



“Learning to love to learn”

MONTESSORI MESSENGER

Dear Parents

WOW! What a whirlwind start to the year...Hard to believe we are more than halfway through the term already. We didn't send out our newsletter earlier as there were so many notices at the start of the year, we felt it would be overkill. So – welcome to the first newsletter of 2017.

We have had a wonderful start to the year with everyone settled in and making all of the adjustments necessary for school life. It is often about now that children new to school or new to a section go through their first dip of not wanting to come to school or getting small colds etc. It is all normal – the novelty has worn off, the body becomes less stressed so the immune system relaxes a little and your child may have a few wobbly moments. Help them through it by being supportive and encouraging but maintain consistency.

As you know, our building process is well on track – we are submitting final plans and will be sending out our wish list very soon. We hope to start foundations in the next couple of weeks and then its all systems go...VERY VERY exciting. We will keep you updated on our FaceBook page and d6 Communicator. Thank you to all those who have already offered to help.

You will find 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

Please take a few minutes to at least scan through the newsletter – there are lots of small reminders that we need everyone to note. **One very important rule to note – PLEASE do not try to take a short cut at Villiers by cutting across the drive at the palm tree instead of driving down the driveway and around the big tree. When people miss the turn it causes traffic back up but most importantly pedestrians aren't expecting it and it damages the edging when you over/under turn. Please just follow the instructions given. From mid-year when traffic volume nearly doubles, this will be essential so don't start bad habits now.**

Our school theme of kindness, friendship and anti-bullying is working out so well – it has really heightened awareness and improved the resolution of conflict situations. It is beautiful to hear all the conversations around friendship and how valued and important friends are to each other.

Enjoy the month of March and we hope to see you at the beach walk / picnic on the 11th. Details inside and on d6.

Best wishes

Sam

REMINDERS

ANNUAL EQUIPMENT LEVY is 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.

STARTING / ENDING TIMES:

Toddlers and pre-schoolers may be dropped off from 7:30am and should be here by 8:15am at the latest. Unless booked into aftercare, they finish at 12noon. Late collection fees apply.

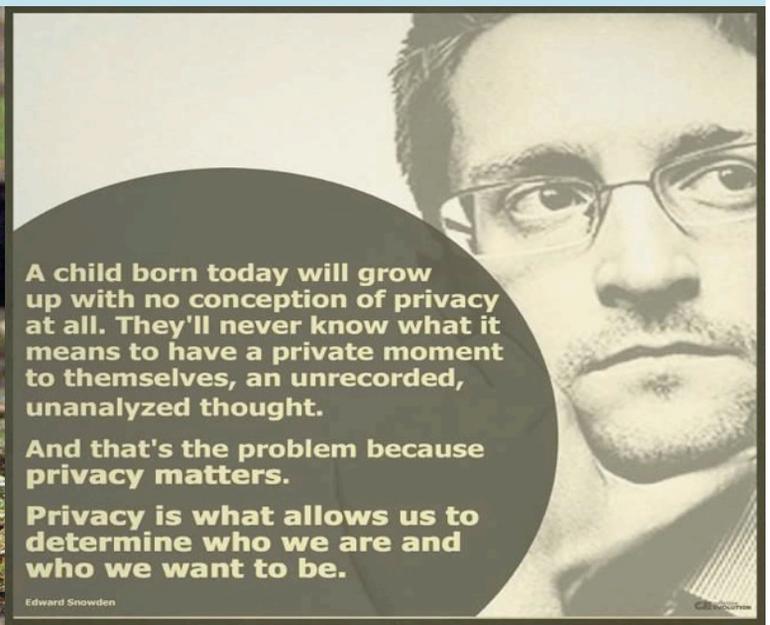
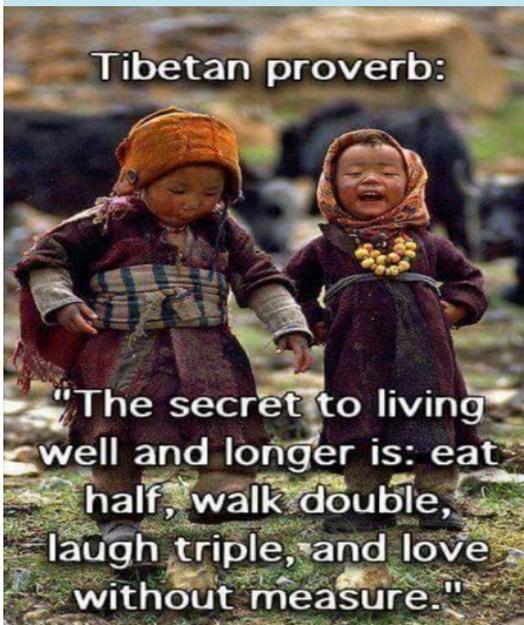
Lower primary (grades 1, 2, 3): May be dropped off from 7:15am **MUST** be at school by 7:55am for 8am start and finish at 1:30pm unless booked into aftercare. Late collection fees apply.

