



# Center Montessori School

## Nest Notes

February 2, 2018



I continually go back to my albums from my Montessori training. When I did this most recently, I thought it would be helpful to share some of what I learned with my parents. While there is so much more to say and so much more information to provide, below I have tried to answer the question of “What is Montessori,” just as a beginning for someone who is new to the Montessori philosophy. I also would like to point out that when Maria Montessori uses the word spiritual in discussing a child’s development, it is not in a religious context but rather references the spirit of each individual child.

### What is Montessori?

- The Montessori philosophy calls us to study the child, to study human experiences, to study ourselves, so that we can provide children with unique opportunities that nurture the body, mind, and the spirit.
- The Montessori Method is the outcome of Maria Montessori’s accumulated experience while observing and working with thousands of children all over the world.
- The Montessori approach is different from the traditional educational system as it does not aim at rote knowledge gained quickly (and usually forgotten quickly!).
- The aim of the Montessori Method is the well rounded development of the child’s personality.
- What happens in a Montessori classroom is the children are healthy and happy, as they develop socially, emotionally, cognitively, physically, and spiritually.

In our classroom, we have our old-fashioned hand washing lesson currently available to the children. This lesson consists of a bowl for washing hands, a pitcher to gather water, a bar of soap, a soap dish, and a towel. The lesson has many steps from beginning to end and involves the child learning the steps and the order of the steps. The child uses his pitcher to gather water and pour it in the bowl. Then we are learning how to use a bar of soap. There is the shape and weight of the soap and also the sensorial feeling when the soap is slippery. We can also see the soap melt when it is left in the water. We experience and talk about all aspects of this activity, gaining not just the knowledge of the lesson but of language as well. The child learns also how to dispose of the used water, clean up any spills, and clean the area to ready it for the next person.

Valentine’s Day is coming soon! If you have not picked up your heart in the office for our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Valentine’s From Our Hearts to Their Shoes benefit for Selby Preschool, there is still time. Each heart has the name of a child at Selby Preschool with the child’s shoe size. You purchase the shoes, wrap the shoe box (with shoes) and tape the red heart with the child’s information to the outside of the box. These are always wonderful gifts for the children who are in such need. The Primary class kindergarteners deliver the shoes, giving them the chance to experience the wonderful feeling of sharing these gifts and making new friends.

Have a wonderful weekend!!  
Ms. Christine



To the Robbins family for the classroom and aftercare donations as they purge cherished items that their children have outgrown.