



Good Wishes To You!

We hope you all had a rejuvenating break filled with love and family, rest and fun. We began our second semester. It is unbelievable how quickly our time with the children is flying by! The second semester always seems to speed past so please check the calendar on our website often and make sure to check emails/reminds/Facebook for updates about campus activities and schedules. The new year often brings to mind fresh starts, healthy changes, recentering and focusing on important goals and growth we wish to see in ourselves. Keep these conversations up with your children in their important stages of growth!



Nature's Classroom Institute Visits CC-Montessori Feb 7th-11th!

NCI is the nation's premier environmental education program. They offer a fully customized, highly engaging experience that has direct positive impacts on classroom community and academic performance.

Their multi-disciplined, degreed educators integrate lessons with the curriculum of visiting schools or schools they visit, in order to reinforce what is being taught in the classroom. It is a great team building experience for the students to work together and re-enforce communication and critical thinking skills.



Encourage Independence

Graceful Parenting By: Eve M. Dreyfus

Children naturally strive toward independence. They actively seek out activities that they can learn to do themselves. Listen to and support their independent drives. If you try to do everything for your child, he or she will become dependent on you and other adults to do things for him or her unnecessarily. If you nurture a child's drive to become self-sufficient, you will raise a strong, happy, and independent child.

"The child seeks for independence by means of work; an independence of body and mind. Little he cares about the knowledge of others; he wants to acquire a knowledge of his own, to have experience of the world, and to perceive it by his own unaided efforts." - Maria Montessori



CC-Montessori's Annual Raffle and Crawfish Boil is on this year! Keep an eye for details soon! We'll need raffle donations and sponsorships!

Important Upcoming Dates:

1/26- Half Day: Dismissal at 12:15

1/28- **No School!**

1/31- **Friendship Gram** Forms go out.

2/7- **Friendship Gram** Forms Due!

2/14- Valentine's Day- **Friendship Grams** delivered.

2/21- Staff Development- **No School!**

2/21- 3/4: Annual Open Enrollment

3/14- 3/18: Spring Break! THIS IS THE NEW DATE!

The Second Plane of Development: Ages 6-12 - Montessori Philosophy

The second plane of development is the plane of childhood. The absorbent mind, so prevalent from birth to age six, gives way to the conscious mind in the second plane of development. Learning now takes place at a slower, steadier pace. Children in the second plane of development are much less drawn to the repetition of activities, unless there is some variation involved.

Children in the second plane of development are also no longer solitary beings. They now tend to gravitate towards others in their environment. Around the age of 6, children begin to become interested in their classmates and are learning how to get along. They start to choose to work with others on projects of mutual interest. By 11 or 12, most students prefer to work with others rather than individually. Keep reading to learn more about the changes during the second plane of development.

As they develop, children in the second plane of development also expand their social network. They begin to show a genuine interest in others, whether it is within their local community or in a more global sense of awareness. Montessori elementary programs take advantage of this sensitive period of cultural awareness by providing a wide range of opportunities for children to explore their culture, and that of others, through the study of history, geography, language arts, and the sciences.

Children at the second plane lose their desire for physical order and develop a strong moral sense of order. They have a very strong sense of justice and perceived fairness and following the rules becomes very important. They need good role models as they learn about values.

This is the sensitive period for the imagination, for seeing the possibilities in real experiences. Montessori elementary programs often begin the school year with the telling of the Great Lessons. These five imaginative epics present a holistic vision of knowledge, drawing on material from the various disciplines. They are meant to spur the imagination of elementary students, thus initiating exploration into the curriculum. This Cosmic Education tells how the universe is not a random place or something that "just happened," but shows how each particle, substance, species, and event has a specific purpose and a contribution to make to the development of others. Dr. Montessori wanted children to understand the amount of gratitude that human beings owe to other parts of the universe and to fully realize that without them and their contributions to the interconnected whole, we could not live.

Between the ages of 6 and 12, children experience great growth physically. However, what stands out greater than their physical growth is their capacity for great mental growth. The Montessori elementary curriculum was created with this in mind. The lower elementary (6-9) curriculum takes advantage of the child's natural enthusiasm for learning and lays the foundation for skills needed at the next level. The upper elementary curriculum (9-12) not only focuses on the acquisition of knowledge but adds a level of thoughtfulness by inspiring children to think and question.

In the second plane, children will reason about what has become part of their lives through the power of imagination and intelligence. They need to hear stories of greatness and goodness and moral values. The mind of the elementary child concerns itself with building a conscience, that inner sense of what is right and wrong. During this period of growth, they need to know that the adults in their lives love, respect, and understand them.

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Staff Spotlight!

Get to know your staff at CC-Montessori

Ms. Esther



Ms. Esther is a lifelong Montessorian with several Montessori credentials to acknowledge her enthusiasm, dedication and understanding of the Montessori Philosophy of educating children. This amazing lady found Montessori when her children were very young and now holds Montessori credentials in Toddler thru Administration. She is currently working on a certification on Montessori for Dementia. She taught in the US and in Mexico. Her native language being Spanish, she loves to speak Spanish with the children to expose them to the language and practice their understanding. Last summer, she took a step back from administration to spend more time with her family. She is mother to two adult children and just achieved grandmother status (Congratulations!). We are so happy to have her expertise on campus in the Upper Elementary Community. Ms. Esther works to bring the beauty of our Montessori lessons and the prepared environment to the students. She shares her enthusiasm for the lessons and the ideals that drive a Montessori classroom. She has a caring and nurturing spirit that enhances our campus culture. We are also very fond of her tiny cheesecakes and finger sandwiches! Ms. Esther enjoys gardening, entertaining, and has a passion for turtles.

Did you know Esther is a Montessori Guru? She's a splendid member of our community!

Staff Spotlight!

Get to know your staff at CC-Montessori

Ms. Lori



Ms. Lori has taught for 26+ years. She taught in traditional public schools, charter schools and in our Montessori charter. Her experience ranges from kindergarten thru eighth grade. She is Montessori trained first through middle school and started with our campus in the middle school community. Ms. Lori has a fondness for all the students but feels drawn to the upper elementary community. She brings compassion and empathy to the forefront of her classroom and fervently believes in building relationships with those around her. She listens to her students' needs and wants. She then finds ways to incorporate them into their community. (The students are very fond of "skate days!") She is a wonderful mentor and role model for students on processing feelings and working on honest communication. Ms. Lori believes it is vital to respect all her students and encourages respect for others, themselves, and the environment. She is a devoted wife (of over 27 years) and mother with a deep love of her family, a profound faith, and a drive for personal health. She is a proponent of self-care and does well to model these strategies for everyone around her. She loves watching Spurs basketball, A&M College football, and boxing. She personally enjoys taking kickboxing and Zumba classes. Leisurely walks and bike rides are also favorite ways to handle stress.

Did you know about Ms. Lori? She's a spectacular lady!