



Children's House Montessori School

DeLand, Florida

Newsletter September 2020

A Message from the Head of School

Dear Children's House Community,

Welcome to the 2020/21 school year! We had a longer break from seeing each other than we are used to. Who knew when we finished the Dash for the Future on March 12 that we would not see each other again for five months? It has been such a pleasure to be back in the school with the staff and students. For those months, mostly spent on my own when I was here, the building just felt lifeless. Our community brings so much energy and joy each day, it was a real loss to not have that for so long.

We've had to make some changes in how we do things, but I am happy to report that the students all seem happy and engaged in their lessons. I know we had a few people worried about the children being willing to keep their masks on, and they have been so busy with their work and play that it seems they forget they are wearing them. Thank you to all of you for being so patient and flexible with our new routines.

As many of you know, we accept scholarships for children in Kindergarten and older. However, we didn't have any funding to help families with children in their preschool years. Over the summer, I worked with the Early Learning Coalition of Flagler and Volusia Counties and we now are able to accept the ELC funding for preschool children. I have also begun working on accessing the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) funding. Unfortunately, I do not think we'll be able to access that funding this year. I will still work on it and get things done as quickly as I can, but there is one piece that will likely not be in place in time. If that changes, I will let everyone know right away.

We have Parent Education Nights scheduled for the upcoming month. These will take place as follows (please note a change in the Primary date):

Toddler: Tuesday, October 13

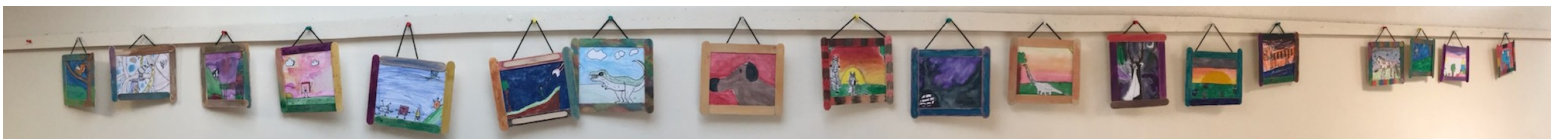
Primary: Thursday, October 22

Lower and Upper Elementary: Tuesday, October 20

Each meeting will take place virtually at 5:00. Your child's teacher will send an invitation out when we get closer to the meeting date.

Also coming up in October will be our virtual silent auction. The community organization, FOCHMS, will be creating an online auction site where you can view and bid on each item. The classes are making some lovely things, we have donations from businesses, and some teachers are making things as well. We'll send more information as we get closer to the date.

Take good care,
Ms. Kelly



Lower Elementary with Ms. Princess and Ms. Nikki

We have talked about the creation of the world and we learned about the coming of life. We learned and drew about “god with no hands.” We have also learned about the planets. We have learned about the days of the week and the months. In math we drew and counted our own chain on paper. We are still social distancing because of the Coronavirus. We are making paper mache volcanoes for art and we made pot holders on a loom. We are learning about the countries and the world by coloring and labeling maps.

Written by Dorian and Allie



Above a student is circling the sun for his birthday celebration while his mother looks on via Zoom.

*“Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and the strength, use it to create”
~Maria Montessori~*

Lower Elementary with Ms. Patsy and Ms. Kalie

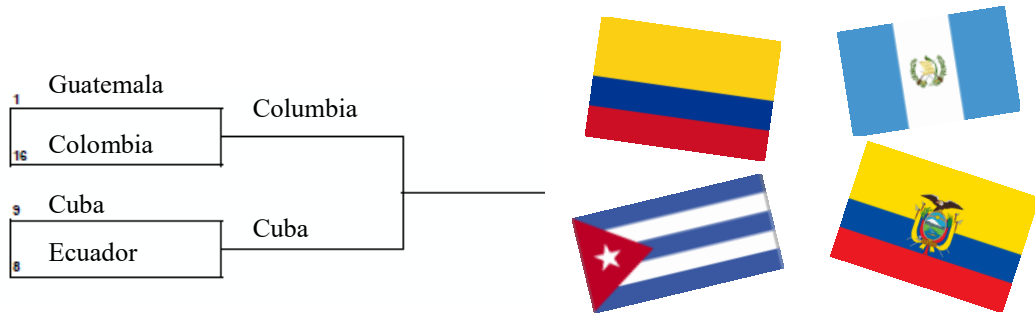


Ms. Patsy and Ms. Kalie’s class has been traveling in time. We have been working with the creation of the universe, the birth of stars and now the formation of the solar system. We have combined art and science to make galaxy t-shirts. For the different areas. Every Friday we have been learning about a different artist like Jackson Pollock, Piet Mondrian, also we have been working with the color wheel. With the primary colors we created original sculptures made out of paper.

