



June 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8 Early Dismissal Last Day of School
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25 Summer Camp Begins	26	27	28	29

Last Day of School for All Children will be June 8th, 2018

June 8, 2018: 8:30-9:30 AM Young Toddler and Pre-Primary families will be having a picnic
9:45 AM Bridging Ceremony
10:30 AM Commencement Ceremony for Year of Leadership students

****Children are dismissed after their respective programs****

June 11-22, 2018: The office will be open on **Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 to 11:00 am**

June 25, 2018: Summer Camp Begins 8:30 AM-4 PM

AUGUST '18						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

10 Summer Camp ends
20 Staff Returns
23 Parents' Welcome 5-7p
26 Open House 2-4pm
27 Student-Parent visit 9-11
28 First Day of school
28-31 No Before-After care
30 Splash Pad Social 4-6p

From Our Administrator



Dear FMS Parents and Guardians,

It seems like we started our journey of 2017-2018 school year not too long ago and already approaching the end of the school year. I remember some young Toddlers being dropped off in the morning, carried in by parents, now they are walking in the door and heading to their classroom carrying their back pack with a great smile.

As we reach the end of 2017-2018 academic year, I thank you all for your support throughout the year. My special thanks to Parent volunteer committee, our staff and all the parents who participated in FMS social events like; Children's Art Show, Family Movie Night, Spring beautification day and Family Field Day.

Our dedicated Staff at FMS is passionate about Montessori, passionate about child development and passionate about helping your child reach the best potential. They enjoyed working with your child and have created great relationships. Ms. Lisa, Ms. Renee, Ms. Olivia, Ms. Anna, and Ms. Christina prepared the environment and worked with our young toddlers, to help take the first steps into independence. Ms. Lauren, Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Alex fostered the independence working with our 2-3 years old children. Our Primary children enjoyed being with Mrs. Renzi, Ms. Alicia, Ms. Tami and Ms. Ann in the environment where love of learning begins. I am truly honored and blessed to have the privilege of observing children in each classroom achieving the milestones of independence, grace and courtesy.

We have increased number of children in 3-6 age group and will have two Primary classes for 2018-2019 school year. Children enrolled for Primary for next school year will be divided in two classes based on their social, emotional, educational needs, and Guides' input - keeping a balance of age, gender, interests and abilities of all enrolled and transitioning (during fall) children. Class list will be available by end of July. Ms. Alicia is excited to have her class and will be getting it ready during summer.

We will have some construction going on starting June 11, 2018 to extend our Pre-Primary classroom and landscape work to correct the grading to improve the drainage from the playground and school grounds. School will be closed **from June 11 – 22, 2018** but the office will be open on **Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 to 11:00 am** during those two weeks. Ms. Alexandra will continue to teach Spanish classes two days a week in both Primary classes and after school. Ms. Laura will offer "Music for Tots with parents" for 15-36 months and "Introduction to Music" for 3-5 years old children. Ms. Christine will continue Piano lessons in Fall of 2018 for children 4 years and older.

Ms. Lisa, Ms. Alex and Ms. Rolonda and are getting ready to plan age appropriate fun projects for Summer camp explorers at FMS.

Summer camp: June 25 – August 10, (NO camp on July 4) 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

I am grateful to all parents, grandparents and families for their support and trusting us to be part of your child's life and making it another great year!

Please let us know how we did and how can we do better to continue being the nurturing environment for children.

Have a great summer and see you next year.

Sincerely,

Bansari Modi

"The child seeks for independence by means of work; an independence of body and mind." – Dr. Maria Montessori

Young Toddler Corner



Time really goes quick when you're having fun. We started out with just getting comfortable with new friends and a new environment. As time went on the children created their own comfort in their environment.

Observation has been such a wonderful journey for me with the Young Toddlers. Observation not only allowed me to learn wonderful things about each child but gave me the opportunity to become aware of the material they needed in order for them to thrive in a beautiful environment. Tracking each child throughout our time in their environment was exciting.

