

Montessori

THE PE MONTESSORI SCHOOL



“Learning to love to learn”

MONTESSORI MESSENGER

Dear Parents

It's officially autumn and almost the end of the first term already. The term has been slightly longer than normal for a first term but its hard to believe because it has gone so fast.

We have really enjoyed having Friendship, Kindness and No Bullying as our first term theme throughout the school. It was a positive way to start the year and establish the values we want to continue all year. For those who haven't seen the article related to bullying on FaceBook, it is included in this newsletter as it is a fantastic read for parents. We hope that our core values of kindness, respect and responsibility continue to be woven into all of our interactions and that the children carry these through to their lives outside of school. Imagine a world where acting with kindness at all times, showing respect for ourselves and for others and taking responsibility for our actions was the norm? It is possible...

Our overall theme for the new term is the Wonderful World of Books with all of the children exploring this amazing world. You will notice this theme through art projects, LIFE Skills and other projects and we encourage you to support the idea of learning, exploring and investigating the world through books at home. We are hoping it will spark imaginations and interests without using screens. There is more and more research emerging that shows a decline in literacy rates correlated with the increased use of screen time, as well as many educators choosing to return to using paper books rather than e-books based on the poor levels of reading emerging. Technology is amazing but shouldn't be the starting and ending point of our life experience.

Having said that...☺ our FaceBook page is coming along nicely and our thanks to Claire Kivedo for the regular postings. You will like us on FaceBook via the following link: <https://m.facebook.com/PEMontessori> And send any interesting things to Claire Kivedo on claire@overallevents.co.za (or of course share it with her on FaceBook too!)

We wish you all a peaceful holiday – for our Christian families who are celebrating Easter (which is actually the most important Christian celebration not Christmas) we wish you a very Happy Easter. And for our Jewish families we wish you well over the Passover.

We have a very exciting second term on the cards with foundations being laid and our new classrooms built by the time we reach the end of the next term (fingers and toes crossed☺) – see inside for the update. And a few other wonderful surprises...see you in the new term, well rested and ready to go.

Best wishes
Sam

PS Congratulations to the Ntsangani Family – Cleo, Loyiso, Leo and Sam on the arrival of your new Princess – a beautiful daughter and sister, We can't wait to meet her☺

REMINDERS

ANNUAL EQUIPMENT LEVY was due on 1st March. If you haven't already paid it please do so immediately. It is R300 per year for the first child and R150 per sibling thereafter. This is now REALLY overdue...

EXTRA MURAL ACTIVITIES – children may sign up for new extra murals at the start of the term. You can get forms from Zarika or email your requests through now. Details of Extra Murals on offer are on the d6 Communicator.

SIBLINGS JOINING OUR SCHOOL – for those who intend to enrol siblings in our school for next year, especially at the toddler and pre-school level – make sure you complete an application for enrolment form ASAP. We do give preference of places to siblings but only if we know you plan to enrol. We begin our interview process for outside applications at the beginning of May so make sure your sibling application is in before then. Forms are available on the website www.pemontessori.co.za

If you have relatives or friends who you know intend applying for placement in 2018, please remind them to send applications in ASAP.

REMINDER OF THE SPECIAL CLOSURE OF SCHOOL on 5th MAY – I have to express our heartfelt thanks to the many, many parents who responded so positively to the notice of the special closure of school due to the staff participating in workshop with an international Montessorian. My inbox was inundated with emails of support which was quite unexpected. Thank you – it is such an affirmation for us that our parent community's values are aligned with ours. We promise your children will benefit enormously from our new knowledge. And we will of course share it with you too.

Summary of the days school is closed in the second term...

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 27th/28th April

MONDAY 1st May and FRIDAY 5th May

FRIDAY 16th June

Other important dates to note
for Term Two

School opens on Tuesday 18th
April and closes 30th June
Tuesday 25th April – Meeting for
Parents of GRADE R children



**"To deny people their
human rights is to challenge
their very humanity."**

–
Nelson Mandela

mtvnews.com 

SECTIONS OF THE SCHOOL UPDATE

TODDLER COMMUNITY (MARIAM, JESS, PRISCILLA AND KUDA)

The term has passed by so quickly. It has been wonderful to observe how well the toddlers have done in such a short space of time. This is a beautiful time in their journey as they come out of their shell and we have the honour of getting to know each child and their unique personality.

We have approached the end of our theme for the term, Friendship, Kindness and Respect. As you have seen we have made a Friend-ship. The children have done finger stamping on their Peace picture and lastly we made a Paper chain necklace.

Our theme for the second term will be related to many of the popular books that we read at school such as The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Cat In The Hat , Brave little Owl etc. We will also be making something special for Easter and Mother's Day.

We look forward to an exciting second term together.

