

Hello dear parents of these dear

Ladybugs!

How happy we are to be with your children!

They have settled in to the ways of our Montessori class with joy, curiosity and contentment. There are a few expected bumps along the way, and occasional tears of reluctance transitioning from the comfort of mom and dad, but those are gradually giving way to the distractions of seeing friends and finding something interesting and satisfying to do.

Our seven new children are joining those returning for their second and third year. Here lies part of the magic of the room; there is such contagious learning happening *all the time!* ... and always they are building upon previous experiences.

I have so much to say, and desire to share with you, but have limited time here and now.

- First, the best way to connect with me is by my email: cindyguschov@gmail.com , or by calling or leaving a message for me at school. I will get in touch. My 'simple' phone does not do the REMIND app very well, however Brandi's does, and we communicate well with one another. I will get back to you.
- **Run for the Arts, Oct. 8th**, is a fund raiser for Camas Montessori to fund a few special art performances that come to our school throughout the year. I encourage you to participate in this all around fun! Sponsor forms are due back Oct. 4th.

- **Parent Conferences** are coming up soon! (Beginning Friday, Oct. 11th, or, I am offering a few alternate times the following week, Oct. 15th, 16th or 17th, in the afternoons.) The fall conference is short, touching bases with one another, sharing observations and any concerns we each may have.
- Scholastic book flyers and dates to order by will soon be sent home. If you look, you'll find occasional classic selections.
- **School/class picture day is Monday, 8:30 am, October 14th.** If your child does not come to school on Mondays, please do come in for pictures!
- **Pajama Day** and a small Halloween party is on **Wednesday morning Oct. 30th.** We do not do costumes though. Note that is an early release day as well (at 11:30).
- In the near future, I hope to offer little 20 minute windows of time for you to **come into the classroom and observe the children at work.** I'll create a 'sign-up' for that when we are ready to begin.

And a few basic thoughts about day to day things:

- It is easiest for the children if you arrive at school between 8:15 and 8:30. Arriving late makes it a little difficult for your child to feel comfortable entering.
- Please send their lunches in containers *they can easily open and close* for themselves. Also please avoid juice boxes, 'go-gurts', and sugary foods (we call 'after school' treats). Thanks for your understanding. The Casa de Bambini, (Children's House) is designed for the children to be independent. They hang up their own coat, put their lunches in the small fridge, and water bottles on the shelf, get their own snack and pour their own juice. They mop up a spill, and sweep up crumbs.
- I have the sheets of paper with your interests and talents that you filled out and returned, **volunteering** in such a variety of ways. Last year I was so new, arriving mid-year, that I didn't get volunteer tasks very organized, but hope to do much better

this year! And to that end.... I would really appreciate someone that might be willing to be our *Room Parent*, a go-to person for me willing to contact and help coordinate people, needs and tasks in our classroom. It would be such an appreciated blessing! And hopefully, good fun! Could be for two parents perhaps?

- I hear tell that there are a few returning parents that wish they too could have been here for the introduction to Montessori the teachers presented at New Parent Orientation night. We will have other parent nights this year where the 'guides' will share our joy and understanding of Montessori. Maybe that will give you a few insights as to things you could think about adapting your home environment.
- **Birthday celebrations** are often somewhat traditional within many Montessori classrooms. We invite the family of the birthday child to bring in a photograph representing each year of their life to share with the Class, a timeline of a sort celebrating our unique being and beginnings. The birthday child might choose to bring a small gift to give to the Class (a book or something similar), in celebration. A small, (little or no sugar) store bought treat or special napkin or plate is ok to bring if you wish. (Please know this is optional). The birthday child actually walks around a small candle representing the sun holding the earth globe for as many times as her/his age. Parents are welcome to come in to class for a few minutes to celebrate with us. Please let us know ahead if you would like to do this.

Songs and poems A few parents have asked about the songs, poems and finger-plays we so happily share each day. Here is one your child might teach you . . .

*There was a little turtle. He lived in a box.
He swam in the river, and he climbed on the rocks.*

*He snapped at a mosquito, he snapped at a flea.
He snapped at a minnow, and he snapped at me!*

Well . . .

*He caught the mosquito. He caught the flea.
He caught the minnow, but he didn't catch me!*

Wish list

There are a things that help us keep the Classroom activities fresh and alive. Among these appreciated items:

Fresh flowers. The children arrange flowers in small vases and put them about the room. Would anyone like to provide a small bunch, easily cut-able (is this a word?) stems for tiny vases? This could be a shared task with another parent,, every other week until we can grow our own in the spring. Sometimes a florist will share their bouquets nearing their shelf life.

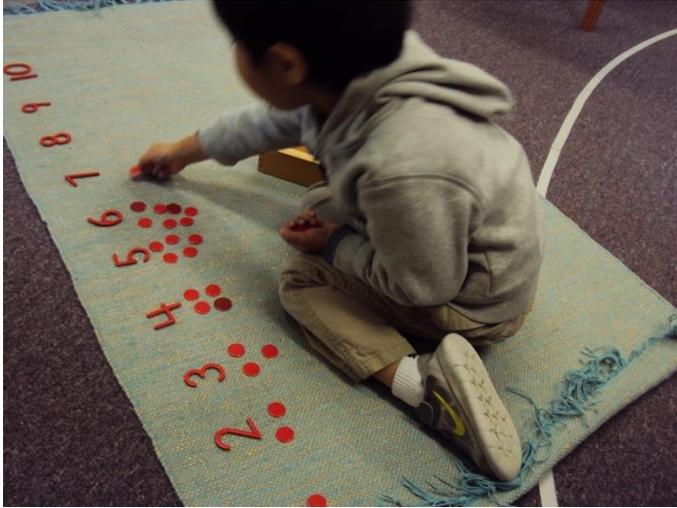
Tulip, daffodil, bluebell bulbs to plant in our extended classroom area

A large bag of potting soil

20 small bags with handles

A few pictures of the children at 'work' follow. I will be sure to send others throughout the year so all the children are included.







Thank you so much for sending such lovely human beings to hold in our care,

Cindy Guschov,

Ladybug Guide

