



— EST. 1979 —

# MAPLETON MONTESSORI SCHOOL

45th Year, No.2 • September 2023

## SHORT & SWEET!

**MMS Social: Thursday, Sept 14, 5-6** Parents, come join us for an hour of mingle and play on the playground. Its a great time to see your children's favorite playground activities, meet their new friends and exchange contact info for playdates!

**Parent-Guide Conferences:** will be sprinkled throughout the month of Oct. They are a wonderful time to chat with your child's guide and share thoughts about the first few weeks of school and how all the "work" (social, emotional as well as academic) is going. Our lead guides will let you know how they'll be handling the sign-ups for conferences.

## FIRST WEEKS REVIEW

It's been a busy first two weeks. Due to our low numbers during covid, we have a small group of returning children in each class. They're our mentors and leaders, especially the 3rd year/kindergarteners and they're all acclimating to a new guide or assistant. In retrospect, we should have had an Open House just for the returning students to get familiar with the new staff; hindsight's 20/20, right? So, each class has more new children than returnees; half of our newbies are coming from other schools/routines and half of them are young and have not been away from home yet. With all that in mind, the first two weeks have been AMAZING!! And I can't say enough about how beautifully our dedicated, loving, professional staff has been working through all of this. You are the best! And thank you to all our families for your support, flexibility, understanding and kind words. Big hugs all around!



Passing napkins for snack or working at tables - it's all in a day's work!

## PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING!

We've noticed that labeling clothes, shoes, lunchboxes is not your forte. We understand. We can help - we have lots of sharpies! It is so helpful when everything (and I mean everything) is labeled because with young children everything has the potential to come off and get misplaced. But again, we have sharpies to lend or use!

## BRAIN GYMS

Most of our staff will complete a 16 hour course this weekend on Brain Gyms (educational kinesiology). We Montessorians have known for over 100 years that movement facilitates learning. That is why, in our classrooms, children move about freely, choosing their work; through the work they develop their senses, their hand-eye coordination, concentration and self-regulation, along with so many other brain and body systems they need for learning and living to their fullest potential. Brain Gyms, a series of simple exercises (much like yoga), help open the brain for learning, for calming, for physical development and more. They enhance all the work we do naturally, as Montessorians. The lead guides are already incorporating brain gyms into their daily circle times and the children are loving it.



Linda and the children are doing a modified hook-up as part of an opening brain gym which starts with sipping water, then stimulating our brain buttons, doing a cross-crawl and finishing with a hook-up.

## COVID TESTS / OUR BLOG / OUR BLESSING

We have covid tests expiring 10/14 - let me know if you'd like one. Also, visit our blog for pics & paragraphs about our goings-on. Newsletters also go onto our site, in the Parent Portal (code 1979) after they are sent out to you. Finally, our blessing before we eat: **Thank you Mama Earth for our feast. Bon Appetit, you may eat!**

## WELCOME TO ALL OUR AFTERCARE FAMILIES!

We have had a great start to our new school year and want to thank you all for helping to make our first weeks a success. As you may have noticed, aftercare is slightly different than the core of the school day. As long as the weather cooperates we'll continue to spend most of our time on the playground and appreciate that most of you are waiting outside the gate for your child to join you when you pick up. This aids in their independence which in the long run will be a huge benefit to both them and you. For one reason or another, you may see exceptions to this: some siblings' day isn't complete without saying hello to Lizzy, for example! As the weather and the time change we may adjust our pick-up routine - stay tuned!

Snack time: with a larger, younger group of children this year snack time has become a bit like herding cats right now :) Washing hands and getting seated and served takes all of Tovah's and my attention so it's a tricky time for pick-up, but we know it's sometimes necessary so we're working on our end to help. If you arrive as we're washing hands we'll send them out right away. If we're in the middle of serving or eating we'll put their snack in a to-go cup for them. Surely we'll be working out other things moving forward so please bear with us; thank you all for your cooperation and understanding and sharing your wonderful children with us. Susan and Tovah



Leo and Fern work as Adam watches.

## HELLO FAMILIES IN OUR SOUTH CLASSROOM!

First I want to thank everyone for welcoming Helen and me into the Mapleton community. Hillary and Parul have been such wonderful help, getting us on track and up to speed with the ins and outs of our primary classroom. This month we'll continue our nature unit. We have a building work with loose parts; tree cookies. A rocks and minerals tray has been popular and a specimen tray with feathers, skulls and fossils, along with a magnifying glass, is capturing the children's attention. National Peace Day, Sept 21, is soon upon us and we will celebrate with songs and dances. Warmly, Angelarose, Hillary, Parul & Helen

## HELLO FAMILIES IN OUR NORTH CLASSROOM!

We're off to a great start! We're practicing lots of Grace and Courtesy as we continue to explore the classroom and get familiar with lessons. On September 21st we'll celebrate International Day of Peace, as well as the change of seasons with the Autumn Equinox on the 23rd. We'll have lots of fall-themed lessons and begin a unit on the human body. Linda, Beatrix, Hattie & Carrie



Beya offers a special bead to Rowyn for her necklace project.



Jay does color matching.



Geneva shows a 'work' to a younger child.



Lila's focus is intense as she carefully places smaller and smaller cylinders.



Eloise concentrates on her painting while Geneva and Chloé watch.