PRE SCHOOL (RITA, MANDY KERRI, AYESHA, JAYME AND PRINCESS)

We have come to end of the first term and we are pleased at how the children have responded to our theme around "Friendship, Kindness and Respect.

We would like to thank all our parents for their support and co-operation with regards to our food policy.

We would like to remind parents to encourage their children as much as possible, to be independent in dressing and undressing, in using the toilet and washing hands. This applies to all the children between the ages of 3-6 years old.

"The essence of independence is to be able to do something for one's self." Maria Montessori

Our theme for next term will books including favourite stories and we will do art activities related to these stories. On our return we will be exploring the meaning of Easter and the children will be making a card which shows the life cycle of a chicken. We wish all our families well over the holidays.

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SECTIONS OF THE SCHOOL UPDATE continued

LOWER PRIMARY (ANNE L, SHARMELL, CLAIRE, HAJI AND CAROLEEN)

Once again the first term has flown by. The grade one's have settled in so well and are all much more confident both in themselves and the work in the classroom. The new buddy system in the classroom is working well. Each child has been allocated three "buddies" that they ask to assist them before they approach an adult in the environment. The children enjoy helping each other, some have proved to be excellent teachers and it embraces the uniqueness of the Montessori classroom and its varying ages and abilities.

Another place where that has come to light is during Community Time, it was so enjoyable to watch a class that consisted of children from grade one to grade seven where older children were working with younger children that they had probably never spoken to before. Everyone seems to have enjoyed all the various community times and are waiting with baited breath to find out which one they will move to next term.

Independence is flourishing overall and we encourage you to allow them to explore this new-found independence as much as they are able, especially with LIFE Skills projects. It can be a hard balance to find but time spent with them in the early stages, helping them to complete a project and going through all the required parts, will pay off in the long run when they become able to complete projects with less input over time.

LIFE Skills aside, the holidays are a time for relaxing and having fun. Why not spend some time these holidays enjoying some "screen free" activities?

Enjoy some extra reading time – join the library or check out some of PE's second hand book stores.

Bayworld – Oceanarium, snake park and dinosaurs.

The beach – free to all (and we have many beautiful beaches)

Kragga Kamma Game Park.

Visit the Donkin Reserve

Check out an art gallery

Visit SAMREC

Visit Volkswagen Auto Pavilion

Ice skating at BayWest Mall

Visit the skate park at the beachfront

Bake together

Try a new craft (some of the children have become proficient in quite a few things this term 😊)

Spend some time in the garden or visit a garden centre together.

Whatever you decide to do, relax, enjoy and have a good break.

Sharmell and Anne L

UPPER PRIMARY (ANNE S, SUE, ANNA-KARIEN, AGNES AND KEERAN)

It has been a term full of celebrations and a time to reflect on how to nurture relationships with each other and with the environment. The children enjoyed our activities on World Wildlife Day and the follow up walk on the beach was such fun too. Who wouldn't enjoy spending a morning on the beach with all your friends? 😊 We are also celebrating World Poetry Day by exploring the different forms of poetry writing.

The end of term sees us consolidating our observations from the first term as we prepare the children's reports, which will go out early in the new term.

