

THE COMMUNICATOR

MONTESSORI CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

9.15.2016

Beginning this year, each bi-weekly edition of The Communicator will focus on a certain theme. Teachers thought this might be an interesting way for parents and families to see the continuity of principles throughout the class levels here at MCC.

We will begin with the theme of The Prepared Environment, inspired by Maria Montessori's quote "The first aim of the prepared environment is, as far as it is possible, to render the growing child independent of the adult," as written in *The Secret of Childhood*. Each level will provide an example of how this edition's theme presents itself in the classroom.

We hope you enjoy The Communicator's new layout! We are open to your suggestions and feedback. Please email montessorichildrenscommunity@comcast.net with any comments or questions.

Upcoming Dates:

September 21st
Peace Pole Celebration

September 29th
Positive Discipline

October 1st
Journey and Discovery



Children's House

This photo reflects the calm, well-ordered, beautiful environment in which your children spend their day. The prepared environment is carefully designed to best facilitate the child's learning. It is a space in which every effort is made to maximize a child's learning opportunities and to reduce the need for intervention. Children can direct their learning and practice independence in a lovingly prepared and aesthetically pleasing environment. There are many opportunities for movement, freedom, choice, and social interaction. It is a teacher's honor, obligation, and duty to create a place in which children can move towards the development of their unique potential.

The materials and furniture are child-sized and each activity is designed to allow the children to practice the skills they need to be independent.

Lower Elementary

The prepared environment at the Lower Elementary level is a place to guide students from the individual works that they completed in Children's House to more collaborative works. To reflect this, the Lower Elementary has plenty of open floor area to accommodate individual or group work and a combination of personal and communal seating. The classroom is also organized to prepare students for study of the outside world through our careful placement of research materials, natural objects that tie in with our biological and physical science studies, and fossils and rocks that relate to our history studies on the development of earth, life, and civilizations. The teachers devote many hours before the school year starts preparing the environment to be a springboard for students to discover and fall in love with our world.



Upper Elementary

A Montessori classroom involves an interactive triangle between the students, the teachers, and the classroom environment. In actuality, it is the environment that serves as the most important teacher, with the teachers providing the keys into the environment for the students. The teachers, therefore, spend a great deal of time preparing the environment to foster the growth of the whole child.

In Upper Elementary, some questions the teachers have been addressing include: Is there a balance of group tables for collaborative work and single tables where children can choose to work independently? Are there enough high interest fiction and non-fiction books on the shelves accessible for all reading abilities? Is there a wide enough range of choices of activity for the study of any given curricular area to appeal to the varied learning styles in the classroom? Are the cleaning supplies easily available so that the students can help care for their own environment? Are there routines in place that make for a smoothly flowing day where time is used well and students and teachers alike feel invigorated by the daily activities?

The teachers and the students then work together in the environment and everyone assesses how things are working out. The environment is constantly a work in process, providing opportunities for learning and exploration.



Middle School

The Middle School moved to Linsly Outdoor Center (LOC) for three days of community building activities. The students worked together to problem-solve, challenge themselves, and enjoy being together as a group. LOC is the perfect outdoor Montessori classroom as the staff have developed materials and activities with self-correction and a focus on process.

