



— EST. 1979 —

MAPLETON MONTESSORI SCHOOL

43rd Year, No.6 • January & February 2022

SHORT & SWEET! We'll be closed Feb 21st for the Presidents' Birthdays and March 21-25 for Spring Break. Teachers will start parent-teacher conferences for older students this week; conferences for younger children will take place in March.

FUN IN THE SNOW!

Susan H's class had a ton of fun sledding down the hill behind the volleyball court. Susan L and Linda's class, not wanting to miss out on the sledding adventure, were thrilled to slide down the snow left by the plow!



SPEAKING OF SNOW . . .

Many of you have asked about summer. Our summer camp info goes out in March, after we've enrolled for the fall. The fall enrollment will start this week.

CONFERENCES FOR OLDER STUDENTS COMING UP

Montessori primary is a three-year program; think of it as preschool, pre-K and K. It is our hope and expectation that students who will be of kindergarten age this fall will complete their primary Montessori experience, their third year (kindergarten) with us at MMS. The third year of Montessori is the capstone year for these students as they explode into the upper level skills, reading, writing and math. They've spent two years indirectly preparing for these break-throughs and it's amazing to see them happen so "effortlessly". It's in the third year that they, the older students, act as helpers and mentors for the younger students. This, of course, helps the younger ones but the greater value is for the older students who, while helping younger children, cement their own skills - not only the academic skills, but the "soft" skills such as compassion, independence, empathy, social awareness, thinking-outside-the-box, helpfulness, resilience, etc. Just what the world needs more of, now!

WEAVING SHARPENS MANY SKILLS!

Each classroom has a loom - one is vertical and the other is horizontal. These are there for anyone to add a few lines to the woven pattern. This is very demanding and intricate work and the direct aim or goal is a woven piece. But, the beauty of Montessori is its subtlety; the indirect aims are many and include the development of concentration, the pincer grasp (for writing later), hand-eye coordination and small motor control. Children often start with weaving strips of colored paper and move to looms after mastering the idea of the weft crossing over and under the warp! Simple looms are not hard to make and can be very small or large. Hmmm . . . maybe a new family project!



VALENTINE'S DAY PROJECT

Traditionally, our students go home with big red, pink, or lavender hearts that you all decorate together. This year, children will decorate hearts at school to embellish their classrooms in the Valentine spirit. Please don't bring Valentine cards or candy to school.

MASKS

As you know, there's a mask debate raging all over the country. We'll listen to BCPH and then decide what we feel is the safest route for MMS, adhering at least to the minimum, if not more rigorous, requirement. Smile!