



# MONTESSORI LEARNING CENTER

December 10, 2009

## A Gift — Reading as a Family

In our busy day and time, when it seems that we do not have enough time to do the very most fundamental of duties, should we really make the time to read aloud?

The National Academy of Education and the National Institute of Education created a commission in 1983 to determine what is important in teaching children to read. After two years of work and research, the commission issued a report in 1985 — *Becoming a Nation of Readers*. One simple fact rang out loud and clear: "The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is *reading aloud* to children."

Regular reading aloud:

- ...strengthens a child's reading, writing and speaking skills.
- ...improves a child's listening comprehension.
- ...builds a larger vocabulary [they won't speak what they have never heard!]
- ...allows a child to taste the magic of imagination, which is far superior to any movie and can be used without the necessity of screen other than the mind!
- ...allows the child to hear inflection, cadence and

the rhythm of the written word and then the ability to imitate the same flourishes and readers are born.

### BUT WHY READ?

Every one of us come to this life and somewhere within each lies the great questions: Who am I? Why am I here? What can I do with my life? We

ered a more valuable medium than television, movies, or overhead projectors because literature brings us closest to the HUMAN HEART.

Books are read first because they are FUN! As a child develops and the mind of the child grows, so does the ability to reason and evaluate. The mind and the heart, working together, can bring greatness forth in each of us. Where better to engage both, than through the love of reading, and eventually the reading of great books that not only entertain, but INSPIRE the reader to greatness. GREATNESS! Has there ever been a time when greatness was not needed? Literature can teach the concepts of virtue and cause us to consider our own values and then give us the COURAGE to stand behind our own standards and beliefs.

The love of reading must begin at the beginning! If not 'caught' early, it may not develop at all. A world of the greatest minds lies at our very fingertips and a wealth beyond all value as well — IF WE ARE READERS WHO ACTUALLY READ!

**Begin a family tradition of reading ALOUD nightly to your children — give your child the BEST Gift ever — You and Books!**

all, somewhere or sometime within in our lifetime, have wanted to make a contribution to those in our world. That desire may have retreated within, and it may lie dormant, but IT IS there within all. It is a part of being human.

The two factors most responsible for giving the child the belief that he or she can make a significant contribution to life are parents/teachers and literature. Literature is consid-



*Give the gift of love — Reading to your child!*

## Montessori — More Than An Education

Parents and teachers are the guardians of the future of humanity. As we live our lives in the presence of children, from birth until they become adults, we are constantly teaching by our own behavior.

Sometimes we start to think that "education" refers only to the learning of math, language, sciences and the arts, but this is a very narrow view of what we are teaching. We are presenting to our children the meaning of life, the care of the self and of others, patterns of love, forgiveness and understanding — in short, we are teaching them VALUES FOR LIFE. This is what culture is — a way of life. THE MONTESSORI METHOD ENCOMPASSES THIS AND MUCH MORE!



## Christmas Party For All Classes

### Christmas Party

We will have a party for **ALL** classes on Thursday, Dec. 18th **in the morning**. It will be a gift exchange. **Your child will bring a gift.**

Each girl will bring a gift for a girl & conversely, a boy will bring a gift for a boy. Please, a \$5.00 - \$10.00 limit per child. **Hint — a gift of a book could be a great gift!** Then it will be a gift that will last! Have the

gifts wrapped, marked FROM your child & at the school by **Wednesday, December 17th.**

If your child does not bring a gift, he will not get a gift & that would be just too sad — I am sure you would agree.



Your heart — the best gift.

Help your child with the concept of giving over getting! Talk with them about how the other person will feel when they receive their gift and how it will make them feel to bring love and happiness to that child. Please, a \$5.00—\$10.00 limit per child. Have the gifts wrapped, and marked from your child.

## Notes From the Directress

What a beautiful time of year to remember and hold dear to our hearts those things that MATTER MOST! Oh, it is easy to SAY what matters most, but easy to give our attention, and thereby our HEARTS, to things other than what we say!

What if you knew that this would be the last Christmas for YOU or one of your children? Where would your focus be then? How would you approach these holiday times with that bit of information?

There is a bit of advise from some very wise individuals that suggest we would be smart if we lived each day as though it would be our LAST!