Upper Primary (grades 4 to 7) : May be dropped off from 7:15am **MUST** be at school by 7:55am for 8am start and finish at 2pm unless booked into aftercare. Late collection fees apply.

SCHOOL PICNIC AND WALK – informal get together of families from 9am to 11am. Bring your own treats (The yes/no food list doesn't apply☺) and come and catch up with others or meet new families. We will meet in the parking lot of SOMETHING GOOD (beach front) and go for a beach walk to collect litter and clean up the beaches. We will then find a suitable spot and enjoy a picnic together. This is obviously weather permitting. If we need to cancel due to bad weather, an alert will be sent out on d6 on Saturday morning.

MISSED SPELLING TESTS DUE TO BEING ABSENT - If a child misses a spelling test, they will simply write the missed list on the next test day. If the child wants to "catch up" and keep up with their group, he/she can request to write two tests – the missed one then the current one. The criteria of needing 85 to 100% to move on applies.

MISSED BONDS / TABLES TESTS - These will be done upon returning to school.



LIFE SKILLS UPDATE

A reminder to all primary parents that LIFE skills (projects, spelling and bonds/tables (if applicable) is not elective – all children are required to complete their projects on their own (with appropriate support from you) and submit this on hand in days.

For assessment purposes, we require that the children do their own work – please do not do it for them as we will not assess parent's work.

A great idea that has emerged from LIFE Skills (Shared with permission)

Hi Sam,

We've had something really cool stem from the 4th term Montessori project last year and I wanted to share it with you.

I've battled for a couple years now with regards to allowance (pocket money) and the kids. Then you had that project where they had to do and learn jobs/crafts/skills, etc. at home for their Life Skills. Mac learned how to do an entire load of laundry, from sorting to folding and putting away. He learned a few other things too, and most importantly...because YOU asked him to do it and not ME, he took pride in it. So I started thinking and came up with this deal:

He types a "time sheet" on his iPad and enters any job that he does. He's expected to keep his room tidy and make his bed every day. He has to do the recyclables and clear leaves from the outside drain. He must help when asked without any complaining during the week. Then he can do "additional" items for added pay: laundry, dishwasher, etc.

At the end of every week (on Sunday), he sends me his "time sheet" and I put a monetary value next to each item, add it up and pay him. If he doesn't submit the time sheet, he doesn't get paid. I don't remind him to do any of it.

This worked brilliantly during holiday. However when school started, it was forgotten. Just this week, he's started it again. I think he needed some time to adjust back to school schedule, etc. And he wants a bunch of stuff!!! LOL.

With a kid like him, he's always saving for the next Rubiks cube or needs an SD card for programming or what not. So I told him he needed to start saving and buying his own techy stuff. This has worked well, and because he's a Montessori kid, he's able to take on the independence of it.

I wish I would have thought of it sooner, but very interesting how these things come out of the Life Skills projects. I still don't get it when parents don't agree that this is the way to learn.

Have a good weekend,

Greta (Mac and Kirkland's mom)

SECTIONS OF THE SCHOOL UPDATE

TODDLER COMMUNITY (MARIAM, JESS, PRISCILLA AND KUDA)

We have been having a good term. Everyone has settled into the environment and is comfortable. Our theme on friendship, respect and kindness will be continuing this term. As you must have seen that we have made friendship bracelets using pipe cleaners and straws and linking hands paper dolls, which the toddlers painted using watercolours. This activity has allowed them to practise their cutting skills with assistance. The toddlers did hand stamping with their own hand and a friend, which was very sweet. 😊 We have done a "Stop Bullying" art activity using a paper hand. The toddlers coloured their hands using wax crayons and then pasted the different guidelines onto each finger. These guidelines help children to learn to deal with a bullying situation.

In respect of World Wildlife Day on 3 March, we will be making an elephant mask using a paper plate.

A slight insight into our art activities that is yet to come, will be as follows :

- Friend- "Ship"
- Peace Picture
- Paper Chain Necklace

In addition to our movement activities on Tuesdays, we started doing some movement outside such as balancing bean bags, jumping through different coloured hula hoops and not forgetting catching bubbles. The children have had lots of fun. 😊

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

We have continued with our theme around 'Kindness and Friendship' by reading appropriate stories in order to help the children to gain a better understanding of what friendship means and ways of handling conflict. We have emphasised the importance of treating others with respect and helping them to deal with difficult situations.