Every day was a new adventure for the children. Once entering the environment each child had their own way of absorbing the many opportunities of the environment after washing their hands.

Lessons were given on the material as well as the option to do the lesson. When the question was ask "would you like to try?" more than one child would want to try. This was the opportunity to give a lesson on being patient and respectful of a child working (grace and courtesy) and waiting for a turn. When the child practices grace and courtesy they are helping to create a peaceful and loving environment for working. Working does not always mean they are busy with their hands. When a child is not working because he is just sitting, walking around or watching another child working, he or she is working as well.

"The child has a different relation to his environment from ours....the child absorbs it. Things he sees are not just remembered; they form part of his soul. He incarnates in himself all in the world about him that his eyes see and his ears hear." -Maria Montessori (The absorbent Mind)



Several times I have witnessed children working and as I'm observing I find myself wondering what is the child thinking as he sits looking idle with work in front of them. Soon I see the child create a new way of working with the material and throw their arms in the air showing they are pleased with themselves. The child may sit and do the work over and over. Once they decide they have mastered it they will then move on to new work.

At this time many of our Young Toddlers will be moving on to continue learning in a peaceful and beautiful environment. These children have had an opportunity to visit the Pre-Primary class with Mrs. Lauren. More information will be communicated to the parents of the Young Toddlers that will be bridging to the next level.

Thank you to all my parents for all your support throughout the year. Looking forward to seeing those of you that will have a Young Toddler participating in the summer camp program.

Ms. Lisa





Pre-Primary

The school year is coming to an end, and the adventure of summertime is around the corner. We have had an amazing school year and we made it through the long winter to a warm and beautiful spring. In Pre-Primary, we are taking full advantage of this weather and bringing the leaning outside. Some days we have even utilized our little picnic tables to snack al fresco. Last week we pulled out the water table for the first time of the season and added some brand new water toys to our stash. Inside we have continued to put new different materials out on the shelves, as the children are looking for new challenges.



The last day of school will be on June 7th. June 8th will be our end of year picnic 8:30-9:30 and bridging ceremony at 9:45. Children enrolled for Primary in the fall will bridge to their new classroom. And returning Pre-Primary students will welcome bridging Young Toddlers. Pack a picnic breakfast or snack for your family and bring a blanket or folding chairs. We will be



enjoying our picnic on the Primary playground.

With summer vacation coming soon, it is a time to slow down, enjoy nature and explore creatively. Summer break does not mean a break from learning. Montessori says that children from 0-3 have and "Unconscious Absorbent Mind". This means that they learn simply from being in a rich environment. At school we design and build purposefully rich environments for the children's development. But the great news is that you have access to the best designed classroom right outside your door. The learning opportunities on nature are truly limitless. Likewise, in your homes, there are ample opportunities for the children to learn and grow in independence. So I encourage you all to slow down this summer. Give the children time to absorb knowledge from their surroundings and experiences.



"The child has a different relation to his environment from ours... the child absorbs it. The things he sees are not just remembered; they form part of his soul. He incarnates in himself all in the world about him that his eyes see and his ears hear."
(The Absorbent Mind)



Community Events



Playground Play Date: The REC-ing Crew recreation staff will be there bringing with them fun games and activities. Come one, come all, come ready to have fun! You can pick up your H-F Parks Map at the Irwin Center and Goldberg Center offices to help you navigate and find all our parks. June 20th at Orchard Park from 10-11am.



Family Fun in the Park: Are you ready for some Farmyard Fun? Miss Jamie is guaranteed to get the little ones stomping their boots and hollering for more fruits and veggies! This show is interactive and provides kids with learning values from life on the farm. This is a free event at Patriots Park on July 17th at 10am.

