



CC-Montessori Minutes

| April 11th, 2022

Greetings Everyone!

The time is flying by as we reach the home stretch for the end of the year. We will have six weeks of school left after this week! The students are busy learning and growing both academically and socially. We have a busy next couple of months so please mark your calendars. We are thrilled to share that Mr. Tevin, our favorite Outdoor Education Teacher, was recognized by the Texas Commission on Environment Quality as a finalist for *Environmental Educator of the Year*. Way to go, Mr. Tevin. Please take some time to read the article about preparing your child for writing. PTO needs your support. Please take a moment to sign up on Sign Up Genius for various help needed. Please remember it takes a village to support our students and you are an important part of our village. Thank you for your continued support. Let us finish the year strong! Here are the links:

April 22 - Talent Show

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44AAA723A2FF2-april>

May 2 - 6 - Teacher Appreciation Week

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44AAA723A2FF2-may26>

May 14 - Raffle & Crawfish Boil

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44AAA723A2FF2-may14>

May 27 - Student Appreciation Day (Last Day of School)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44AAA723A2FF2-student>



Talent Show CC-Montessori students got talent!

You won't want to miss our 2nd Annual Talent Show. There are currently 10 – 3 minute acts from students in all levels. We have singing, dancing, a brief play, poetry reading and even a magician. PTO plans to have food items for purchase. Please join us to support our talented students.



Graceful Parenting “Humor & Fun”

Turn around awkward moments with humor and fun. When you and your child have a difficult moment, use your sense of humor to turn the moment around. Find a way to accept the awkwardness and make it fun. Your child will learn to do the same with his or her difficult moments in life.



CC-Montessori's Annual Raffle and Crawfish Boil is on this year!
Ticket stubs, unsold tickets, and money are due back April 29th, 2022. Keep selling!

Please remember this is our Main Fundraiser for our students and the school.

Important Upcoming Dates:

April 14th – 12:15 dismissal

April 15th – All school holiday

April 22nd - Talent Show

April 27th – 12:15 dismissal

April 29th – Crawfish money due

Preparing the Hand to Write

As a teacher, I know and believe the more children write, the higher their reading level becomes. What helps them start to enjoy writing? For many children writing becomes a tedious chore accompanied by many tears and gnashing of teeth, for everyone involved. There are several reasons for children's frustration with writing.

One is that the hand is not prepared to take on the task.

The muscles in the hand and arm are underdeveloped and lack the fine and gross motor control necessary. A second reason is the inferior quality of paper and writing instruments we give to our children. How can you help?

The fine motor control necessary to form letters on paper is a process that you should start developing indirectly with your children from about age three.

There are many exercises you can offer your children in terms of work and play that will build their fine motor skills.

- Activities such as sorting beans and buttons into an egg carton or muffin tins will help strengthen the muscles and improve coordination between your child's thumb and index fingers.
- Three-year-olds love to clean, and polishing things with small circular motions will help build up the hand and forearm.
- Using colored pencils instead of crayons or markers for coloring activities will also help build up the hands.
- Sewing, painting, squeezing sponges, digging in the yard, any activity that keeps the hands busy will build the hand muscles and develop hand-to-eye coordination.

By age four-and-a-half your child should show an interest in writing his or her name.

If you have given lots of hand strengthening activities, writing should be successful and fun.

Please note that video games and computer activities do not give enough opportunities for the kind of hand and arm activities your child needs to develop.

Even if you have helped your child prepare his hand for writing, many times the tools for writing can create an obstacle and subsequent frustration.

Most of the lined paper for young children is of very poor quality. It tears easily if too much pressure is applied while writing and erasers can rip holes in the paper. Pencil marks can smear easily on low quality paper. The color and texture of the paper can also be uninviting to the child. Try to obtain high quality paper for your child's writing. Offer half sheets of high quality paper and encourage your child to use the front and the back of the paper.

Poor quality writing instruments can also be frustrating to the young writer. Test the quality of the pencils. Many of the lead pencils drag on the paper and require too much pressure to obtain a good mark. Some pencil leads break too easily. Others do not erase well. Crayons are too broad tipped and smear too much for a quality writing experience. Markers do not require much pressure or muscle strength to use, and it is tempting to use them if your child is having difficulty with writing. Markers, though, do not contribute to building up the muscles in your child's hand like using a pencil. To help keep a pencil in your child's hand, have colored pencils available for your child to decorate and illustrate their writing.

You can be of great assistance to your child by providing them with lots of activities that require the use of the hand, arm and eye.

Provide them with quality writing materials, pencils, papers and erasers, to ensure that their writing efforts are successful.

Writing will build reading skills in your child in a strong and powerful way.

Prepare your child's hand with strengthening activities and supply his work environment with quality materials. Then watch frustration turn to smiles.



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Staff Spotlight!

Ms. Stephanie



Ms. Stephanie is a natural Montessorian. She has been with CC-Montessori for almost seven years and is one of our Lower Elementary Leads. She holds an American Montessori Society credential in Lower and Upper Elementary. This incredible teacher is kind and gentle in her approach to providing lessons, guiding her students and her dedication and understanding of the Montessori Philosophy of educating children. She is bilingual and speaks both Spanish and English. She enjoys speaking Spanish with the children to expose them to the language and practice their understanding. Her students receive a Spanish lesson daily during their morning meeting. Ms. Stephanie brings the beauty of the 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. Ms. Stephanie enjoys running, playing soccer, spending time with her family and her two cats.

Did you know Ms. Stephanie is bilingual and incorporates Spanish into her community? She's an important member of our community!

Staff Spotlight!

Ms. Nicole



Ms. Nicole is a new staff member to our community for the 2021-22 school year. She has a unique perspective as she attended CC-Montessori as a student from 1st thru 8th grade. She works as an Associate with Ms. Stephanie. Ms. Nicole is currently working on her degree in Elementary Education at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. Her future dream is to become a Counselor and help others. When she is not in the classroom with students, she enjoys painting and being in nature. Ms. Nicole also enjoys spending time with family and tutoring. We are excited to have her back as an educator in the classroom and look forward to her future.

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

Staff Spotlight!

Ms. Jana



Ms. Jana works in our Lower Elementary. She has been an educator for 18+ years and worked in all grade levels from 1st-12th. She has taught all subjects as well. As an avid reader, she excels in promoting reading, writing and research with her students. She has been with CC-Montessori for almost three years and is one of our Lower Elementary Leads. She holds an American Montessori Society credential in Lower and Upper Elementary. This amazing teacher is kind and direct in her approach to providing lessons, guiding her students and her dedication and understanding of the Montessori Philosophy of educating children. Some of her hobbies include sewing and crafts, which she has added to the classroom curriculum throughout the year. She is a proud mother of a son and daughter. Ms. Jana and her husband enjoy old movies, reading and playing games with their family. She shares her enthusiasm for learning and brings a sense of joy to her lessons with the students.

Did you know about Ms. Jana? She's an incredible member of our community!

Staff Spotlight!

Ms. Tiffany



Ms. Tiffany is a new staff member to our community for the 2021-22 school year. She taught a reading summer camp on campus last summer. Ms. Tiffany comes to us as a certified teacher who has 18+ years of experience. Her expertise is in early childhood for grades PK-2nd grade. When she is not in the classroom with students, she enjoys all types of water activities including scuba diving and sailing. Some of her favorite hobbies are traveling, cooking and rescuing homeless animals. We are excited to have her as an educator in the classroom and look forward to hearing about her cooking and traveling adventures.

Did you know about Ms. Tiffany? She's an amazing lady!