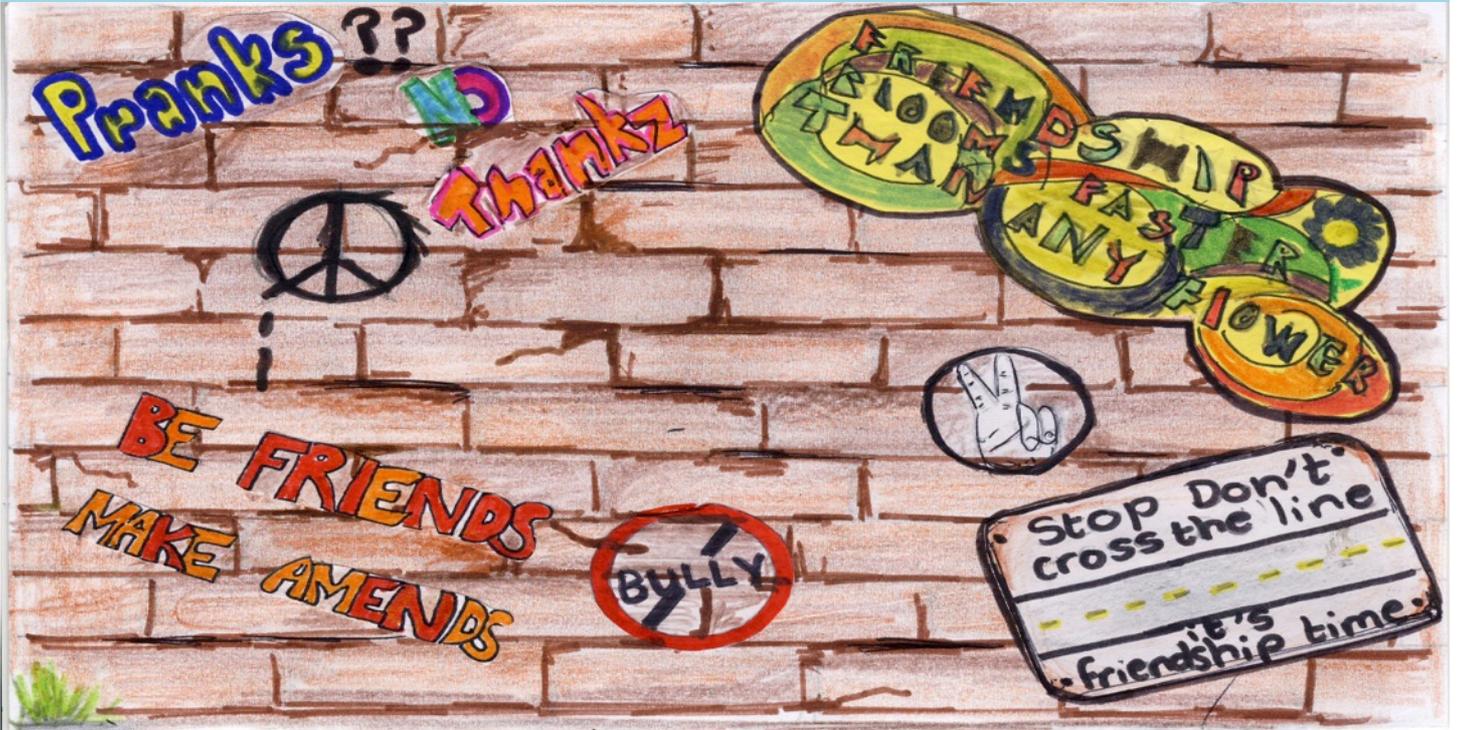
We hope that everyone enjoys the upcoming holiday with family and friends.

Rest well; we'll see you all in the new term.

Presented as graffiti on the next page: Some of the anti-bullying slogans thought up by the children for their group cultural posters.

SECTIONS OF THE SCHOOL UPDATE continued

Presented as graffiti below: Some of the anti-bullying slogans thought up by the children for their group cultural posters.



CAMPUS INTEGRATION / BUILDING UPDATE

We have continued to work relentlessly to get all the correct paperwork in place and everything done according to procedure for our plans to build the new pre-school classrooms. Our site development plan has been submitted, building plans are imminent, permission from neighbours sought, our Heritage report being signed off...you won't believe the processes. But it is all good because we will have no doubt that we are fully compliant across all departments once we are done. We anticipate all to be checked off and done by mid-late April which is when we hope to throw the foundation and get building.

Again, we extend our thanks to Bryan and Debbie Wintermeyer and the rest of the SVA team who are working tirelessly to help us with all of the above.

In the meantime, the toddler community space in the building next door is in the final stages of its renovation and this should be completed by the end of the April holidays so that our focus can be on the new building. In the toddler space, two areas have needed wooden floors replaced and other safety features added to make sure we can maximise the use of the space while keeping the toddlers very safe and secure.

We look forward to sharing some photos soon on our FaceBook page and will continue to keep you updated. To those parents who offered so much help...we will be in touch soon now that we are getting closer to take off.

The Day I Decided My Daughter Will Not Choose Her Own Friends

<http://faithit.com/day-decided-daughter-will-not-choose-friends-raising-bully-leslie-blanchard/>

We “helicopter” over our kids’ wardrobes, nutrition, sleep schedules, hygiene, science fair projects and then pride ourselves on how “hands off” we are on social issues.

By Leslie Blanchard

I will never forget the day my daughter told me that Bethany, a girl in her 4th grade class, was annoying her.

“What is she doing to you?” I questioned, instinctively protective.

“She’s following me around on the playground and sitting by me at lunch!” she quipped, as if that would sum things right up and get me squarely on her side of the matter.

“You mean she’s trying to be friends with you?” I asked incredulously.

I realized immediately that I had a problem on my hands. I was raising my own worst nightmare. Smack dab in the middle of my brood of five kids, was a charismatic, sassy, leggy, blonde, dance-y, athletic girl oozing confidence ... and apparently annoyance, directed toward another little girl that wasn’t lucky enough to be her. Inconveniently for my daughter, her own mother WAS Bethany in grade school. Freckled of face and frizzy of hair, I was an Army brat, always the new girl clamoring for a friend, drawn to the natural confidence of girls like my daughter. This conversation found me vacillating between heartache and fury, but one thing I knew for sure: Mama was about to put her money where her mouth had been all these years.

