



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9
11 Art Show & Auction 3-5 PM Day light Savings Time, Clock Forward	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23
25 Spring Camp 26-30	26 No School/Spring Break	27 No School/Spring Break	28 No School/Spring Break	29 No School/Spring Break	30 No School/Spring Break

Sunday March 11, 2018 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Flossmoor Montessori School Art Show and Auction

Come, view and bid on art created by FMS students, as well as donated arts and crafts. Some examples of donations: Gift baskets, Gift Certificates from Restaurants, or Gift Certificates for local services like massage session, swim lessons etc. Reach out to your network and see who may be willing to donate goods or services to be auctioned off to make playground improvements at our school!

Please call office or email at flossmoormontessorischool@yahoo.com to inform us about how you would like to participate. My sincere appreciation to FMS parent volunteers for organizing family events and fundraising activities.



Spring Camp starts March 26-March 30 from 8:30 AM-4 PM. A minimum of 3 days sign up is required for Spring Camp. Please register by March 15, 2018, spaces are limited.

From Our Administrator



February was the month of special events at FMS. Children enjoyed Valentines' Day celebrations and crafts. It was a joy to watch children demonstrate their work to Parents and Grandparents during their visit.

Thank you for participating in Parent-Child evening and Grandparents Day. It is mandatory for each family to participate in two social-educational events during the year. If you did not get chance to come during any other social events, please come and observe how children learn best being in the environment prepared for their developmental needs.

Montessori Facts

- **Respect for the Child:** Children are different from adults and each other; each one of us is unique and deserves respect.
- **The "Absorbent Mind:"** The first six years of life are immensely important in terms of learning. During this period, children have extraordinary abilities to learn almost effortlessly; they "absorb" information from their environment, whatever that environment might be.
- **The "Prepared Environment:"** Children learn best and become confident individuals in an environment (home or school) where appropriate activities are available, where they can choose their own activities, and where they can progress at their own pace using self-correcting materials. Montessori tells us to "follow the child."
- **Purposeful Work:** Through meaningful activities designed so children can succeed, children create themselves. The child, in essence, is asking us to "Help me do it by myself."
- **The Human Potential:** Education begins at birth... and never ends. If children's developmental needs are met, children will be able to maximize their potentials, whatever they may be. Montessori extended this premise to the world as a whole, where fulfilled and well-balanced adults would begin to behave better towards each other, leading eventually to a world at peace.



Our Guides and assistants have created very beautiful environment for children. Classroom assistants, in a Montessori program; provide an integral support to ensure that children have an authentic Montessori experience. They work with the Guide to prepare and maintain an orderly, attractive, and joyful environment.

Classroom Assistants support the Guide by making sure all supply in the classroom is replenished for each activity available to the child, and by redirecting the child to continue work without interrupting others.

We appreciate the sincere work of our classroom assistants and their crucial role in modeling courteous and respectful behavior and assisting with the development of independence of children.

Ms. Tami is taking time off due to family reasons and will return to work in fall. Thanks to Ms. Ann for covering before school care with Mrs. Johnson and Primary children during arrival time. Mrs. Johnson has extended her hours to help with nappers till dismissal.

Great team work of all Guides, director and assistants make us a great FMS community.

We have installed a mailbox in Ms. Brittany's office which can be used for sharing any suggestions, comments and placing the tuition payments. It will be locked at all times, please let us know how we are doing. We share many educational information in the monthly newsletter and occasionally on FMS Facebook page. You may access both by visiting **FMS website:** <http://www.flossmoormontessori.org/>

2018-2019 Enrollment Application is being sent home with the newsletter. Return the completed enrollment form to office before April 15 with \$250.00 tuition deposit. You may choose to apply 2017-2018 tuition deposit for coming year. There will be \$50.00 re-enrollment fee for the enrollment form or deposit received after April 15, 2018. We have children in a wait pool for fall enrollment.

We will have some construction work going on during June to extend our Pre-Primary classroom so we can make room for our Young Toddlers to move to the next level. Schedule an observation in the class your child will be moving next year to help answer any questions you may have about re-enrollment.



