



"We cannot know the consequences of suppressing a child's spontaneity when he is just beginning to be active. We may even suffocate life itself. That humanity which is revealed in all its intellectual splendor during the sweet and tender age of childhood should be respected with a kind of religious veneration. It is like the sun which appears at dawn or a flower just beginning to bloom. Education cannot be effective unless it helps a child to open up himself to life."
Maria Montessori

Dear Families:

7/25/2018

Greetings to you from Garden City! We are in the summer swing, and lots has been happening over the recent weeks at school. The summer campers have been out and about exploring our community. They have been learning about Missoula's special spots, hiking through the woods, and visiting galleries and science exhibits. They have studied Spanish speaking countries, dug into clay to create bowls, jewelry, and garden sculptures, and this week they are exploring water through games, science experiments, and art!

In the office, we are focused on organizing, planning curriculum, and gathering materials for another beautiful year in Montessori. Megan and Alison will instruct in the Elementary classroom again this year, and Reina, Elena, Kailey, and I will instruct together in the Primary. This high caliber team will offer your child an engaging and challenging learning environment for the upcoming school year.

Our core curriculum remains grounded in the comprehensive Montessori prepared environment, designed for both Primary and Elementary classrooms. In addition, we'll have music instruction, gardening and natural sciences, Music Lingua Spanish, leveled reading, visual art, and movement and physical education. This year you will see a slight increase in your activity fees reflecting a new comprehensive ceramic curriculum lead by Elena, at both the primary and elementary levels. Our activities schedule will begin with fall swimming lessons at the Y!

Garden City Montessori's mission continues to focus on providing an exemplary model of Montessori education for the children, families, and educators of Missoula. We are so grateful to each of you for allowing us another year of learning and discovery with your child. We want you to understand Montessori through your child's experiences and your own inquiry as well. To that end we have materials available for check out in our Parent Library, and we'll send you educational links and highlights as well.

This year's Welcome Potluck is Monday, August 27th, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at Greenough Park's northeast picnic shelter. This easy-going event is an important time for your child to meet or reconnect with teachers and school friends. We'll provide plates, silverware, cups, and lemonade. If your child's name begins with P - Z, please bring an entrée; A - I, please bring a salad or vegetable; J - O please bring a dessert.

Enclosed you will find your August invoice, the 2018-19 Invoice Schedule and 2018-19 School Year Calendar. Each year Garden City's calendar mirrors the Missoula County Public Schools. This year MCPS runs one week later into June and we will do the same. You will see this change in your August/June invoice reflecting 3/4 month tuition.

This year staff preparation days run August 22-28. The first day of school for Elementary students is August 28th, and the first day of school for returning Primary students is August 30th. Our New Student/Parent Orientation will be held 10:00-11:00 a.m. on August 29th. This is such a helpful event for new families, so please plan to have at least one parent attend.

If you have not already done so, please provide an up-to-date copy of your child's Immunization and Emergency Contact forms by August 3rd.

Feel free to call with any questions, ideas, or concerns you may have.

Bev

Beverly Morse
Director
Garden City Montessori
Preschool and Elementary

