Dear Parents,

This week was a full week as we observe the children’s personalities becoming comfortable within our environment. When I say environment, I am not just speaking of the classroom lessons and tools; people are also part of the environment. We are becoming familiar and building relationships with our friends and teachers. We also welcomed our new friend Maya back from Canada this week!

During the first half of what Maria Montessori termed the first plane of development (birth through three years) the child’s sense of order is hypersensitive. This can last through the age of 6 years, depending on the child. You may have experienced this with your own child as I did when mine were in this first plane of development. For example, taking a trip, staying out late, or otherwise departing from the usual schedule, can at this stage require three days to get your child back into the daily routine as he or she adjusts back to their sense of order.

While children are resilient, we try very hard to keep the schedule at school as consistent as possible due to this sense of order in the first plane of development. This gives the child security of self and confidence. Every change creates a period of change in the child’s sense of order of self. We also try very hard to minimize the transitions for the child to one at a time if possible, as this helps the child transition in the most optimum and secure way. We are building a firm foundation for the child to feel secure, safe, and happy.

This week we have been very focused on taking out a selection of work and returning it before we choose and take another work from the shelf. Each lesson has a beginning, middle, and end. We take the work out, we complete the lesson, and when we are finished it is returned to the shelf.

New Lessons

One new lesson introduced this week is old fashioned hand washing. The direct aim of every lesson in the environment is concentration, coordination, independence, and order. The indirect aim is what the lesson is physically teaching. With the hand washing lesson the indirect aim is following several steps: retrieving water from our water source, using a bar of soap, disposing of our dirty water, and cleaning up to ready the lesson for the next person. This is a BIG work and also very busy!

Another lesson which was introduced is dry pouring without handles. This lesson contains two glass vessels of which one has about one inch of split peas. The peas are to be poured from one vessel to the other without spilling.
Nest Notes cont…

This is an exercise mastered before we introduce wet pouring which will come very soon. The child is experiencing the means to move with grace so as to not spill the vessel on the tray while the child moves to a table of choice to work. All of our lessons have a means of self correction. In this case, when the peas spill, we must pick them up and put them back into the vessel.

We also began our first cooking this week as we cooked our red lentil pasta! The children loved eating it. We simply dressed the pasta with olive oil and a little salt.

Language
Your children are working to understand the language we are using in our environment. Some of the phrases we are practicing both verbally and physically:

- This is my work (respect of self)
- You can do the work when it is available (when it is returned to the shelf)
- Please, don’t touch my work (respect of others)
- We can be a “watcher” (not touching, using only our eyes)
- “Space" this means that I need space around my body, do not come so close. We use this for safety inside and outside as well as respecting personal space.
  - We walk inside for safety (please practice this at home to support your child)
  - We run outside

Important Dates:

* Picture day is coming! Wednesday September 18th.
* No School: Teacher Retreat with Dr. Ross Greene, Friday September 27th
* Redirecting Children’s Behavior with Rachel Reid
  - Saturday October 5th and Saturday October 19th
* Parent Conference Day, Monday October 14th (children not in attendance)
  - Parent Sign up coming soon! Appointments from 7:30am - 4:00pm
* Words in Color Reading Demonstration (highly recommend parent attend)
  - Thursday October 17th 6:00- 7:00pm
Redirecting Children's Behavior

Elementary 1 Teacher, Rachel Reid will be conducting her annual Redirecting Children's Behavior (RCB) class, beginning in October. Please see your folder for more information. This is a wonderful positive discipline class, is consistent with what we are doing in your child's classroom and will give you paralleled language. It will also give you many tools to work with at home. I took it as a new parent and felt it was worth both the time and money. Then as a teacher, I truly realized how invaluable it is. It is also wonderful that year after year you can come back to the class free of charge as often as you like to brush up; as our children grow, they like to change their rules on us.

It's great to hear other parents stories and struggles as they are so common and can be solved in a great way that we all can feel good. The class also includes many positive choices for sibling struggles at home. I cannot advocate this parent class and its value enough for you and your child. It certainly brought me peace in my home and more understanding of my child's school environment.

Policies on Illness and Absences

With the beginning of our school year, we have begun to experience some of the viral illnesses in our environment. The school's Parent Guide addresses our policies on illness and missing school. You will find the guide in an email sent to you earlier this week as well as on the school website. To provide you with some of the most important information, I have included a few excerpts from the guide. Please access it in its entirety through your email or online for more information. I am also always here to answer any questions you may have.

As a general rule, if a child has a fever or has vomited, we ask the child to be at home and return to school after he or she has been 24-hours fever free/absence of vomiting, without administering any medication.

Communicable Diseases

Students with communicable diseases (including serious colds, sore throats, persistent cough, rash, conjunctivitis, etc.) or who have vomited, had diarrhea, or a fever over 100 degrees in the 24 hours preceding the school day must be kept at home. A student who is prescribed an antibiotic must be on the medication for 24 hours before returning to school. CMS should be informed of any illnesses or contagious diseases immediately.

Illness and Injury at School

Students who become ill during the school day must be picked up within 30 minutes of notification by the office as CMS does not have staff or facilities to care for a sick child. If a child is injured at school and needs more than minor first aid, we will contact a parent or guardian and then proceed as instructed in the registration paperwork.
Thank you to:
The Haspel Family for healthy snack the week of September 3rd
The Pallegar Family for healthy snack this week of September 9th
Coach Taylor for his addition of our small basketball hoop

Have a wonderful weekend!
Ms. Christine
and Rosa

Enjoying the Slide

Color Box #2

Washing Hands