Primary



Our enrollment is expanding! I look forward to the opportunities and teamwork available with the opening of the second Primary Level classroom. Currently we are hosting tours and visits and are meeting some lovely new potential students and families. Families considering our school are impressed with the organization, how quiet our classrooms are and level of work that the children are engaged in.

We appreciate all recommendations! We also expect current Year of Leadership children to exercise their visiting rights by coming back for a day or two whenever they can after they move on. Please remain in touch as ALUMNI! FMS is now at 52 years of service to the community. Goodbye to the children who are moving, we wish you the very best in all pursuits. We send you off with love and hugs.

It is a bittersweet time for me and for the Primary Level staff members. Parting with children who are leaving is difficult. There have been many hours of learning and growing together in our little community. It is so satisfying to us that closeness with peers and social/emotional awareness is evident consistently. Often, we hear "I love my school." I keep an ear to the ground to see if I am on the right track as a Montessori Guide always, it is my calling and my passion, and comments like that (and of course all the hugs we get) give me happy feedback. I have appreciated all feedback from you, our parents, as well.



We are very grateful to all families for allowing us the opportunity to share in these precious years of development. An early education in the "Montessori Way" is an investment in self-confidence, self-direction and the ability to think clearly in a complex world, all so necessary in all of our lives.



Enjoy Father's Day when it comes around. It sure was fun to see all the dads at our Field Day.

On June 7th the Primary Level will be hosting our Annual Summer Birthday Party. All children who will not be at school for their birthdays will be honored that day. Requests for party donations will come home soon, from the families of these children. We will be sure to post pictures on ClassNotes of the event.

Primary Level Commencement for the Year of Leadership students will be on June 8th in the morning, Parents of Commencing students are invited to join us, along with any family members who would like to come. Watch for email reminders as we get closer to this date. A Bridging Ceremony will take place after the Pre-Primary picnic on this date also, for children bridging to Primary Level.

Spend a lot of time outdoors this summer and be sure to join your local library's summer reading program. As always at this age, minimal time on technology increases willingness to participate in important learning tasks that are not "entertainment" oriented. Foster responsibility and independence as much as makes sense. Having food preparation tools ready on a shelf, giving lessons in laundry care/folding and keeping the home clean and tidy with handy child-sized housekeeping tools are examples. Children who are allowed and encouraged to join in the essential work of the home feel integrated and valued, this is the foundation of Montessori education and has a huge bearing on self-esteem.

Kay Kay has a summer home with the Mahwikizi family. Thank you! She will be well cared for.

Please remember to send a postcard from your summer travels to the school and we will have fun reading about all the destinations upon our return at the end of the summer. Flossmoor Montessori School, 740 Western Avenue, Flossmoor, IL, 60422.

Cheers and enjoy your family time!!

Nan Renzi, Alicia Mendoza, and all Primary Level Staff



Primary

Hello to my FMS family, and I mean that with all my heart! FMS has been my home for the last 5 years. In 2013 I was teaching kindergarten at a private school, and working two days a week at a learning center as an art teacher and Lego club director in downtown Homewood. The Spanish teacher at the learning center taught Spanish after school at FMS. She spoke very highly of the school and was enthusiastic about the Montessori way. I became curious and decided to do some research. A few days later I made the decision to put in an application at FMS for a primary assistant position, and on the day of my interview I was hired on the spot. This was the beginning of my Montessori journey! I can confidently say it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I've grown so much, not only as an educator, but also as a person. I'm drawn to the Montessori method because it focuses on the "whole child", mind, body, and spirit. As I learned more about the Montessori way I came to the realization that children were capable of SO much more than I ever gave them credit for. I knew this is where I wanted my heart to be. In 2016 I was given an incredible opportunity, and decided to go back to school to become a primary Montessori guide. I'm thrilled to say that this summer I will be preparing my very own classroom for the fall 2018. Parents, it is my honor to be able to guide and influence your precious child. This next school year promises to be one filled with discovery and joy as your child grows in confidence and self-confidence. I can assure you that your child will enter an environment that is safe, warm, and challenging. Thank you for putting your trust in me. I'm looking forward to having a great year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Alicia

Bridging Ceremony

As another school year comes to an end, some of our Young-Toddler students and Pre-Primary students will say goodbye to their classrooms, and together with friends they have made this year, will make their way over to meet their new classmates in the Pre-Primary or Primary Classrooms.

