Dear Parents,

January 17th

We are so happy to be back in the full swing of things and returning to our routine. We are also excited to welcome Alec S. and Anthony F. to our classroom family. We are currently working to keep everyone well in this winter season. We thank you for being proactive in your home and sharing your own observations of your children.

Monday as we began our week, we observed the children coming back into their environment in an excited yet very relaxed tone. Everyone was working as they moved through the classroom from one lesson to the next. This brings thoughts of Dr. Montessori’s writings on the absorbent mind* and the relationship between concentration and the child’s will and how they are developed together. The inner forces of the child must be allowed to guide him. Through his work and opportunities for periods of concentration, he becomes independent of the adult. As this happens his will develops.

When a child is continuously told what to do and the inner forces are interrupted, the will does not develop his character and thus the child grows to one who has no will and cannot make his own decisions. This is a reminder that it is a fine line which we are careful not to cross. Help is provided when needed, yet the struggle is also an important piece of the building block. We watch carefully before we step in to help. There are many times we want to jump in to help the child but then we wait and observe the child having a proud experience of success. We are always cautious not to help too soon.

Dr. Montessori also suggested that we could not “teach” the child character, morals or socialization. It comes about through concentration and normalization*. We cannot teach this but experience in the Montessori classroom environment can. With the mixed age group and opportunities for socialization, the experiences are never ending and full of promise.

As we move through our week getting back into our routine, there is much more work happening in our classroom environments than only the prepared lessons. The spirit of each child is growing.

Thank you to the Carr family for providing healthy snack this week.

Dr. Montessori in her study of children developed terms to describe what she observed. The American Montessori Society provides the following definitions of the “absorbent mind” and “normalization.”

Absorbent mind – From birth through approximately age 6, the young child experiences a period of intense mental activity that allows her to “absorb” learning from her environment quickly and easily without conscious effort.

Normalization – A natural developmental process exhibited by a love of work or activity, concentration, self-discipline, and joy in accomplishment. Dr. Montessori observed that children in Montessori programs exhibit normalization through repeated periods of uninterrupted work during which time they work freely and at their own pace on their own chosen activities. A normalized child is a happy, well-adjusted child who exhibits positive social skills in the Montessori classroom.
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