The battle of two very strong wills ensued at my home the next morning. It wasn’t pretty, but I prevailed. My daughter attended a private Catholic grade school, where on any given day, she and a handful of her cohorts ruled the roost. One quick phone call to Bethany’s mother that same evening confirmed my worst fears. My daughter and her posse were using everything short of a can of “Cling Free” to rid themselves of the annoying Bethany.

I’m sure there are parents out there who will say I overreacted. But, I firmly believe we’ve got to start to address our country’s bullying epidemic right at the heart; by re-defining bullying at its very core. To me, the rejection and complete lack of interest my daughter and her “clique” displayed toward Bethany was the beginning of a subtle type of bullying. It is true (confirmed to me by Bethany’s mom and teachers), that there was no overt unkindness or name-calling, etc., just rejection; a complete lack of interest in someone they wrongly concluded had nothing to offer them. After experiencing childhood myself and raising five of my own, I’ve been on every side of the bullying social dynamic, and I am convinced this is where it begins. A casual assessment and quick dismissal of an outsider.

We would serve our children well, in my opinion, if we had a frank conversation with them about what motivates human beings to accept and reject others. It happens at every age and stage of life, race, creed and religion. It has its roots in our own fears of rejection and lack of confidence. Everyone is jockeying for their own spot on the Social Food Chain. I feel like I have experienced demonstrable success with my children by tabling this dynamic right out in the open. Parents need to call it by name, speak it out loud, shine a bright light in its ugly face. We need to admit to our children that we too experience this, even as adults. Of course it’s tempting to ‘curry favor’ and ‘suck-up’ to the individual a rung of two above you on the Social Ladder, but every single human being deserves our attention and utmost respect. In spite of this, we have to constantly remind our children and ourselves that everyone can bring unexpected and unanticipated value to our lives. But we have to let them.

It's simply not enough to instruct your children to "Be Nice!" You've got to be more specific than that. Kids think if they aren't being outright unkind, they are being nice. We know better. Connect the ugly dots. Explain the social survival instinct that's often motivating and guiding their impulses. I promise you, they can handle it. They already see it on some level anyway. They just need YOU to give it a voice and re-direction.

As for my girl, I instructed her that she was going to invest some time and energy getting to know Bethany. I assigned her to come home from school the next day and report three cool things she found out about Bethany, that she didn't previously know. My strong-willed child dug in. She did not want to do that. I dug in deeper. I refused to drive her to school the next morning, until she agreed. It seemed that, at least until now, I had the car keys and the power. Her resistance gave us time to have the long overdue conversation. I walked her through my "ATM Machine Analogy." I explained to her that she had social bank to spare. She could easily make a withdrawal on behalf of this little girl, risking very little.

"Let's invest!" I enthused and encouraged.

She got dressed reluctantly and I drove her to school. She had a good day—what was left of it. But, she was still buggy with me when I picked her up, telling me that her friends' mothers "stay out of such matters" and let their daughters "choose their own friends!" (Such wise women.) And then she told me three cool things about Bethany that she didn't previously know.

I checked back in with Bethany's mother by phone two weeks later. It's called follow through. (I don't think enough of us are doing that. We "helicopter" over our kids' wardrobes, nutrition, sleep schedules, hygiene, science fair projects and then pride ourselves on how "hands off" we are on social issues. If I had a dollar for every time I wanted to say, "Seriously? You micro-manage the literal crap out of every thing your child does from his gluten intake to his soccer cleats, but THIS you stay out of?" No wonder there's zero accountability and a bullying culture!) Bethany's mother assured me that she had been welcomed into the fold of friendship and was doing well.

Bethany's family moved to another state a few years later. My daughter cried when they parted ways. They still keep in touch through all their social media channels. She was and is a really cool girl, with a lot to offer her peers. But the real value was to my daughter, obviously. She gained so much through that experience. She is now a 20-year-old college sophomore, with a widely diverse group of friends. She is kind, inclusive and open to all types of people. When she was malleable, impressionable and mine to guide:

—She learned her initial instinct about people isn't always correctly motivated.

—She learned you can be friends with the least likely people; the best friendships aren't people that are your "type!" In the world of friendship, contrast is a plus.

—She learned that there are times, within a given social framework, that you are in a position to make a withdrawal on behalf of someone else. Be generous, invest! It pays dividends.

But, most importantly, she learned that, while I may not be overly-interested in what she gets on her Science Fair project, couldn't care less if she's Lactose Intolerant or whether her long blonde hair is snarled, she's going to damn well treat people right.

Parents—your kids are going to eventually develop the good sense to wear a jacket and eat vegetables, invest your energy in how they interact within society. If we insist on being the hovering Helicopter Parent Generation, let's at least hover over the right areas.