



### Notes from Ms. Kathy

When we talk about the Montessori classroom and the factors that make it a vibrant and successful learning environment, we frequently make reference to the three-year cycle and mixed age group. The primary classroom is generally described as a 3-6 environment, although it is not unusual to have children as young as 2 ½ and as old as 7. This is due to the fact that the environment is designed to meet the social, emotional and academic needs of each child in what Montessori defined as the first plane of development rather than placing an emphasis on chronological age. Children in this plane possess certain characteristics and tendencies, but each child's development is unique and therefore observed and addressed individually. Every child can benefit from a Montessori experience, but years of implementation have shown that those children that benefit the most are those who are able to complete a cycle of at least 3 years.

In her book, [Understanding Montessori, a Guide for Parents](#), Maren Schmitt gives an excellent explanation of how the complete cycle works based on observable behaviors in children. She uses the analogy of a newly

planted perennial in describing the growth of the child that occurs over the three-year span.

**First year sleep.** During the first year in the classroom, children are engaged mostly in practical life and sensorial activities that help build a foundation for future learning by helping them develop concentration, coordination, independence and a sense of order. In addition, the children have been absorbing impressions since birth. As they approach age 3, they seek to establish order within by sorting and classifying new and previously absorbed impressions. Manipulation of the sensorial materials allow for discoveries as a child uses his or her senses to help distinguish, categorize, and relate new information to what is already known. While you may not notice striking changes during this first year, the child is "taking root" and establishing him or herself in the environment. This occurs both through his independent work and by observing and being nurtured by older, more experienced classmates.

**Second year creep.** By the second year, children are more adept at navigating in the environment. Most have developed skills that have prepared them for work that is traditionally regarded as more academic and are beginning to show more interest in this type of work. They are no longer the youngest children in the class, and naturally begin to accept more responsibility. It is also a period of rapid physical growth.

**Third year leap.** After two full years, the classroom is as familiar as home to the 5-year-olds. They know the daily routines inside and out; their teachers know them well and can readily work with their strengths and encourage them to take on challenges. They are conscious of being the oldest students in the room, having traveled the road from 3-year-old to 5-year-old. Third year leap refers to the synthesis of information that eventually leads to bursts of learning. With the groundwork laid, most children are writing, reading and exploring numerical operations. Their understanding and appreciation of the world around them and their connectedness to it deepens. They are self-motivated, curious, confident leaders, and mentors.



Welcome Jacob Brent Peterson!  
April 25<sup>th</sup> 7 lb 4oz

## More Classroom Photos



Ms. Kathy's new grandson Jake arrived early for a special Spring surprise. Congratulations Ms. Kathy!





## CSM Summer Program

The summer program at CSM is an introduction for children who are new to the Montessori classroom or a continuation for children who are enrolled in our Primary program during the regular school year.

Each week the children will be introduced to new activities that promote learning in a fun and peaceful environment. Daily activities may include music, art, movement, cooking, stories, nature study, gardening and outdoor play, as well as traditional Montessori lessons. In addition, our theme this summer will be world geography. Join us as we explore the globe and learn what it would be like to live and play in different places around the world.

**COST:** There is a one-time registration & materials fee of \$40. for each child. Weekly sessions are \$200. a week for full day and \$160. a week for half day.

**HOURS:** Full day classes are from 8:30a – 3:30p. Half day classes are from 8:30a-Noon.

**AFTER CARE:** Early morning care is available at starting at 8:00a for no additional cost. After care is available from 3:30p – 6p for an additional \$55. a week or, for an additional \$9.00 per hour if needed on an hourly basis.

**REGISTRATION:** Registration forms are available at the front office. Please sign up as soon as possible to secure your spot!

## Ballet Performance – Wednesday, May 22

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the ballet performance at the end of May. It is scheduled for Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30pm and 3:15pm depending on the class time that your child attends.

Look forward to seeing you there!

## Box Tops and Labels for Education

Remember to clip and bring your Box Tops and Labels for Education to drop in our box. Every little bit helps and we want to provide the best learning environment possible for your child. Thank you!

## Feedback for CSM

At CSM your child is our first priority. We are constantly trying to improve our feedback and services to your family. Please take the time to let us know what we are doing well and how we can improve our communication and services to you. Thank you!

## Re-enrollment forms for 2013-2014

Re-enrollment forms and information have been placed in your mailboxes. Please complete the information and return the forms to us by the end of April.

Let us know if you have any questions regarding the program or paperwork for next year.

Thank you!



## Upcoming Events and School Closures

- **May 22** – Ballet performances.
- **May 24** – Half day – Last day of school for the semester.
- **May 28- 31** – In service. No school. School's Out care offered.
- **June 3** - Summer school begins.
- **July 4** – No school.



### Classroom Moments

Here are a few glimpses of our students in action! Enjoy a peek at our classroom and the joy of true learning!

