



Children's House

Montessori School

A Note from the Head of School

Hello Children's House Families!

We are off to a beautiful start to the school year. The children have settled in so quickly and are already so engaged in their work. We have had some unexpected things happen over these last few months, and have adjusted each time so we could open the year in the best way. And, it has gone even better than I could have imagined. Our staff is top notch! They have gone above and beyond in every way, and I am so grateful.

I would like to welcome back our returning families, and welcome all of our new families! Starting a new school year, whether your child is returning or new to the school, can be hard for some children. Many of the younger children are experiencing being away from their families for the first time. If your child is expressing that they don't want to come to school, the best thing you can do is remain positive about it. If you indicate that you are nervous, they will pick up on that feeling. If you tell them not to be afraid, they will be on the alert for things to be afraid of. Assure them that they will have a great day, and tell them you'll see them after school. Once here, they settle in fairly quickly and become engaged in the activities of the day. If any student was struggling, rest assured that we would contact you and try to come up with a plan to help them feel more comfortable.

If you would like to help the school, there are different ways to do so. If you use Amazon to shop, the easiest way to help is by using Smile.Amazon.com. Once there, search for us (DeLand Montessori School, Inc) and select us as the organization you want to donate to. That's all there is to it! Every time you shop after that, a portion of what you spend is donated to the school. We have also set up an investment account to try to earn some income separate from our tuition. If you would like to make a donation to that investment account, I can give you the necessary information to do that. If you want a more active role, please join the Community Organization. You can be very active and come to all the meetings and help on various events, or you can just say you'd like to help out when you can.

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year! Thank you so much for trusting us with the care and education of your precious children.

 Ms. Kelly

Important Upcoming Dates:

Mon. Sept. 26:
School Picture Day

Wed. Oct 5:
Friends of Children's House
Montessori School Meeting
at 3:15

Mon. Oct. 10:
School Is Closed -
Indigenous People Day

Thu. and Fri. Oct. 27 and 28:
School is Closed -
Parent/Teacher
Conferences

Fri. Oct. 27:
Trunk or Treat
Time to be Announced (it
will be that evening)

Mon. Oct. 31:
In School Halloween
Celebration
Parade Time to be
Announced

Mon. Oct. 31:
Half Day -
School Closes at 11:30



Montessori in the News



There are many different models for educating children. Montessori is not as widely known as others, but there are some articles that highlight the benefits of a Montessori education. [This article](#) was published in March of 2022, and talks about the deeper learning that happens using this methodology. Using a lesson asking children to name as many animals as they could, here is what was stated about the Montessori children.

“Montessori-educated children tended to exhibit more connections and shorter paths between animal concepts compared to children who received traditional education. Montessori-educated children also had higher scores on the tests of creative thinking.”



Safety and Security

As always, the safety and security of the children and staff members is our highest priority. You may have noticed that when you arrive after 8:05 and before 2:55 that the main entrance is locked. We have applied for a security grant that would allow us to have access to so much more than we can do with our budget. One thing we really need, but is not covered by the grant, is a new fence. We would prefer to have a metal fence (pictured right) that would be six feet tall, rather than four feet. It is much sturdier and harder to climb. This would also allow us to install a security gate that we can lock after drop off is complete. We would need to do this in sections over the course of a few years, but we would want to start with the stretch along the parking lot (from the building to the corner behind the dumpster). If you know of anyone that does this work and could offer a discount, or know of companies who would like to make charitable donations to a non-profit school, please let me know.



Friends of Children's House Montessori School

Join us on October 5 at 3:15

FOCHMS is a group made up of parents, family members, and staff members who work together to help the school. We plan events, fundraisers, and help to form plans for the future of the school. If you would like to be a part of this, please come to our first meeting of the year. We will have a virtual meeting open during this time if that is helpful for you.

Trunk or Treat

Calling all vampires, princesses, knights, astronauts, werewolves, and clowns. Join us for games, food, a spooky woods walk, and trunk or treating. You can come decorate your trunk, or come and enjoy all the fun.

More Information Coming Soon!

The Toddler Class with Ms. Connie and Ms. Heather

The Toddler classroom is off to a wonderful start! I'd like to welcome Ms. Connie and Ms. Heather to the Toddler environment. They are both so lovely and caring with the children and are working so hard to learn how we do things here at Children's House. Ms. Sharon has been a huge benefit to the class by mentoring both teachers and modeling the methodology for them. Through it all, the children have been settling in.

For many, this is their first time away from their parents, and they are all just blossoming in this environment. The first part of the year is setting the expectations for the classroom and having them get used to the routine and boundaries.

Here are all the things they have been working on so far:

- Manners at snack time.
- Toilet training.
- Staying in line.
- Completing work from start to finish.
- Washing and drying their hands.
- Sitting in the group lesson and listening to stories and songs.
- Getting their socks and shoes on.

