

NEWS LETTER

O P E N H O U S E

Happy New Year!

I would like to send you my very best wishes for a great new year.

We will be having our semi-annual Public Open House on Saturday, January 27, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Get a \$100 tuition credit if your recommend someone to attend who then registers and enrolls.

Peace and love
to everyone.

Adela Muñoz
Director



► Dr. Maria Montessori

Every year the teachers plan some special activity in their classroom to better acquaint the children with Dr. Maria Montessori. Dr. Montessori is the person who started the Montessori Method of education early last century in Italy. The children learn about Maria Montessori's life through photos, illustrations, stories and other memorabilia. Did you know that Maria Montessori was Italy's first female physician? Did you also know that Italy has produced stamps and money with Dr. Montessori's picture?



► Holidays

There will be no school on Monday, February 12th, and Monday, February 19th, which are Lincoln's Birthday and Presidents' Day.

Dear Parents,

It is never too early to begin thinking about next school year. I invite parents of graduating primary students to schedule an observation in both our elementary classes. Graduate parents of our 6-9 class may schedule an observation of our 9-12 class and of our Middle School as well, and the parents of our 9-12 class graduates may schedule an observation at our Middle School. We are very proud of our Montessori classrooms and believe that observations really help parents understand the next level of development and how a Montessori classroom guides and responds to the children's needs. Please contact me or Mrs. Chavez to schedule an observation appointment.

Mrs. Muñoz

► Public Open House

On Saturday, January 27th, 2018 from 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. we will have our semi-annual Public Open House. Get a \$100 tuition credit if you recommend someone to attend who then registers and enrolls.



Happy New Year to everyone! This year 2018 is the “Year of the Dog,” which represents friendliness, loveliness, and a desire to please and enjoy the company of people who really mean something to them.

December is a wonderful month of the year, with laughter, joyful singing, and feasting with family. We shared once again with a few of my former students: Hayden Hessing (Nicholas’ older brother), Brandon Fu (Peyton’s older brother), Madeleine Du (Nicolas’ older sister) and Wesley Shen.

December activities were a big success! We were able to produce two big boxes of canned foods for people in need, as well as many donated toys. Our Christmas party was fun, exciting and happy! The children carolled twice, once for their parents and relatives and once for Santa Claus. All the children had an instrument to hold and ring to the tune of their song. Food was more than enough for everybody. After the party the children left with their parents bringing their big brown box full of goodies, finished projects, works and presents from friends and classmates. Thank you so very much to all our parents who supported us and gave their effort and time to make our Christmas party a success!

I would like to thank my assistants in class, Mrs. Suh and Ms. Bayon, they see to it that we are a team in all ways that concern the children’s education in class.

We are blessed with a new child this year and his name is “Jayden Fu,” he is 3 years old. He is a smart boy and within 4 days he was enjoying school and classroom activities. Our birthday celebrants are: Rowan Huerta, 4 years old, Ryan Lee, Kyle Ogden, Takeo Zapata – all turned 5 years old, Jordan Chew and Sophia Mendez – turned 6 years old. To you all, A very happy birthday!

In class, our older children are busy with their reading and math works, especially the long chains and polishing their mathematical operations, and rug works with two children working together as a team. Our younger children are putting much attention into recognizing their sand paper letters and writing them in cursive. Most of them too are writing their full name in cursive.

We had a 100% School Shirt participation last month and are looking forward to having another one this Friday the 26th. Thank you in advance dear parents for your help and support in having your child

wear his shirt on the designated date. Another event coming up is our Open House on this Saturday, January 27th at 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm. Please bring your friends and relatives on this date to see our school.

I read to the children the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. by Robert Duval in recognition of his holiday celebration. His life story gives important lessons: understanding equality among men regardless of race and culture, respect for each other and love of country.

I'd like to end my corner with this quote: *"The emphasis on freedom is for the development of individuality. The emphasis on discipline is for the benefit of the individual and of society.*

—Dr. Maria Montessori.

Thank you so much and let's all live a great year full of love, faith and peace.

Much Love,
Mrs. Rivera, Mrs. Suh, Ms. Bayon





As we begin this New Year, we come back refreshed after the holiday break, ready to move forward and tackle all the challenges ahead.