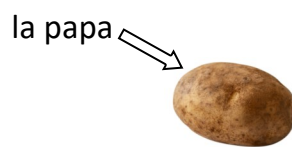


¡La clase de español!

To start off this year, Elementary is doing a bracket style tournament for songs from each Spanish speaking country. So far, Guatemala was blown out by Colombia and Cuba beat out Ecuador.



Some of the groups have been working on colors in both Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL). After practicing the days of the week, we had an extension of the lesson they had in their class and discussed the origin of days. We also spoke about Romance Languages and compared the days in Spanish with other Romance Languages. We then moved into learning the Spanish names of each month and talked about our birthdays. While counting in Spanish, the students also learned the ASL signs for each number to ten. While learning the names of family members, they learned the importance of accent marks. Without an accent mark your father is a potato! And the article changes the meaning of the word all together (which is something the students will learn later)!



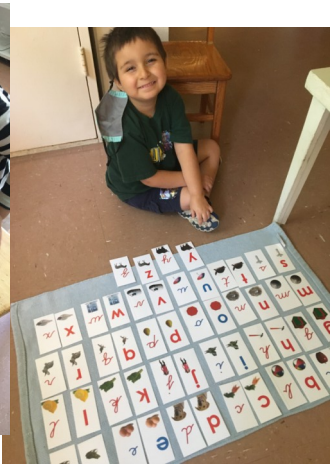
The students have been practicing the Pledge of Allegiance in Spanish. We've also been learning about different prominent members of the Latinx community for Hispanic Heritage Month, as well as its origins and evolution. The focus is on recognizing the contributions and influences of the Latinx community to the United States. So far, we've talked about Cesar Chávez and Sonia Sotomayor. We're looking forward to hearing about more influential people throughout the school year.

Some of the books we have read are : [The Woman who Outshone the Sun](#), [Hooray! It's Saturday!](#) / [¡Vivaj ¡Es Sabadoj](#), [Let's Read About Cesar Chavez](#).

On Monday, November 2, we will have an alter set up for The Day of the Dead. If you would like to bring a photo or a belonging of a loved one or pet who has passed, please send it with your child that morning. We will email more information when we are closer to the date.

*“You are never strong enough
that you don't need help.”
~Cesar Chávez~*





Primary with Ms. Amy and Ms. Cory

It was a very exciting time to see the children on the first day of school. We established our daily routines with ease and our safety measures throughout the day are ensuring a happy and safe environment.

This month we had a photo day and the children looked wonderful, their photos were so incredibly cute!

In the primary classrooms, we have begun studies of North America as well as the seasons—this being Fall. Our classrooms are beginning to be adorned with Fall decorations with work by the children (and a few from myself and Ms. Cory).

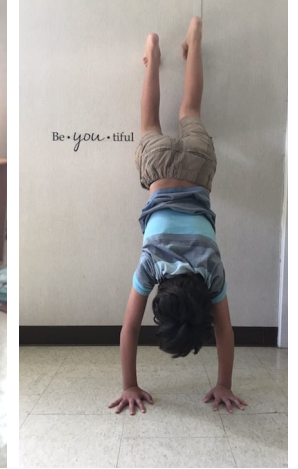
Lessons are in full swing in Practical life, Sensorial, Language and Math. We have been very busy in the classroom ... so many more lessons to give!



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

-Maria Montessori

Find Your Center in Yoga with Ms. Sunny

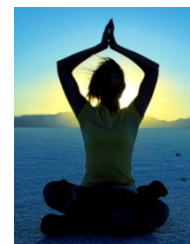


Ms. Sunny was able to create a yoga studio this year, and she made a warm and calming environment where the students can really relax and practice yoga. The students have all enjoyed the new studio, and using the outdoor space as well!

During yoga, the students not only learn different poses, but they learn why they are important and what parts of the body they are helping. They even learn anatomy terms as they go through their stretches.

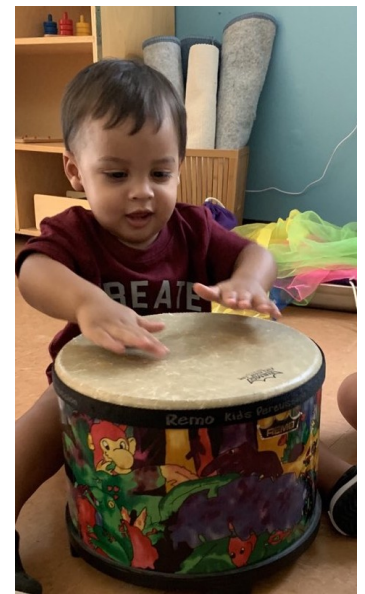
They also work on breathing, relaxation techniques, and how to better focus their energy. These skills help them not only during school, but will carry forth into the rest of their lives.

*“Your body exists in the past and your mind exists in the future. In yoga, they come together in the present.”
~B.K.S. Iyengar*





Musically Speaking....



