



"The first essential for the child's development is concentration. The child who concentrates is immensely happy"

Maria Montessori

Dear Parents,

1/17/20

There is no time like January in the Montessori classroom! The students have had time for exploration and social development, and they are ready to dig deeper to the business of independent learning. The ability of each child to choose work and concentrate upon it independently is the foundation for this process. You will be hearing a lot about this in the coming weeks as we focus on each child's responsibility for their choices and productivity in class. Through this process you will see your child gain skills and confidence as they master specific works and become deeply engrossed in their lessons.



The Elementary class has begun the new year with a focus on time and calendars. They are looking into the history of time, working on telling time, and having fun with clocks. They're observing the various cycles within each day, observing various timelines, and breaking down the year into parts with the support of fractions.

Alica is continuing to bring her art inspiration and talents into the Elementary classroom on Fridays. The students have partnered up and are producing large scale art pieces with vibrant colors, influenced by the art of Picasso.

In the Primary the students are moving their focus to the earth. They will be learning about the inner layers of the earth, dinosaurs, volcanos, and creating world maps of the 7 continents. They will soon be studying land and water forms as well. Each child is working at their level and progressing through the Montessori prepared environment.

Spanish classes have begun in both the Elementary and Primary rooms. We are lucky to have Bernardo Paiva (Eli's dad), a fluent speaker, as our instructor! He is using Music Lingua materials as the curriculum base and building upon this base with music and conversation as well.

LEVELED READING The primary students are sharing leveled readers with the Elementary each Tuesday. Primary families will see binders coming home each week. Please ask your child to read these to you and return them the following day.

CONTINENT STUDY In February we will begin a school wide study of Europe! Each year we study one continent and it is a priority for us to include an understanding of that continent from personal perspectives. Do you have knowledge or experience about Europe that you would be willing to share? If so, please let us know!

FALL ENROLLMENT Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year is just getting started. We would love to have each child who is enrolled this year return in the fall and our first priority is completing the enrollment process for those returning. You will soon find a Re-enrollment Planning Form and in your parent box. Please complete and return this as soon as possible. Returning enrollment that is completed by March 1st will have priority placement for next year. After the 1st spots will be open to new families as well, and filled on a first come, first served basis.

Your experience at Garden City is our best advertisement for new enrollment. If you know families that may be a fit for our school please let them know we have an Open House coming up on Wednesday, January 29th, from 5-7 p.m.

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ELEMENTARY LUNCHEON On February 5th we are hosting a luncheon just for Elementary parents. This will be a celebration of your child's work and classroom and we hope you can make it a priority to attend. Your child will give you a guided tour of their classroom and show you how they complete specific lessons as well. You will soon receive an invitation for this wonderful event. We look forward to sharing this wonderful time with you!



SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT If you shop at the **Good Food Store** or **Fresh Market** you can give our school a real boost. At the Good Food Store just mention Garden City Montessori School while checking out and the clerk will look up our code. At Fresh Market simply write the name of our school on the receipt and give it to the cashier. It is super easy and both of these stores will donate a percentage of your purchase to us. We put those funds directly to teacher training and development. Please consider shopping these stores and help us support our awesome teachers at the same time!

WINTER CLOTHES AND THE COAT ROOM

Getting dressed and out to recess each day is an epic event for our students. Our goal is to have the students work as independently as possible in this process. We need your assistance to do this and to keep the coat room orderly.

- As you arrive for school each day, please ask your child to put their hat and mittens in the arms of their coat, coat and snow pants on their hook, and boots underneath the bench.

- When you pick your child up after school, please ask your child to put their hat and mittens and boots **ON TOP OF THE BENCH**. This organizes the coat room and allows our cleaning person to vacuum easily.

Thank you for helping us keep your child prepared for winter and our coat room more beautiful!



UPCOMING EVENTS

MLK Day ... Monday, 1/20 No School

Open House for Fall Enrollment ... Wednesday, 1/29

Elementary Luncheon ... Wednesday, 2/5

Valentine High Tea ... Friday, 2/14