Remember what your

child truly needs:

- YOU! YOU! YOU!
- Time with YOU that is enjoyable!



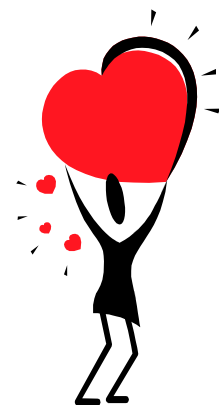
The toys will be long forgotten. The memories of laughter, family traditions and individual time

will LAST FOREVER!

What memories can you create? Walks in the snow? Stories read to a child in your lap — on a regular basis? Games played by the whole family? Popcorn on cold nights? Songs sung as a family by the fireplace? A visit to the local nursing home to bring cheer to the aged and infirm? A visit to

Primary Children's Hospital to cheer other ill children? Family traditions where joy is abounding and service to others a theme?

I encourage each of you to worry less about what you will buy your child and think more of the time you spend with that child in some worthwhile ways!



# Leadership Training — for this Century!!



Today, more than ever before, we need bold, courageous individuals who know how to evaluate situations, take a stand for the good of the whole and step out in faith — the faith that they can inspire others to action — to right action.

What is called for is an education that develops the virtues of integrity, honesty, wisdom, courage and diplomacy — an education that inspires the greatness that lies within each student and calls forth the courage to step into greatness.

That is our ultimate goal here at The Montessori Learning Center

— to provide the environment that will allow greatness of the soul to flourish in each of our students — for the world they will lead — in their homes, in their neighborhoods, in their careers — in their country.

The courageous are the happy!

## Dress For Recess

Winter always brings us a new set of opportunities here at Montessori. One is that of appropriate clothing for outside play!

**TODDLERS** — will go out occasionally, when the weather is not too bad. Little ones don't generate as much body heat by running, jumping, etc.

**PRESCHOOL**— will go out daily unless it is raining or snowing OR if

the playground is unusable due to slush or muddy spots! Children MUST have warm coats;



snow boots, and mittens. Caps and scarves are optional. If you do not wish your child to go out, you must pick them up

**FORE recess. Shoes only inside — no snow boots to be worn in the classrooms**

**ELEMENTARY and UP**— snow boots are needed for those wishing to play in the snow! Otherwise, it will be sidewalk only. Warm coats and mittens are advised. **Shoes only inside — no snow boots to be worn in the classrooms.**

## A CLASSICAL EDUCATION — and what that is!

A classical education is not necessarily easy to define. However, in reading Climbing Parnassus, a New Apologia for Greek and Latin by Tracy Lee Simmons, I have come across some extremely timely thoughts about the subject that I thought to share with you.

In earlier times a classical education was thought to *improve* the learner, not simply to make him more knowledgeable or tolerant or mentally skillful, but better and stronger. Perhaps that is still true today!

Culture is something we acquire — we are not born into culture — and we can lose it. The classical pursuit fosters gratitude

for the fruits of the past and the sense that we stand on the shoulders of giants.

A classical education can assist us in approaching the human problem: What should men believe about life, how should they live it, in what state of society can the good life be best lived, and how can we create such a state?

A classical education allows us to examine great minds throughout the ages to this present day so that we may ultimately come to ask our-



To give is better than to receive!

selves the questions that these great minds have asked. Great answers only come from the fount of truly great questions.

Its main goal is to train the whole person to become intellectually discerning and humanly flexible, tough-minded and open-hearted and responsible

for values that make us civilized.

To discipline the mind and become capable of knowing “how” to think aright is the goal.

Interesting, is it not?

**A JOB WORTH DOING IS A JOB WORTH DOING WELL.**

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**MONTESORI LEARNING  
CENTER**

**If you want happiness. . .  
For an hour — take a nap.  
For a day — go fishing.  
For a month — get married.  
For a year — inherit a fortune.  
For a lifetime — help someone else.  
Chinese Proverb**

## **Things To Think About!**

**When you come to the edge  
of all the light you know,  
and are about to  
step off into the darkness of the unknown  
— faith is knowing one of two things  
will happen:**

**There will be something solid to stand on**

**Or**

**You will be taught to fly.**

**Barbara J. Winter**



**You live longer  
Once you realize  
That any time spent  
Being unhappy is wasted.**