“His body is attuned to musical rhythms, and he is ready for gymnastic exercises. Music is no longer a simple stimulus to his efforts, but it becomes an inner guide of his movements, which have become obedient to its rhythms.”

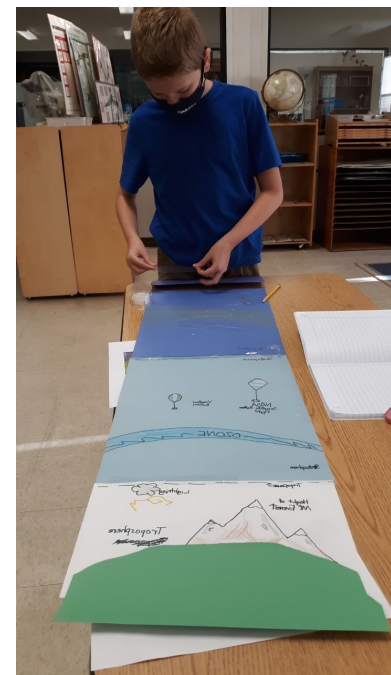
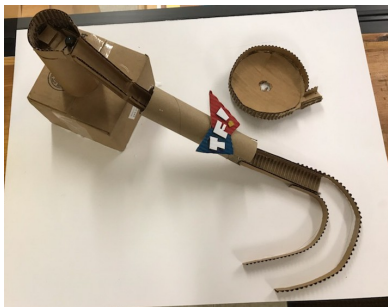
~Maria Montessori

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Don't forget to go to smile.amazon.com for your Amazon shopping, and connect with us (DeLand Montessori School). Each sale done this way helps the school. You only have to connect once, then you'll be connected every time you shop!

Upper Elementary with Mr. Keegan

In Art, Upper Elementary students have been constructing 3D projects out of cardboard boxes. Many of the boys have been designing unique marble runs and they are creating a special one to donate in the upcoming auction. In Science, 6th grade students have been studying plate tectonics and are now studying the formation of stars. They have completed research papers on specific historic earthquakes and are currently making diagrams on the life cycle of a star.



Toddler with Ms. Tashira and Ms. Morgan

We started off learning our routine and practicing grace and courtesy. The children are doing so well adjusting to being at school. Many days, we are all doing very well with sitting in our chairs during meal times. A big thank you to Ms. Kelly for purchasing brand new materials for the Toddler class, we are loving them!

During the month of September, the Toddlers are learning about farm animals. They love to sing songs and read books to learn more about this theme. Another favorite activity for the children is the sensory table full of corn kernels that has different animals inside. It creates a unique game of hide and seek! We also painted little chicks and made sheep out of cotton.

“One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child.”
~Maria Montessori~



What's Growing in the Gardens?

A lot has happened in the Primary garden since the start of school. We have pruned, weeded, and cleaned up nature's debris that has accumulated over the long break. Ms. Jessica has been working hard in our butterfly garden to clean it up and it is once again looking recognizable. The students have helped prepare our garden beds and the first crop of mustard greens has been planted. Betty, Bella, Quiche, Zee, and Fluffington, our hens, are big fans of mustard greens. Along with mustard greens, students have planted tomatoes. Many of the students have also made cuttings of basil and lemon balm. Our banana tree is fruiting! We have many green bananas, or 'a pack of bananas', as one of our Primary students refers to them as.

The Lower Elementary students have been very busy trimming, weeding, and beautifying their garden. Cranberry hibiscus, bee balm, and coreopsis plants were transplanted from the overgrown Primary butterfly garden. When entering the Lower Elementary garden, you may notice the beautiful new archway trellis built by Mr. Bob DeGaetano, and the lovely new steppingstones made by the students. Students have also been busy with garden lessons. By dissecting a kidney bean, they are learning the parts of a seed. To study the parts of a plant, students are planting kidney bean seeds in a cup of potting soil. Hopefully we will have many sprouting within the next week.

While there are many exciting things happening in the gardens, there is some sad news. Ms. Jessica will be leaving Children's House temporarily for personal reasons. She will be missed. We are excited to welcome Ms. Diane Farley and Ms. Rebekah Fallahi, who will be filling in until Ms. Jessica returns. Ms. Diane will help Ms. Sharon in the Primary garden and Ms. Rebekah will help her in the Lower Elementary garden.

Our gardens require a lot of supplies every year, including soil and plants. If you are feeling generous and would like to help us, please consider donating one of the following items:

- Bags of potting soil*
- Bags of garden soil*
- Bags of Black Kow*
- Pine straw bales*
- Colorful annuals*
- Herb plants*
- Red straight edging stones (at Lowe's, \$1.78 each, pictured below)*

Thank you!



*“The land is where our roots are.
The children must be taught to feel
and live in harmony with the
earth.”*

- Dr. Maria Montessori



Above, you can see the “pack of bananas” growing.