Most of our art activities for the following month will be related to our theme and will include:

- a hand that shows what to do when confronted by a 'bully'
- a ship with the words Friend – Ship
- a peace sign using thumb prints
- a friendship chain

We will be observing World Wildlife Day by making an elephant mask and explaining the importance of taking care of our wildlife.

Open your mouth
only if what you are
going to say is more
beautiful than silence.

Arab Proverb

Did you know
the first
Montessori
school opened
110 years ago?

CELEBRATING 110 YEARS



SECTIONS OF THE SCHOOL UPDATE continued

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

As you know the theme for the term has been bullying and the children have been working on projects in class based on this theme. This has made the younger ones more aware of how they treat each other, some have found it difficult to distinguish what is considered bullying and what isn't. We have found that going through the meaning of being a good friend has helped clarify if it's a friendly squabble or actually bullying. We are currently explaining the process of making books which is the next LIFE Skills project and they are excited to be going through the process of creating one themselves.

The RAK journals will also be discussed in detail before the required hand in date. We will be discussing how random acts of kindness already play a part in their everyday lives. It's a good idea to get them to start thinking about what they do for others, whether at home or school. This allows them to see that being kind and generous is part of natural behaviour and not just something that is done to complete a project.

Having said that, we also have some less serious moments in the class. One of the grade ones was learning about the names of the Geometric Solids. When the parallelepiped was pointed out to him he looked up and said "I don't know that name, I'm still learning it. What is it called?" "Parallelepiped" said the directress. "Oh" said the little one, "like this..... pa la la la la?" It was a moment to behold.

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

The first few weeks seem to have gone by so quickly, or maybe it's just because we have been so busy. Our 'new' grade four children have really slotted into their upper primary classrooms well and seem happy and motivated, which is so nice to see.

They have also had the opportunity to work with their older peers on group projects and in community time. This too has been a good process in getting to know one another.

Our focus has been 'bullying' and we have done role-play, quizzes and collages and have had many discussions around this topic. We are working our way towards a 'friendship wall', which will display uplifting quotes, slogans that the children have developed and positive messages about friendship. This has been a very valuable process at school and the children have followed through with some lovely work on this in their LIFEskills projects.

Some wisdom from LIFEskills projects:

I believe that everybody has the right to live in a community where they feel safe, included, valued and accepted, regardless of differences. I pledge to be respectful of others and stand up to bullying whenever and wherever I see it. (Hudhaifa)

"Oh my son, make your deeds salt and your manners flour." Many good manners with few good deeds are better than many good deeds with few good manners."

(Muhammad Abdullah)

"When man learns to respect even the smallest being of creation...nobody has to teach him to love his fellow man. Compassion for animals is intimately connected with goodness of character, and it may be confidently asserted that he who is cruel to animals cannot be a good man," Albert Schweitzer (Kelly)

"Peace just doesn't mean not fighting/arguing, it means kindness, standing up to injustice and compromising." (Ismat)

Age-Appropriate Chores for Children



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Ages 2-3

- Put toys in toy box
- Stack books on shelf
- Place dirty clothes in laundry hamper
- Throw trash away
- Carry firewood
- Fold washcloths
- Set the table
- Fetch diapers & wipes
- Dust baseboards

Ages 4-5

- Feed pets
- Wipe up spills
- Put away toys
- Make the bed
- Straighten bedroom
- Water houseplants
- Sort clean silverware
- Prepare simple snacks
- Use hand-held vacuum
- Clear kitchen table
- Dry and put away dishes
- Disinfect doorknobs

Ages 6-7

- Gather trash
- Fold towels
- Dust mop floors
- Empty dishwasher
- Match clean socks
- Weed garden
- Rake leaves
- Peel potatoes or carrots
- Make salad
- Replace toilet paper roll

Ages 8-9

- Load dishwasher
- Change light bulbs
- Wash laundry
- Hang/fold clean clothes
- Dust furniture
- Spray off patio
- Put groceries away
- Scramble eggs
- Bake cookies
- Walk dogs
- Sweep porches
- Wipe off table

Ages 10-11

- Clean bathrooms
- Vacuum rugs
- Clean countertops
- Deep clean kitchen
- Prepare simple meal
- Mow lawn
- Bring in mail
- Do simple mending (hems, buttons, etc.)
- Sweep out garage

Ages 12 and up

- Mop floors
- Change overhead lights
- Wash/vacuum car
- Trim hedges
- Paint walls
- Shop for groceries w/list
- Cook complete dinner
- Bake bread or cake
- Do simple home repairs
- Wash windows
- Iron clothes
- Watch younger siblings

Contact Nadine Ceronio for more details (Ryleigh's mom)



Send us your stuff & we'll get it done:

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Did you know

Get Stuff Done is not only Cape Town based?

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many fairies*

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