Thank you parents for all the wonderful gifts and especially for your support in making last Christmas special by bringing treats, volunteering in the classroom preparation and clean-up; and most of all, for taking time out of your busy schedules to be with your child on that special day. They loved singing those Christmas carols and were delighted with Santa's visit.

We are back to all our classroom routines and reviewing grace and courtesy lessons. This is in keeping with our goal of having a peaceful work environment. We see the children helping each other clean up whenever beans or other materials spill on the floor. Older children are seen tying a friend's shoe laces; or another child giving a tissue to someone when they see them cry. It's so wonderful to see this happening right before our eyes. The first few days after a long break can be challenging for some of our little ones as they go through separation anxiety after they are dropped off. But once they are engaged in a task they enjoy and see their friends, they are once again happy.

We'd like to welcome Kelsey Luk and

Aston Pan to our classroom. They are three years old.

On our first day back to school, Serena Sun celebrated her 3rd birthday and brought some treats to share with all the children. Other birthday celebrant this month is Wyatt Flores, turning 3 on January 23, Jake Wong, turning 4 on January 26 and Aston, our new student, turned 3 on January 21. Happy Birthday to all of you!!

In the next few days, you may see a display along the stairway of some of the work that the children have been doing in the classroom. This is in preparation for our Public Open House on January 27th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please share your experiences as a Montessori parent and invite others.

Here's an excerpt from an article titled "Why Montessori Education is Priceless" by Sunitha Pailoor.

"Montessori education is priceless...It is beautiful, comprehensive, and, in its most authentic form, a treasure of experiences that leads a child to absorb the wonder and joy of learning...Montessori is a form of education that respects the child and her desire to learn."

Here's to a great year ahead!

Mrs. Roque, Ms. Mills, Ms. Kulwicki and Ms. Martinez

Class News

Welcome back everyone from winter break! The students greeted each other happily and many excitedly shared what they had done over the break. We were also happy to see our class pets again - a huge thanks to Mateo Ramirez's family for taking the birds, and Juliet Diaz's family for taking our bearded dragon. That is an invaluable help to our classroom, and great experience for your children. A small group is also planning a Going Out to take our bearded dragon to the pet store to find out the gender. The reptile was a baby when we acquired it and they could not tell the gender at that time.

Curriculum News

In the Lower Elementary age group, children are realizing that the world is an enormous, fascinating place. They are interested all on their own in studying continents, cultures, scientific concepts, and great literature. This month, we are putting an emphasis on Martin Luther King, Jr. to celebrate and honor him on what would have been his birthday (January 15). A few of the older students learned and practiced parts of the "I Have a Dream" speech, and presented it to the whole class. Geanna Lucero's family brought a home-baked cake to share for his birthday celebration as well! We had a group discussion about civil rights, there were some great, thoughtful questions posed, and those who have also been learning about the presidents throughout their time in Elementary were able to string more facts together for a big picture timeline

of history, since MLK Jr. ultimately worked to get a landmark law passed. Following our discussions on heroes this month, including famous activists and artists, a group of boys have consistently taken it upon themselves to continue research after the class lessons. This is called "follow-up work" in a Montessori classroom. Learning or listening to speeches, and studying the presidents after receiving a lesson about a similar topic, are examples of follow-up work. In this case, children combine their energy and idealism to focus on heroes of the past and feel empowered to strive for greatness in their own lives. So, "hero worship" is common and important in the 6-12 age group.

We had another wonderful treat from our Thursday garden harvest. This time, Violet Beltran planned veggie toast for our class and provided toast and gluten-free chips. A huge thanks to her and her family. On Thursdays, we pick the veggies from our garden like cabbage, kale, cucumbers, and various lettuces, and make a treat to eat together and to celebrate the garden.

Calendar News

Our school observed Martin Luther King, Jr. day on Monday, January 15. School Shirt Day is Friday, January 26! And we are having a Public Open House on Saturday, January 27 for families in the community to learn about our school and have the opportunity to enroll now or consider it for the future.

