



MONTESSORI MESSENGER

Dear Parents

Welcome back after the school holidays and the long weekend. It has been quite a time of holidays which is both good and not so good...getting back into routine is hard☺ **As you know we have one more long weekend coming up due to the SPECIAL SCHOOL CLOSURE this coming Friday in order for the entire teaching staff to be able to attend a workshop with a well-known Montessorian from the USA, Dr Michael Dorer.**

We are so looking forward to it (we are doing it over 2 days – Friday and Saturday) and the topic is the use of Storytelling in a Montessori environment which ties in perfectly with our theme of this term which is The Wonderful World of Books. When I decided on the theme, we didn't know Dr Michael Dorer would be here! It may be pure coincidence or perhaps confirmation of the belief that there are no coincidences. And we are also looking forward to the wisdom of a Montessorian who has practiced as one for nearly 50 years.

We promise to fill you in on all we learn over the weekend and thank you once again for the incredible support from many of you for us attending and closing school as a result.

A really lovely celebration coming up in May is International Day of Families. It is a United Nations initiative to celebrate the idea of the family around the world. Families come in all sorts of shapes and sizes and the idea behind the day is to celebrate this and all that FAMILY means to us. For those who would like to join us, we will be having a family picnic day at Victoria Park on Saturday 13th May – the next day is Mother's Day and with many thinking the mother is the centre of families, what a perfect day to celebrate. The picnic is informal with no planned activities - bring your own delicious snacks and drinks; It will just be a time to share time together as a Montessori Family. We will meet at Victoria Park (where we have the Fun Day) from 11am to 1pm.

I know you are wondering about our building plans...they are on track after a slight detour and approval from the Municipality we hope is imminent. It is difficult to give absolutes but we are hoping with all our might to begin building within the next few weeks. Although on a tighter schedule, we hope to still be on track for relocation of the Prospect campus for the third term. We will keep you posted. In the meantime, cross your fingers that we are nearly at the starting line, with all the i's dotted and t's crossed☺

We will soon be sharing news with you about a new initiative to help our school community connect and grow together called “MONTY MOMS” – we are in the final stages of sorting things out and promise to share all the details with you soon. We hope it will further enrich our school community.

Enjoy the month of May – it is usually beautiful weather, and a calm time with the gentle rhythm of life that seems to come with autumn. We hope to see you at the Family Day Picnic.

Lots of inspirational and beautiful things are being posted regularly on our FaceBook page - Please remember to like us via the following link: <https://m.facebook.com/PEMontessori>

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

SCHOOL FEES – There are a significant number of families who are neglecting to pay school fees on time – and who do not offer any explanation for the non-payment and ignore statements. Please make yourselves aware of our school policy on the non-payment of fees (in our parent handbook and on the d6 Communicator). We are still aiming for a 0% or very low increase in fees next year but this is entirely dependent on no bad debt. Please do your part and fulfill your obligations.

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 have already begun interviews for 2018 applications and if you have not yet submitted the forms, please do so urgently to avoid disappointment. Forms are available on the website www.pemontessori.co.za

REMINDER OF THE SPECIAL CLOSURE OF SCHOOL on 5th MAY THIS FRIDAY – We did send out notification in March and reminders in April as well as posting onto the calendar on d6 Communicator. Thank you for your support of this in order for staff to attend a professional development workshop together. We value and appreciate your support.

Summary of the days school is closed for the rest of this term...

MONDAY 1st May and FRIDAY 5th May

FRIDAY 16th June

if speaking
kindly to plants
helps them grow,
imagine what
speaking kindly
to humans can do

The most brilliant and
intelligent minds do not shine in
standardized tests because they
do not have standardized
minds.

Diane Ravitch



SECTIONS OF THE SCHOOL UPDATE

TODDLER COMMUNITY (MARIAM, JESS, PRISCILLA AND KUDA)

We had a good start to the term. The toddlers have become so much more verbal. We thoroughly enjoy listening to their conversations☺ For our Easter art activity the toddlers decorated a picture of an egg. We will be making a special card for Mother's Day.

As we start our art theme for this term related to books, we will be doing an art activity related to The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Cat in the Hat, The Brave Little Owl. We will be reading the stories related to each project and hope that the children enjoy it as much as we are preparing for them.

We would like to share some information on Ringworm in children as this is a common thing to appear in younger children.

Ringworm is a contagious fungal infection of the skin that appears as a ring-like rash. The patches don't always start out round. Ringworms may also affect your child's scalp. When the fungus affects the scalp, the rash usually has less of ring-like appearance. Instead you might notice either patchy, scaly areas or bald spots. Ringworms should be checked and treated as soon as possible. It should also be kept covered to prevent spreading. Ringworms are fairly easy to treat. It is also easy to contain if the correct treatment and procedures are followed.

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

The children returned after the holidays, very excited to see their friends. The first day back, their voices could be heard loud and clear, with each one relating what they had experienced during the holidays.

We are looking forward to another wonderful term ahead. Our first art project for the term will be a card for Mother's Day. The next two weeks' projects will be related to the following books:

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle and The Cat in the Hat by Dr Seuss. These are two definite favourites among the children and will inspire our art projects.

Congratulations to Hanna Madejska-Jackson and her family on the arrival of her new little brother. We look forward to meeting him. We wish Misha Francis well as they relocate to England. We will miss Misha a lot! We had a successful meeting with the grade R parents and thank those who attended for their time and contribution. We will send out notes soon with a reminder of what was discussed and the plan ahead for some of that extra practice to take place at home.



“Yelling silences your message. Speak quietly so your children can hear your words instead of just your voice.”

