

# THE COMMUNICATOR

MONTESSORI CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017

## A Note from the School Head:

An integral part of a Montessori education includes respect and consideration for others. This is exemplified in Grace and Courtesy Lessons that are a part of the children's curriculum as well as the respect that we, as adults - parents and teachers - display for one another. We are the examples for the children. They are always watching us to see how we live our lives and embody the principles that we recommend to them. Montessori education builds further on Grace and Courtesy to extend to responsibility, honesty, and a strong sense of community.

Montessori is an educational philosophy that addresses the needs of the whole child and offers not only a strong curriculum but also an education about living your life and making a contribution to the world.

## Important Dates:

October 27:  
Children's House Sharing Day  
Coffee with the School Head  
Movie Night at School

October 31:  
Montessori Café

November 5:  
Daylight Savings Time ends

November 10 and 13:  
Elementary Conferences  
No school for LE, UE  
(MS, ADM, CH in session)



## MCC in the community

SMMS students concluded a six-week session of rowing by journeying around Herr's Island

## Children's House and All Day Montessori

Grace and Courtesy lessons begin early in the year in Children's House. They start with modeling from the teachers as they move about the room with a sense of grace – carrying and rolling the rugs in a certain way, speaking in quiet tone of voice, and carefully taking out materials and putting them away. The goal is for young children to learn how to move around the space carefully by being aware of all of the materials and other people around them. There is also the foundation of courtesy – being kind, polite, humble, generous, and compassionate in all interactions with others. In the classroom, this includes introducing yourself and including others, sharing ideas and materials, saying please and thank you, and having peaceful conflict resolution talks when necessary. Grace and courtesy helps to create a positive community and is a gift that the children can share out in the world.



The ADM children are working together to help to clean up leaves outside the main entrance.



Grace and Courtesy is part of this Practical Life activity. A child is preparing a snack of apple butter on crackers for herself and another child in the class.



These children are having lunch together at a table, which they have set with placemats, napkins, and flowers.



Mr. Farinelli greets students each morning



LE and UE students collaborate to construct a structure large enough to share in after school “Building Shelters” camp

### Lower Elementary

In their Second Plane of Development, children are aware of and concerned about justice and fairness and how they relate to others. Cosmic Education emphasizes the connectedness and interdependence of everything in our universe. The universe is seen as a whole community. The Lower Elementary Montessori classroom reflects that same connectedness. It is a community of learners with very clear ground rules, ensuring the success and freedom of all students.

Our community agreement focuses on respect for self, others, and the environment. Children learn that people on earth have basic fundamental needs that must be met. Cultural differences are celebrated and honored.

The basic Golden Rule is to “treat others the way you would like to be treated.” Much time and effort is devoted to how to be a friend, how to express feelings in a positive way, and how to solve problems or resolve conflicts. The lessons in grace set a tone of mutual respect and kindness.

As teachers, we greet all children everyday with a handshake, eye contact, and a personal greeting. When we have a visitor in the classroom, our Ambassador will welcome that person and offer a cup of tea. Children write invitations, greet guests, serve refreshments, and write thank you notes. Respect and acceptance is constantly in the forefront of their



LE students represent themselves with grace and courtesy while away from the classroom as well.



During indoor recess, LE students worked together to build a marble drop.



## Upper Elementary

UE has begun its annual classroom business, **Pizza Thursday!** Pizza Thursday helps fund our overnight trip scheduled for May, a trip designed to be a culmination of our cultural studies over the year and an opportunity for the students to demonstrate independence, grace, courtesy, and leadership. Running this business helps the students practice these personal qualities. All students take rotations on pizza “crew”. The crew members count orders and money, figure out how many pizzas will be needed, phone the pizza establishments to place the orders, and then serve pizza slices and carrots to the students and staff. They have to interact respectfully and to exhibit courtesy by patiently waiting to serve themselves last. UE also runs several other shorter term businesses with similar opportunities for grace, courtesy, and leadership: Holiday Cafe Days, Used Book Sale, Movie Nights, and PJ Day. All of these events allow the UE students to model grace and courtesy and to show leadership among their peers at MCC.



Tess, Ali, and SMMS students provide babysitting during Thursday evenings' Positive Discipline classes. Even the Middle School students can't resist story time with Miss Tess!



### Middle School

Montessori students receive Grace and Courtesy lessons at every level. The lessons define the ways in which we move among people and interact with one another. Students also take on leadership roles at every level. As our eldest students, the MS students not only take on leadership roles within the classroom, but throughout the school as a whole. They are constantly providing examples of grace and courtesy to the MCC community, especially to Children's House. MS students begin each morning by assisting with CH arrivals. They talk with the younger students and gently guide them as they hang their outerwear in cubbies and put on their slippers. MS students stand as quiet examples in bus line. The MS students offer babysitting services to provide parents the opportunity to attend MCC events like Journey and Discovery and Positive Discipline. Within the classroom, 8th year students apply and interview for management positions. Student managers lead our micro-economy, edit our newspaper and literary journal, plan the student garden and organize garden help over the summer, as well as manage maintenance and use of the Chadwick House.