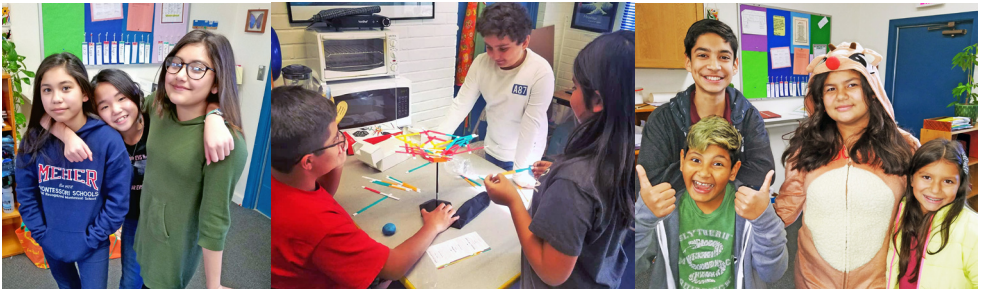


GARDEN HARVEST



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**





Happy 2018, Meher Families!

It's hard to believe that half of the school year has passed. Although so much amazing work and great moments have already happened, there is a lot of excitement in store in the new year.

In the last month of the year, the children were busy finishing up work and projects before the two week break began. They studied the Winter Solstice, creative writing, poetry style analysis, using a compass for directions, and continued the lessons from the previous month. The fifth and sixth graders completed more research for their Montessori Model United Nations position papers, which will be finalized in the coming month.

As a class, we had a great holiday celebration. A visit from Santa, a potluck, a gift exchange, listening to music, and playing games, with lots of laughter were among the activities that took place. A group of fourth years also

began a knitting and crochet project to donate some hats and scarves to those in need!

Thank you to everyone who supported our classroom in 2017. When we think of the year ahead, there is a lot of anticipation. In the next few months, trips to San Diego for Camp Surf and New York for MMUN will be taking place! Exciting!



Welcome to the New Year Meher families! I trust everyone had a relaxing and joy-filled vacation. I heard, or read somewhere, that Maria Montessori preferred to call vacations a "change of occupation" - an opportunity to pursue whatever you are pursuing, just in a different setting.

Below is a list of some things that the Middle School will be pursuing this January.

1. **Parent conferences** ... please don't forget to sign up for a spot. Ms. Lopez has sent out an email with available dates and times; however, we will always find a time that fits your schedule. Also, know that impromptu meetings are always available and welcome.

2. **January 16, 2018:** Art classes at the Armory begin. Elizabeth Chagoya sent a text about this to all Middle School parents.

3. **January 18, 2018:** Science

Share Day - Middle School students will present their science work to the Upper Elementary students in Ms. Strand's class.

4. **January 22, 2018:** Opening Day for the Middle School's new business venture, H₂GO.

5. **General Permission Slip.** You will receive a permission slip to fill out, which gives your consent for your child to travel short distances from the school. You will always be notified in advance of any outing, however, the time frame of advance notice will be narrowed. This will give us flexibility in visiting nearby parks, or taking advantage of area libraries, museums, etc.

These are the activities that are welcoming us back from our winter break, except now, rejuvenated, we are looking at the old in a new way. Looking forward to speaking with all at the upcoming events. Here's to a New Year!





Happy New Year!

Last Month

Our field trip to the fire station was a success!! We had a good parent-to-child ratio, which made the walk as manageable as possible. The firefighters were great! After the children delivered the toys from our toy drive, they gave us a tour of the station. Then they showed us the fire truck, and all the children got a turn to sit in either the driver's seat or the captain's seat. And finally, our tour ended with Miss Tinajero being a good sport and donning all the gear a firefighter has to wear, as a demonstration to the class. I would like to thank the parents that volunteered once again. The field trip would not have been possible without you.

Moving on, I would also like to thank all the families that came to our Winter Program. I wish I had more time on the 22nd to chat with everyone that came. But it was so busy!! I hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

The children worked hard on their winter songs. I do think they got a little nervous and therefore subdued, when they saw the pews filled with so many people.

Miss McCray, Miss Avila, Miss Tinajero and I would like to thank everyone once again for kindness and generosity during the season of giving. We love being a part of a child's early development and formative years. And that, to us, is one of the greatest gifts.