— L. R. Knost

SECTIONS OF THE SCHOOL UPDATE continued

THE PRIMARY SECTIONS (Written by Sam)

Welcome to two new children in our lower primary section: Sofia Parfitt who has relocated from Dubai with her family and Katleho Mokoena who has joined us from another Montessori school. We wish you a long and happy time in our school.

The directresses in the primary section have been working furiously to complete the compilation of our Cycle One Reports. As we have revised the format somewhat, it has required a little more from them but as you will see soon, the effort is well-worth it. We have listened to feedback from parents, addressed the challenges we experienced and realigned our focus of assessment to what is valuable within a Montessori environment and tried to do this in a way that speaks more clearly to everyone who may read it. We hope the more depth and detail provided will help you as parents understand how your child is at school.

Our World Book Day celebration was a HUGE success. When I came up with the idea after seeing it being done elsewhere, I was a little anxious about how it would be received, particularly by the older children. For those who may not know, the primary children were asked to dress up as their favourite book character and to also prepare an oral presentation on the book and why it was their favourite. My anxiety was totally unfounded as everyone embraced the idea with typical Montessori enthusiasm. Especially the older children 😊 Not only were they enthusiastic about the dressing up part but their ingenuity and creativity blew us away. And many really went out of their way to prepare orals that were so creative and engaging. More photos are available in the Gallery of d6 Communicator. Thank you to everyone for your effort and eagerness...can't wait till next year 😊



Rapunzel



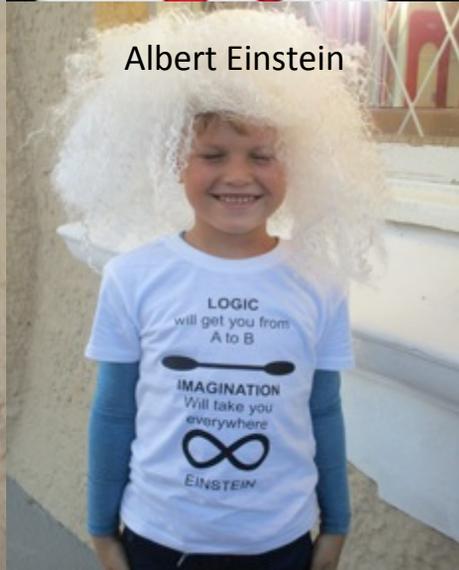
The Cat in the Hat



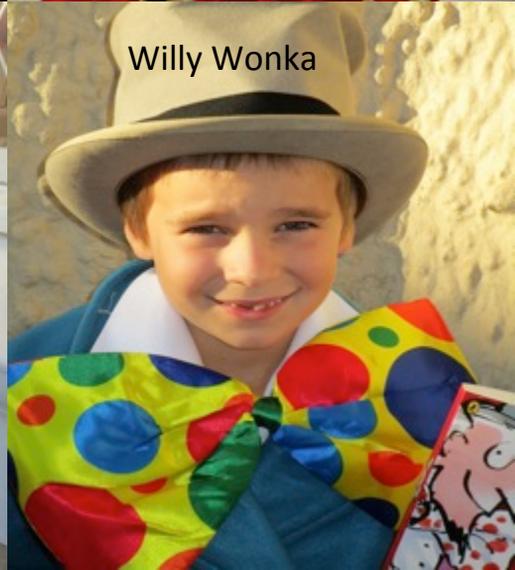
King Arthur



Pinocchio



Albert Einstein



Willy Wonka

How is Montessori Different?

The Real Difference

The formation of children's fundamental capacities is hugely important during the first years of life - not just academic learning but the ability to concentrate, persevere and think for themselves as well as the ability to interact well with others. Children who have been given the right kind of support during these formative years grow into adults who are self-motivated and love learning, can think flexibly and creatively and who are not only conscious of the needs of others but actively foster harmony as they go through life.

Traditional versus Montessori

In traditional education adults decide what children need to learn and the ability to retain and reproduce information is used as a measure of academic success. The teacher is the active giver of information and children are passive receivers.

In the Montessori approach it is all about the activity of the child. The teacher takes on a different role, that is, to provide the right kind of circumstances so that children can be guided to find what they need from what is on offer. Children then become active learners and are able to reach their own unique potential because they are learning at their own pace and rhythm focussing on their own particular developmental needs at that moment.

The Montessori approach provides:

An environment that serves the particular needs of each child's stage of development

An adult who understands child development and acts as a guide to help children find their own natural path

Freedom for children to engage in their own development according to their own particular developmental timeline

<http://ami-global.org/montessori/how-montessori-different>

Before you speak: **T.H.I.N.K.**

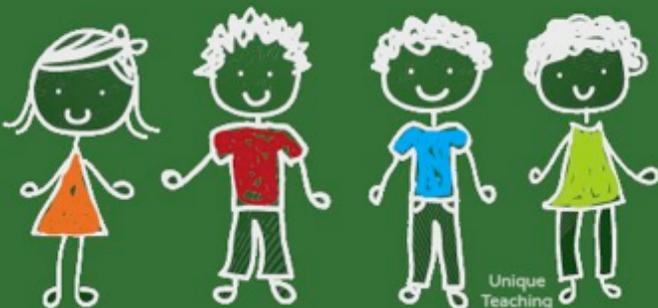
T is it **True?**

H is it **Helpful?**

I is it **Inspiring?**

N is it **Needed?**

K is it **Kind?**



What are your questions about Montessori Education?

In order for us to give you the answers to your questions about Montessori Education, we need to know your questions...

Please send through the question/s you have about why we do (or don't do) the things we do. We will answer your questions through the newsletter so everyone benefits from the info. Email your questions to us whenever they pop up. Help us make the newsletter meaningful to you.