



— EST. 1979 —

# MAPLETON MONTESSORI SCHOOL

46th Year, No. 6 • January 2025

## SHORT & SWEET!

**January 20:** Martin Luther King Day. MMS closed.

**January:** Parent-Teacher conferences for children who will be in their 3rd or kindergarten year this fall, (5 by September 30).

**Our FEIN: 84-0797756** Please remember to keep your tuition slips; we don't do any year-end tax prep.

## RE-ENROLLMENT FOR FALL

We are starting the enrollment process for our current students. I'll send out the Schedule Request Form this week which you'll use to re-enroll your child for the fall. We start accepting new families in February so you'll want to get your space reserved before then. You can use the form to enroll your current student or a new sibling (if we already have an Application on file for him/her). Please use a separate form for each child.

## PARENT EVENING - JANUARY 30

Please join us on Thursday, January 30 from 5:30-6:30 for a deep dive into the Montessori materials, especially math and language materials. See what the 3-6 year olds are working on as they go about their days in the Montessori classroom. We'll save time for Q & A so bring your questions! We'll have emergency care for a limited number of children so if you absolutely need care, let us know. We'll have a snack for the children to tide them over; we were going to order pizza but it's already Pizza Thursday, so twice in one day might be excessive!

## SUMMER IS COMING TOGETHER

We generally send out our summer information in March, after we've enrolled, first the current students and then the new students. Our camps are reserved for our MMS students, current and new, so we don't know who the new ones will be until after they've registered in February. However, I'll try to get the summer info to our current families earlier. To start thinking about it, the five camps are two weeks each, starting June 2 and ending August 8. We'll be swimming at the Louisville Rec Center again and walking to Movement Gym for climbing, again in the mornings. The schedule times will be the same as during the year.

## TABLE STOLEN

As you probably noticed, our sign-in table was stolen last weekend. So maddening! My son Drew and I had searched Resource for the beautiful granite slab (just the right size and bull-nosed) and the perfect stand for it; Drew had fixed the legs to fit our uneven/slanted space. It was beautiful and very useful. I'm going to put a note on NextDoor to see if anyone sees it.

## REMINDERS

**Lost & Found** should be checked on a fairly regular basis; all things not claimed or labeled will be donated.

## KINDERGARTEN or 3RD YEAR MONTESSORI

Montessori primary is a 3-year program; think of it as preschool, pre-K and K. Our hope is that our upcoming kindergarten students will stay at MMS to complete their primary Montessori experience with us. During the first two years of Montessori primary, complex skills like reading and writing are broken up into their component parts and presented to the child in individual lessons that are easily practiced and absorbed. Children master these parts by having enough time for experimentation and repetition. They develop self-confidence and a joy of learning when they are free to follow their interests and choose their own interesting, challenging and developmentally appropriate "work". But it's in the third year, the capstone year, that we begin to see the culmination and integration of the preceding two years. It's in the 3rd year that we see children "explode" into reading, writing and math. This is important because school success largely depends on children having good basic academic skills and good study and work habits. We also see children starting to take on the roles of classroom mentors and peace mediators because they've been practicing for the previous two years! The kindergarten year is the most fruitful; everything that's been developing underground suddenly blooms and the Montessori materials within the Montessori prepared environment aid in the integration of all this learning.

## CLASS NEWS

**South classroom:** Happy New Year! This month we will study South America and begin our Polar Unit; Arctic, Antarctic and Colorado winters and continue to study landforms. What animals do you see around your neighborhood in the winter? What are some of your favorite winter stories and activities? Children are welcome to share on the topics of study, ie; pictures, books, artifacts. Please continue to send warm winter gear even when there is no snow. Lastly, thanks to all of you for helping with our laundry; please see the sign-up under the sign-in sheet.

**North classroom:** All aboard! Linda's class is studying Transportation. We'll explore the history of the automobile, locomotive, and airplane as well as the development of transportation in the United States. We'll investigate a variety of land/air/water vehicles and their uses, and learn about traffic signs and rules. We'll expand our exploration to other countries and make some transportation comparisons around the world. Buckle up, this should be a fun ride!