In The Classroom

The adjustment back to school after two weeks off went swimmingly. The children all appeared eager to return to the materials and catch up with their friends. Even the rain did not dampen their spirits. With the start of the new year I added a lesson for my graduate students. They are now tracking their daily graduate tasks in a writing booklet. They are learning how to write out the date and each of their daily assignments as they complete them. This is just another

way for them to independently track their work. So far they have adjusted beautifully.

As for our younger children, more and more reading is going on in the classroom. They are progressing from the moveable alphabet to the wooden matching cards, and from there to the three letter reading cards.

A Couple of Reminders

First, parents please remember to walk your child all the way to the daycare room or playground, and hand them off to a staff member for school drop off. Do not sign your child in and leave them in the entry to enter the playground or daycare room on his/her own. Sometimes we do not see your car when you park or see you walking up the walkway. Therefore, we have no way of knowing with certainty that your child has entered the building and is in our care without you walking your child directly to one of us.

Second, calling the school directly is the best way for immediate communication. The School's number is 626-798-1171. For non-immediate communication, email is best. I check my work email when I arrive in the morning, mid-morning, mid-afternoon, and before I leave work for the day. Contacting me via my cell phone should only be reserved for emergency situations, or on the rare occasions when the phone lines are down due to inclement weather.

Finally, our school is a safe space for the students. We want all the children to feel comfortable expressing themselves by wearing clothing that makes them feel good. Clothing should be comfortable

for the students to work and play in freely. With that said, costumes are not allowed at school unless it's a special class dress up day. Costumes tend to snag and stain easily, and therefore do not stand up well against our wood chips. I also strongly discourage children from wearing rings or bracelets. The reason for this is because hand and wrist jewelry often remain damp long after hand washing and children can wet, and subsequently damage, paperwork unintentionally. Within those parameters, the children have been encouraged to wear what makes them feel good and to wear colors that make them feel good. While at school, there are no "boy colors" or "girl colors," just "feel good" colors. Children of this age often have not established blanket gender preferences. This is a great age for children to wear clothing that makes them happy without embarrassment or shame. Please help your child to remember that this is our school mantra: feel-good clothes and feel good colors.

Wrapping Up

Sadly we did not achieve 100% participation for School Shirt Day in December. January's School Shirt Day will be on January 26th. Please help your child to remember to wear his/her shirt on this day. Baking activities for the following month only happen if there is 100% participation.

Next month is a busy month. The Lunar New Year, Black History Month, President's Day, and Valentine's Day all happen in February. We cover all of those in the classroom. Any volunteers who would like to come in

and share more about the Lunar New Year or Black History Month would be greatly appreciated.

Also, while children are encouraged to pass out Valentines to their classmates, there are a few guidelines. First, do not fill in the "to" section on your child's valentines. It becomes too time-consuming for them to try to pass them out that way, and they often get frustrated. Second, we currently have 22 students in the class. Please make sure that if your child does pass out valentines, he/she is as enough for all students. And, finally, ***no candy or chocolates will be allowed to be passed out with the valentines.*** However, other snack foods or treats are ok.

Until Next Month,
Mrs. Wildhaber,
Miss McCray, Ms. Avila & Miss
Tinajero



OUR FIELD TRIP TO THE FIRE STATION!





fyi

by Dr. Thomas Gordon

January 18, 2018

(excerpted from Dr.
Thomas Gordon's booklet,
"What Every Parent Should
Know")



Do Children Misbehave?

David, a very curious and active three-year-old, empties everything out of his mother's desk and is drawing on her file folders with Crayola markers. Discovering this mess, his mother angrily pops David on the rear. David, of course, cries and looks bewildered.

When David's father gets home, he is greeted with the mother's report, "Our darling son certainly misbehaved today." Predictably, her husband asks, "What did he do?" His question is quite understandable because the message "David misbehaved" communicates nothing about what David actually did, only that his mother made an evaluation of David himself—he was a "misbehaving" child.

If parents only knew how much trouble this concept causes in families. Thinking in terms of children misbehaving not only spells trouble for kids, obviously, but it also brings on unnecessary problems for parents.