At Flossmoor Montessori, we mark this occasion with a simple ceremony symbolizing “Moving on and up” to the children’s next phase of their time here at school.



We invite the parents of the Young Toddler and Pre-Primary class to come witness our Bridging Ceremony on Friday June 8th at 9:30 am, immediately following the Pre-Primary/Young Toddler Picnic.



Bridging is reserved for those children who are enrolled in the next classroom for the fall. Children who will move up mid-year will have a small bridging ceremony on their first day in their new classroom.



Primary Commencement

A child’s 3rd (occasionally 4th) year in the Montessori Primary classroom is sometimes referred to as the Kindergarten year. At Flossmoor Montessori, we call this the *Year of Leadership*. This is when a child takes on great classroom responsibilities and mentorship roles as they continue to expand their learning through the didactic materials in the classroom. While they are becoming



readers and writers, they are also working with younger children in the classroom on materials they have mastered in years past. This teacher role for them solidifies their understanding of concepts they have learned from these materials. On June 8th at 10am, we celebrate these Year of Leadership children with a commencement ceremony. We celebrate the work they have accomplished over the past 3 or 4 years, and wish them well in

their future pursuits. **Parents of Commencing students are invited to join us, along with any family members who would like to come.**

Montessori At Home: Quick Start Guide

Children in Montessori school thrive when families learn more about the Montessori Method and incorporate some principals in their home. The first and easiest principle of Montessori that you can incorporate at home, is Independence. This concept goes hand in hand with responsibility. You can allow children to be responsible for their own belongings, their own messes, and many of their own needs (thirst, hunger, and toileting). Here's How:

Step stools:



This one is easy for the child to pick up and move to where ever they need it. Maybe they want to reach a light switch, or the bathroom sink to wash their hands or get a drink of water. It would also be handy for those using poster seats at the table, if they are not yet tall enough to climb up on their own (we strongly discourage highchairs) Stools can also be used to sit on to help them get dressed or put on shoes. There are also taller step stools that can be used for your child to help you at the kitchen counter.

Hooks:

Command hooks can be purchased many places (most reasonably priced on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)). These hooks can be used all around your home to have a height appropriate place for children to hang their belongings. Great for coats or jackets, apron in the kitchen, towel in the bathroom, or dress up clothes in their play space.



Small Set of Drawers:



This one is available at Target right now for \$15 and comes in different colors. It is the perfect stand alone dresser for young children. Large dressers are often hard for children to open, and stored inside are way too many choices, which can make dressing time more challenging. If you have space in your child's room for this small set of drawers you can set it up with about 7 days worth of clothes. Pajama sets on the bottom, outfits folded together in the next drawer up, and the top small drawers can be used for socks and underpants (or pull ups).

Independent Play Space:

Children from Young Toddler through Primary, are in a sensitive period for order. They appreciate, and find comfort in an orderly environment. The easiest way for children to maintain order at home, is providing few toys, so they have less to keep track of. Next, it would be helpful to have low shelves or a toy sorter system, that allows each toy or category of toy (blocks, balls, stuffed animals etc) to have its own place, rather than a large bin style toy box. It may also help to have a rug to delineate play space, this prevents toys from scattering around the house and getting misplaced. A small table and chairs would also be a great addition, it is perfect for puzzles, art, and eating. Ikea is a great place to find inexpensive sets.



These are just a few ideas on how to get started incorporating Montessori into your home. As your family is ready to learn more on how to bring Montessori home, get in touch with your child's Guide, and they will be happy to give you more guidance.