It may not sound like a lot to us, but these Toddlers are working hard!



"At this age (between one and half and two and a half years) children have a need to develop independence." ~Maria Montessori

The Primary Class with Ms. Amy and Ms. Cory

In the primary classroom we have begun our cultural study of North America. We will talk about the people, food, geography, and animals of this continent.

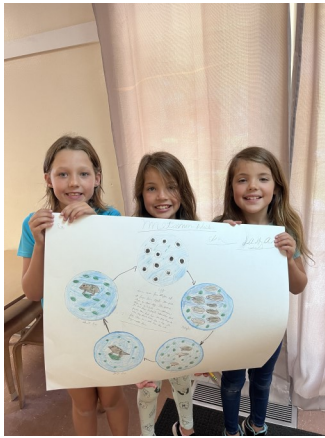
We have been very busy in the classroom, lessons are continuing in Practical Life, Sensorial, Language and Math.

We celebrated Tad, Willow and Mara's birthdays and look forward to celebrating the many more to come.



*"The Sensitive Period:
It comes for a moment
but
its benefits last
for a lifetime."
~Maria Montessori*

The Elementary Class with Ms. Kalie and Ms. Nikki



The Life Cycle of the Frog



The students were so helpful getting the sand into the sandbox!



Some lessons happen outside.



This student is concentrating hard on his writing work.



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

After visiting Honduras over the summer, a fourth grade student did a report on the country. A part of his presentation was sharing a food a beverage from Honduras. He made Agua Fresca (watermelon, sugar, and lime) and Baleadas (refried beans, caso blanco, sour cream, in a flour tortilla). Above and below show everyone enjoying his snack!



The Gardens with Ms. Sharon, Ms. Jessica, and Ms. Diane

The students have been settling into their garden routine. They have planted kale, calendula, borage, tatsoi, and dill seeds under a grow light. They worked hard weeding, and then planted radishes and a sweet pea teepee in the clean beds. They planted tomato seeds and enough grew that we were able to have a tomato plant sale! As always, they were so happy to see the chickens, Quiche, Zee, and Bella, and the rabbit, Bun-Bun. And, they will soon have two new additions to the chicken coop! A Sussex chick and a Prairie Bluebell chick are being cared for at Ms. Sharon's house and have begun coming to visit the garden. They will transition into the coop with the other chickens when they are older. Stay tuned to see what their names will be!



Left: Meeting the new chicks.



Right: Working on the teepee for the sweet peas.



Left: Seeds being planted and growing in the greenhouse.

Right: A tomato seedling ready for sale.

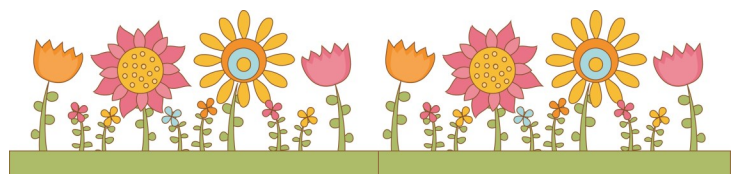


“We might think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it’s our garden that is really nurturing us.”

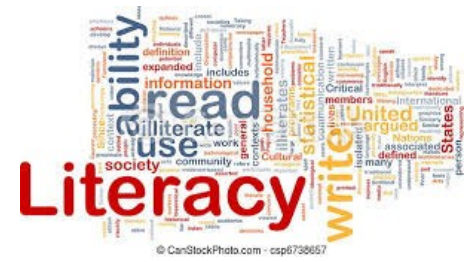
~Jenny Uglow



Left: This student brought in a coreopsis plant as part of his birthday celebration. Here he is planting it in the garden!



Literacy with Ms. Princess



In my role as the Literacy Specialist this year, I will be providing some of our returning and new students with targeted and intensive reading intervention services that will be presented to individual and small groups of students.

I will be assisting students with developing proficient reading, writing and comprehension skills that will contribute to their academic growth. My responsibilities also include monitoring, reporting and communicating the student's progress and performance.

I look forward to working with the children, building a trusting relationship, helping each student become more independent and feel more confident with their reading, writing and comprehension skills.

Music with Ms. Tatiana



The students have been very excited to get back into music and playing instruments!

This school year, all classes will be exploring different instruments, as well as integrating more music history into our lessons. We started with classical music and will continue on to Hispanic rhythms, African drumming, the world of jazz, hard rock, and so much more!



I am pleased to announce the upper elementary will have the opportunity to learn a band instrument this year. We have started with brushing up on our recorder playing and music reading skills in preparation for the big move to wind instruments!



Yoga with Ms. Sunny

Hello everyone. Welcome back! I am looking forward to a wonderful year with the children and our community. We are settling into a lovely routine and enjoying our yoga time together. The yoga classes include anatomy, stretching, mindfulness, and body awareness. We talk about and practice; proper alignment, injury prevention, floor and standing poses and balance.



