned in, etc. The work itself in the beginning will be rather easy so the focus can be on the procedures. By the end of the month the children should be in the swing of things - "rediscovering" some previously learned facts and concepts as quickly as they can and then, after demonstrating that, moving on. Each successive year of Montessori Elementary is *distinctly* more challenging and involves a greater level of responsibility, focus, and involvement in academic work. Therefore, it is a good time in September to remember the adage "Well begun is half done." We will be adding assignments each week in **Math, Writing, and Language** until arriving at the full schedule. **Reading Groups** are getting underway. **Spelling Tests** will start in a few weeks. Weekly **Geometry** lessons will start in October. **Grammar** lessons will return too. There will also be Cultural Studies lessons in **Botany, Zoology, Geography, and History**. As you can see, there are many exciting areas of learning to be covered in the year ahead.

To hear more about the Montessori curriculum for the 2nd & 3rd Years, be sure to attend our **Parent Back-to-School Night this Wednesday, September 7th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** We request that only one parent from each family attend so we can keep the room open and uncrowded. This is the only required meeting for elementary parents for the school year. I look forward to seeing you there and sharing with you what lies ahead for your child in the next ten months.

The next important date on your calendar is **Monday, September 13th**, as this is the date for **Picture Day**. School sweaters should be worn on that day, and girls should also wear their uniform jumpers. If you have ordered your sweater but it has not yet arrived, we can always borrow a sweater for the photo.

With regards to **uniforms**, our expectations are that the children come to school each day in clean, properly fitting uniforms - all pieces purchased from Lands' End. (Yes, we can tell the difference.) There are some new choices which we've added for this year too. Lands' End also offers standard sweatshirts (with or without hoods) and a hooded sweatshirt jacket. These may be more comfortable for your child than the uniform sweater, especially for those who want to wear something along with their shirt during class time. By having the children wear the Lands' End sweatshirts or hoodies with a logo, it helps us maintain the "uniform look" while in the classroom. (Other types of jackets or sweatshirts may only be worn during outdoor time.) When ordering, please request "Classic Navy" for the color. Lands' End also offers a very nice **jacket, outdoor vest, and pullover**. They are Polartec, so they are soft, warm, and easy for movement. If you need to buy a jacket or vest for your child for the upcoming cold weather season, please consider one of these. We also have a very large assortment of used-but-in-good-condition Lands' End uniforms. Kavita will be happy to guide you through her "store." Also please remember EVERY day your child should wear **standard, soft white or black athletic shoes only (no thick, chunky soles, lights, or fancy logos, and no maryjanes for girls)**. This is for the children's safety as they run and play outside. Thank you so much for helping us with all these uniform issues. You can't imagine what a difference it makes in the class when everyone is following the same guidelines. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Our **bathroom procedure** is as follows: the morning Day Care children go to the restroom about 8:30. If your child arrives at 8:45, please have him or her go to the bathroom just before you leave home. The children will then also have a chance to use the restrooms mid-morning when Amira and I take the group. Next opportunity for going to the restroom is when we go, again as a group, to wash for lunch. The children then have another opportunity at the end of lunch recess. We have found this procedure eliminates a lot of back and forth to the restrooms, and ensures that everyone is supervised when they go there. We also insist that even if they don't need to use the restroom, they still go there to wash their hands. We've been doing a lot of hand-washing practice over the past several days. (Ask your child about "Water, Soap, Bubble Machine"!) We will also remind them to be using their hand sanitizers during the day. Thank you for having sent them.

One other "communications" note: The monthly newsletter along with its calendar can always be found on our website haywardmontessori.org on the

"Parents" tab. There you can also find copies of the calendars for Holidays and Events for the Year.

A great deal lies ahead for us. As always, we view this as a partnership with you in the education and development of your child, and we will be keeping you posted every step of the way. The children have been diligent and delightful these first days, and we're happy to be with them.

Best Regards,
Mary Anne and Amira

CALENDAR:

Weds, Sept 7th - 2nd/3rd Back to School Night (1 parent per family) 6:30 - 7:30

Monday, Sept. 12th - School Picture Day; uniforms, school sweaters; girls must wear uniform jumpers

Friday, Sept. 16th - Sharing Day (theme: "something from a summer trip")

Thursday, Sept. 22nd - Observing "First Day of Autumn", **THEME DRESS DAY**
Elementary children, if they wish, may wear clothes that are mostly brown, orange, yellow, &/or red; otherwise, wear uniforms

Monday, Sept. 26th - celebration of Johnny Appleseed's birthday

Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation.

-C. Everett Koop