Please place your orders for Dutch Mill Bulbs by March 20, 2018. Parents are pleased with the quality of their products as they grow very well with nice blooms.

Please join us on March 11 from 3-5 PM for Children's Art & Auction show. Our parent volunteers and children are putting together fascinating Art work for auction. There will be an email sent home with Art Fair flyer and online Auction details.



Young Toddler Corner

February has been such an exciting month for the Young Toddlers. This was a month for our Young Toddlers to share their environment with family. Parent child night was such a great evening. The Young Toddlers were able to have one on one time with Parents to show what goes on in their environment.

It was a very loving moment to watch how the children exhibited proudness of themselves as their parents observed. As the children would move from one material or activity they would make eye contact with the parents with big smiles. The confidence within themselves they have developed on their own thru a beautiful and inviting environment.



Thank you to all the Parents that encouraged the Grandparents and Great Grandparents that came out and celebrated their day with the Young Toddlers. I would also like to thank Ms. Modi for assisting Ms. Rene, Ms. Olivia, and Ms.

Anna in making Grandparents day a success for the Young Toddlers in my absence.

As we move into the month of March I am looking forward to seeing our Young Toddler families at the Children's Art Show and Auction. This event takes place Sunday March 11 from 3pm -5pm.

Your support is always appreciated
Ms. Lisa



Pre-Primary



We have had a beautiful February in Pre-Primary. Thank you to the parents who were able to make it out for parent child evening. I really enjoyed visiting with you all, and the children loved showing off their work. For those who were not able to make it, please schedule an observation with the office, so that you can come see your child at work in the classroom. Grandparents day was a huge success, we filled the classroom with both grandmas and grandpas, and the children not only showed their work, but also sang some special songs for their grandparents.



As a teacher, I love the opportunity for parents and extended family to come into the classroom for these events, because it allows me an opportunity to share about the Montessori method. In the classroom you will see a lot of seemingly simple work out, but there is great thought and purpose behind everything available to the children. A simple sponging exercise serves a utilitarian roll, to teach a child to wring out a sponge, but we bring much more into this lesson. They are working on their control of movement as they carry a bowl of water

across the classroom, and then again as they carefully transfer the water to the second bowl so as not to spill anything. The procedure from set up to activity to clean up requires great memory for each step and their sequence. And cleaning the work and preparing it for the next child requires a great attention to detail. We provide other practical life work that help to develop in these areas, like watering plants, sweeping, folding laundry, setting the table, scrubbing. We also incorporate these skills into how we expect the children to work in the art area. They can explore and create with paint and play dough, but when they are done, they need to clean up and get the work ready for the next child. Spraying and wiping down any paint on the tray, or the table; sweeping up any spilled play dough on the floor or the table. These exercises ground the children to the present; help them to be fully aware of their surroundings.



As the children spend more time in the classroom, we can see them begin to notice things before we need to point them out. A child may see a spill on the floor and wipe it up, or they may see a chair askew and they will push it in. It is the most beautiful thing to see, as children become fully present and participating in the cooperative community of the classroom.



Using practical life exercises to work on skills such as memory, concentration and attention span was such a genius concept by Maria Montessori. It is so genius, because these tasks and activities surround us every day. So, by simply slowing down and including your children in the chores of daily living, you are preparing them to be strong learners. I encourage all parents to chose just one task to

start with, one chore that you will include your child in at home. As it becomes routine, you will see how capable they are and you will all have the confidence to include them in more. Not only will this serve to help them intellectually, but it will boost them emotionally, by giving them confidence and pride in their contribution to their family.



We have only 3 months of the school year remaining, so if you haven't had the opportunity to come to the classroom yet to observe, please do make an appointment. Also, I would like to invite all Pre-Primary parents to make an appointment to observe in Primary. There is nothing quite like seeing a bustling primary classroom, and ours at FMS is thriving and beautiful. We are laying a strong foundation in Pre-Primary, preparing the children for awesome work and experiences in the 3 years to follow in Primary.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon, at our Art Show and Auction next Sunday, March 11th.

