



*“One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child itself.” Maria Montessori*

Welcome Parents!

9/16/19

We have had a sweet start to this new school year! It has been very fun to see the new children enter each classroom, discover their Montessori environment, and get acquainted with our returning students. Everyone has been welcoming and very respectful. Though our youngest children are sometimes shedding a tear as they say goodbye to parents, we are well on our way to a great year.



The Elementary class is settling in and working well together. Last Friday they visited Missoula Parks and Recreation for adventure challenges and team building. They have been fantastic leaders for the younger children and seem to be finding their challenging Montessori work.

In the Primary classroom children are learning how to communicate with each other, take turns, share works, and to say “yes please” or “no thank you”. They are learning to focus and participate at circle and beginning to understand which works are most interesting to them.

The teacher is the dynamic link between your child and the Montessori prepared environment. These days we are observing and learning so much about your child, what they like, what challenges them, and where they need to grow. Your input is so helpful. Please ask them what works and friends they are enjoying the most at school. You can relay their answers in an email, voice mail, or in the parent binder. Thank you in advance for this feedback!

There are many things to remember as we begin the new school year. Here are some reminders for you.

### **Snack Sign Up**

We still have open days for snack sign up for both the Elementary and Primary classrooms. We ask Primary families to sign up for 5 days and Elementary 15 days (snacks for 14) throughout the year. Please bring 35 snacks for Primary students and 14 for Elementary. This gives us a few extra. If you haven't signed up for your days, please contact Anne to see what dates are available. We also have open days for Flower Sign up as well.

### **Volunteer Sign Up**

If you have not signed up for a regular volunteer job, please do so in the next week or so. You can talk to Anne about which jobs would be the best fit for you. If you have signed up please look for an email discussing those responsibilities. Your volunteer work allows our school to run effectively! Thank you so much for supporting us with your time and labor.

### **Starting the Day - Morning Circle**

Special thanks to you! Parents have been arriving with their children promptly and quietly each day. To make the most of our academic day, we hope to see all students at school by 8:35 a.m. We understand that

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on some days you must arrive later; when this happens please continue to help your child enter quietly.

### **Daily Attendance**

It is important that parents (not children) sign their children in and out each day. Attendance clipboards are located on the entry table. If you pick up your child at recess, please arrive promptly at 1:00 p.m. and ask for the clipboard to sign out.

### **Lunch/Napkins**

When your child is learning to eat with others, eating grow food can be challenging work! In order to keep lunch simple and neat, please send a “napkin” (cut cloth 10” x 12”) in your child’s lunch each day. This makes it easier for them to eat neatly and clean up afterwards. At Garden City lunch is a low sugar or no sugar event. Please send just a few items of “grow food” (sandwich, protein, fruit, cheese, veggies), avoid simple carbs and sugary snack bars, and do not send candy.

### **Before and After Care**

If you plan to use Before Care or After Care, please let Anne know or write it in the Parent Binder. We are lucky to have Lauren and Liz return as our After-Care Teachers again this year. They are excited to create a fun and interesting program for your kids.

### **Water Bottles**

We would like your child to store their water bottles on the Water Bottle Shelf in each classroom. Please write your child’s name on the top of the bottle and be sure to bring these home each week for cleaning.



### **Coming up:**

**Fall Garden Clean Up - This Friday!** - September 20th Noon - 3:00 p.m.

This is a great way to help our garden program and complete your volunteer hours. We’ll be trimming, weeding, moving plants, preparing beds, and more. Get your work clothes on and meet us for some labor and fun! Please let Anne know if you think you can help out.

Let us know if you have any questions and thank you again for bringing your child to Garden City!

*Bev*

Beverly Morse  
Director

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Preschool and Elementary*  
[www.gardencitymontessori.com](http://www.gardencitymontessori.com)