



"The greatest sign of success for a teacher... is to be able to say, "The children are now working as if I did not exist."

Maria Montessori

Dear parents,

9/13/18

We have had a smooth start to the new school year, and with week three underway, the children are getting their "school legs" under them. Returning children are rediscovering challenging work, and new children are becoming used to the classroom flow. New connections and friendships are forming, and children are getting used to finding and choosing their own work. Next week we will begin to study space and the amazing planet we live on!

We are still seeing a few tears as our younger students navigate the separation from loved ones at home. This will take time, and we rely on their feedback at the end of their school visit to see if they are enjoying this new school adventure.

In the Elementary Classroom, the students have had a great start to the new year. They began with a visit from Parks and Recreation. The students practiced teambuilding and communication skills, and they got to know each other through a variety of fun activities. The first Great Lesson has been presented through story telling and experiments, and creation stories from around the world have been shared. The students are settling into the routines of the day and the cycle of work, and the academics are flowing.

Settling In

As we settle into the school year it is most helpful if you plan not to visit the classroom for two months. This allows the children to make their transition into independent classroom work much more easily. After this initial period—when the children are confident in their classroom routines—we will invite you to visit and welcome lots of parent involvement.

2 Lunch Requests

Would you include a cloth napkin that is about 10 by 12 inches in your child's lunch box each day? A simple piece of cut fabric is perfect. This helps the children keep their lunch area neat and makes clean up much easier for all. Please remember that lunch is low-sugar or no-sugar event. We want the kids to focus on eating "grow food." With your help, we hope to minimize simple carbs and ask that you keep candy out of their lunches.

Calling All Gardeners!

As we move into fall we will have a Garden Fix-Up Day. On Friday, September 28th, we'll put on our gardening attire and make some upgrades to our garden space. We will be pruning the raspberry patch, clearing out some garden beds, dead-heading flowers, planting bulbs, sprucing up our greenhouse, and building a compost "bin." We'll start work at 9:30 and work till noon. If you would like to help out, please see the sign-up sheet in the entry way. Thank you!

Coat Hook Pictures

Please bring in a photo of your child to put above his/her hook in the coat room. As you do so, we'll laminate and mount them.

Volunteer/Snack/Parent Roster Sign-Ups

Thank you for volunteering for the 2018-19 school year. If you haven't been contacted and started your job already, look for email communication from our volunteer coordinator, Christy Bradley. Also, if you have signed up for snack, you will be getting an email reminder from Christy before your assigned days. If you still need to sign up for your snack days, look at the volunteer list, or put your name on our Parent Roster, please let Anne in the office know.

Communication

Communication is important at Garden City Montessori. Please make sure we have at least one email address for your family as we'll send most newsletters and other communication via email. Also, if your contact information changes, please be sure to let us know right away. If you have any questions and weren't able to attend the New Family Orientation, please let Anne know. Also, we will use your Parent Mailbox for paper communication so don't forget to check that each day.

Bev Morse, Director