Blessings,
Lauren

Community Events



Lucky Egg Hunt is on March 24th at 10 am in Irwin Park for ages 6 and younger. Bring your basket to collect eggs and try to find the Lucky Eggs that give you an extra prize. Don't forget your camera as pictures with the bunny will be available after the hunt.



H-F Racquet & Fitness Club is having an Underwater Egg Hunt on March 24th. The hunt is split into two age groups. Ages 3-6 (Time: 3-4 pm) and Ages 7-10 (Time 4-5 pm). Each group will enjoy 45-minutes of play time in the pool with like aged participants. For members of the club it is free and for non-members it is \$20.

Primary



The Primary Level children have become quite close and a solid caring community has been established. The fancy Montessori word for this is “normalized”, which means that all or most of the children are in a zone of persistence, interdependence, operating for mutual benefit, kindness and helping. This, Dr. Montessori helped us to realize, is what all community can look like and is what we now call “mutual self-satisfaction”. The way that Montessori education is set up and played out is what fosters this. Dr. Montessori saw World Peace as her overarching goal.



Now “normalization” does not mean lack of conflict, that would not be realistic, but it does mean handling oneself in thoughtful, open-minded, productive ways. First, we identify our needs/wants and feelings, then we go about getting them met or addressed while being conscious of others and their wants/needs and feelings.



Examples! Last week, outside (during Extended Day recess) a child was feeling lonely and was standing in a corner by himself. I watched as another child went and asked if he was OK, spent some time talking with him and then proceeded to help him to be included in the play. Additionally, we experience many moments of tired children being helped into the yoga corner for a respite by others, sad children given caring moments, joyful children being supported, teachers being hugged when they seem like they need it and help being offered for zippers, shoes, outwear and work struggles. Maria Montessori has said that service brings us the highest levels of true happiness and satisfaction. I know this to be true myself.

February and March can be months with a lot of indoor time and so work cycles naturally increase, as does focus and concentration. Math, language and geography “big work” is all over the classroom. Big addition, subtraction, multiplication and division are teamwork pursuits and part of the “golden bead” (decimal system) set of lessons. Those who are doing it are learning the functions with 4 category numbers which is then refined in materials that move from concrete to abstract on the shelves of the advanced math area. Younger children observe all this and absorb some of the concepts just from experiencing them in the environment. The Year of Leadership children play a key role. They are reading aloud, counting the math chains (squaring and cubing) and speaking



the language of the math functions. This is their year to shine, and to polish all the concepts only begun in the first and second years.

Now that we have good readers in the classroom the teachers hardly ever help with reading a puzzling word or guiding a child who is struggling with identifying a language card in one of the many categories. It is a joy to experience the children guiding each other and taking responsibility for the activities in their environment. More grammar work is now in the classroom. The grammar games are fun and help the YOL students to understand the functions of words.



YOL students had a special outing to the DuPage STEM Expo on Saturday! Thank you to their parents for participating, getting them there and sending me pictures. They will have another special outing coming up soon during a school day.

Our in-depth exploration of ART will continue the elements and media. **See you at the Children's Art Show and Auction coming up on March 11th.**

Thank you to all for your participation in Parent Night and Grandparents Day. It was a delight to see you, meet family members and watch the children glow as they shared time and materials with you.

As the weather turns nicer some physical restlessness will set in so we hope all of our children can play outside at home as well as at school! The more time spent in nature (and off technology) at this age the better. This helps focus and concentration when and where it is needed. Sleep is essential also!

Snow pant season may be over. They have been sent home and we won't need them again unless we get snow. Continue to have your child wear hats and mittens/gloves. Have them wear boots when it is wet also.

Remember to come visit any time and see our classroom in action, especially Pre-Primary parents! Our environment is so interesting and full of Montessori Moments at this time of year. Keep an eye out for our new "Montessori Moments" area of the bulletin board outside our classroom!

Nan Renzi and Alicia Mendoza