This month, the children in lower and upper elementary taught a pose to their classmates using verbal cues and demonstration.

At the end of class we play a game which utilizes their creativity and imagination. We end the class with a period of relaxation and sharing what they are grateful for.



Spanish with Ms. Noemi



Primary – Fun learning!

Los Curiosos – The Curious Bunch

We are constantly working on vocabulary and singing along with the teacher to songs in Spanish. This will help massively to improve the students' vocabulary and grammar, because you will have a context for the new words and sentences; they will be far more likely to remember words if you learn them in a song rather than in a long vocabulary list.



- Buenos días
- La pequeña araña
- La canción de las Vocales - A, E, I, O, U
- La canción de los días de la semana

1st and Second graders

Guerreros Con Palabras: Word Warriors

Our class focuses on the instruction of basic language as well as it develops strategies to construct basic sentences and understanding of the written Spanish language. We are working on building vocabulary with puzzles and then reading the words aloud and lots of reading comprehension exercises.



Hablar Sin Parar: Non Stop Talk

3rd to 6th grade

In the 21st century, it is rare to find someone who is not fluent in another language. Spanish is one of the most widely spoken and studied languages in the world and, as much as we would like to, we cannot run away from it, so "If you can't beat them, join them". In fact, our aim is that you do not perceive Spanish as an enemy, but a friend that you know step by step. Learning conversational Spanish will provide students the opportunity to practice the Spanish Language, articulation, intonation, common speech rates, and more. It will give you the capacity to speak Spanish without understanding the intricacies of the grammar. Therefore, we will be learning greetings and introductions in Spanish as well as other topics which will be given to the students to start their conversation.

For example:

- ¿A dónde quisieras viajar y por qué? (¿Where would you like to travel and why?)
- ¿Qué te gusta comer? (What do you like to eat?)
- ¿Cuáles son tus platos favoritos? ¿Tus refrigerios favoritos? ¿Qué se te antoja? (¿What are your favorite dishes? Your favorite snacks? What are you in the mood for?)
- ¿Qué haces los sábados? (What do you do on Saturdays?)
- ¿Cuál es tu actividad favorita y por qué? (What is your favorite activity and why?)
- ¡Y muchas cosas más! ... (and many other things!)



Maria Montessori, a woman ahead of her time.....

Born on August 31, 1870 in Chiaravalle, Italy, Maria had the great benefit of having a mother who was well-educated for that time and encouraged Maria throughout her life. Her father was a missionary and they moved to different areas in Italy for his work. In school, Maria did well, particularly in the areas of Science and Mathematics. She planned to study engineering after graduating from school, but changed her mind and pursued a degree in medicine. As you can imagine, this was very unusual for this time in history.



The University of Rome strongly discouraged her, but in 1890 she earned a degree in Natural Sciences. This qualified her for entrance into the medical program at the University. She faced hostility from some of the students and professors and was required to perform her dissections of cadavers alone (due to the inappropriateness of being in the presence of a naked body with men in the room). Through this adversity, she received an academic award her first year, and then secured a position as a hospital assistant. In her last two years at the University, she focused on pediatrics and psychiatry and became an expert in pediatric medicine.



After graduating, Maria worked at the University hospital observing and working with children experiencing some level of cognitive delay, illness, or disability. During this time, she was also traveling to speak nationally and internationally as an advocate for women's rights and the importance of educating children with learning difficulties. She began a relationship with a co-worker and they had a child, Mario Montessori. Knowing that if she were married she would need to stop working, so instead they kept their relationship private and agreed that neither of them would marry anyone else. When their relationship ended, she left the University hospital and left her son with a caregiver in the countryside. She was reunited with him as a teen, and he became a great assistant in her research.

For a few years, Maria spent a lot of time speaking about the societal responsibility for juvenile delinquency, wrote articles and spoke about creating classes and institutions for children with learning difficulties, training teachers to work in these schools, and was appointed as a lecturer in hygiene and anthropology at a women's teacher-training college. In 1900, she became the co-director of the Scoula Magistrale Ortofrenica, or Orthophrenic School, for training teachers in educating children with learning difficulties. During her two years here, Maria developed methods and materials for working with children (which she later adapted to working with mainstream children).

In 1902, she returned to college in the philosophy (today would be seen as psychology) degree course. She also pursued independent studies in anthropology and educational philosophy and conducted observations and experimental research in elementary schools. She began to consider adapting her methods of educating children with learning difficulties to mainstream children.

On January 6, 1907, Maria was invited to oversee the care and education of a group of children of low-income, working parents. She was interested in applying her methods to children who did not have mental disabilities, so she accepted. Thus, on January 6, 1907, the Casa dei Bambini, or Children's House, opened with 50-60 children between the ages of two to seven enrolled.