Why is this so? What is wrong with thinking and saying that your child misbehaves? Every parent does. Yes, and

their parents before them. In fact, the origin of the concept of child misbehavior goes back so far in history that it is doubtful if anyone actually knows when it started or why. It is such a commonly employed term that its use in families has seldom been challenged.

Strangely enough, the term is almost exclusively applied to children seldom to adults, friends, or spouses. How often have you overheard anyone say:

"My husband misbehaved yesterday."

"I got so angry when my friend misbehaved during lunch."

"My employees have been misbehaving."

"Our guests misbehaved at our party last night."

Apparently, then, only children are seen as misbehaving—no one else. Misbehavior is parent language, tied up somehow with the way parents traditionally have viewed their offspring. Parents say that children misbehave when their actions (or their behaviors) are contrary to what parents think they ought to be. More accurately, misbehavior is behavior that produces some sort of bad consequence for the parent.

Misbehavior = behavior bad for the parent.

On the other hand, when a child engages in behavior that does not bring bad consequences for the parent, that child is described as "behaving."

"Debbie behaved herself today."

"Michael was well behaved at the store."

"We try to teach our children to behave."

Parents would be more effective, and life at home more pleasant for everyone, if they would begin thinking about children's behavior in a different way. First, try to remember that all of children's actions are behaviors. Each thing they do or say is a specific behavior. Viewed in this way, all day long a child is behaving. And for the very same reason all other creatures engage in behaviors—they are trying to get their needs met.

An infant cries because he is hungry or cold or in pain. Something is wrong; his organism needs something. Crying behavior is the infant's way of saying "Help." Such behavior, in fact, should be viewed as quite appropriate ("good"), for the crying is apt to bring the child the help that is needed. When seen as an organism behaving rather appropriately to get a need met, the child certainly cannot be evaluated as misbehaving!

Similarly, when three-year-old David was exploring and removing the contents of the desk, that behavior, seen as a manifestation of his need to see new shapes and sizes, handle objects or draw, would not have been labeled by his mother as misbehaving.



Happy new year everyone. I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season and that the new year will bring health and happiness to you all.

The children did a wonderful job of getting back to work upon returning from their break. They were excited to see their friends and were peaceful on their return to their regular routine. Consistency is key to a Montessori prepared environment and children knowing what to expect really helps after a long absence.

The days before our winter break were full and the energy was high. Our holiday parties were happy community events and I thank all of you that provided food, help and gifts. The coming together of school and families during this time make it all so very special. Thank you to those of you that donated to our toy drive and food drive. It really shows your children to care for, have compassion for and be aware of those that are less fortunate than us.

Last October, we had our elementary AMI (Association Montessori Internationale) consultation. It is the requirement of every AMI accredited school for an AMI consultant to visit, observe and basically inspect the school to make sure that we meet all the criteria to continue to be an accredited Montessori School. I'm happy to say that we will continue to be an accredited school until our next required visit in 2-3 years. Our primary consultation will take place in February. The visits by the consultants are always very useful and help us to be the best Montessori school we can be. The consultants are always so knowledgeable and are so inspiring.

This time from now until spring break is a very busy time. The children are full speed ahead in their work and responsibilities. During this time, the 2nd and 3rd year students in Ms. Strand's class continue to prepare for their Montessori Model United Nations trip in March. I am so excited for this opportunity to be involved in something so grand and important. Please visit the MMUN website if you would like more information on the program. Those with younger students, this is a great thing for you to look forward to for your child in their future years at Meher.

Saturday, January 27 we are having a Public Open House from 10:00am-2:00pm. Please share this information with family and friends. Meher is a special place and we hope you share that with others.

In closing I would like to once again stress how important it is for your child to arrive to school on time. The message they receive by that is immeasurable. Getting their full three hour work period in the morning is crucial to the success of a Montessori student. Please work in conjunction with us to do everything we can to give your child the best possible experience at Meher and that start with being here on time.

Peace and love,
Adela Muñoz

***"What the hand does the mind remembers."
"Imitation is the first instinct of the awakening mind."
—Dr. Maria Montessori***