

The Pyramid

M O N T E S S O R I S C H O O L O F N O R T H H O F F M A N
L O T U S M O N T E S S O R I S C H O O L



Welcome!

With much excitement and enthusiasm I would like to welcome all of our families to the start of the 2010-2011 academic year. We have all been very busy this summer—offering an excellent summer camp filled with fun learning activities, as

A LETTER FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

well as building meaningful relationships among our students and families. We also spent time planning some exciting programs that we would love to share with you.

Each year we also concentrate on improving our program in a variety of ways. In the previous years we have implemented a wellness policy, green school initiative, among others. This year we are focusing our efforts

on creating stronger and more meaningful relationships with our families, working together based on the principles of Montessori philosophy.

We look forward to this upcoming school year, and we hope that with your help, we will continue to build on our beautiful Montessori community.

Molood Naghibzadeh PhD.

2010/2011 Seminar Topics By Sara Motlagh

This year we plan to offer several seminars to parents of the MSNH and Lotus community. The purpose of seminar topics is to help you and your family achieve a balance between the Montessori philosophy and the everyday grind. There will be articles/handouts given as well as an open discussion format where parents can discuss what

has worked and perhaps what were some of the challenges faced. If there are any topics that you would be interested in discussing, please let Miss Motlagh know.

Schedule of Topics:
Freedom & Discipline:
The Creativity Crisis:
Developing Good Communication Skills within your Child:
Developing Family Customs/

Traditions:
Quality Family Time: Finding a Balance between Structures Activities and Free Time
Building Extended Families/Friend Relationships for Healthier Child Rearing
Tips for a Successful Family Life

Parent Education Sessions

By David Wiskowski

Parent Education Session I focuses on helping parents understand Montessori philosophy as well as some of the highlights of our school community. This is a highly informative session, and while it is required for new parents, we highly encourage all parents to attend. Many of our parents attend each year, and they continue to acquire a deeper understanding of Montessori philosophy.

Parent Education Session II will focus on the curriculum. This session will be offered on different nights for the varying age levels. If you are curious about other age level's curriculum, feel free to attend the sessions for that level (see the school calendar for dates and times). Teachers will demonstrate the educational concepts behind the materials as well and the scope and sequence of the curriculum.

Parent Education Session III addresses Montessori in the home environment. The Montessori approach to education is a cooperative effort between the school and the family, and we give you information for ways that you can implement Montessori philosophy in your home.

EME Parent Night Schedule By Sara Motlagh

Erdkinder Morals and Ethics is a discussion based course in the fields of psychology and philosophy. With the family at the center of the growing teen's life it is imperative that topics relating to character and moral development are discussed within the home as well as at school. The purpose of the Parent EME Nights is for the adolescent to hear the parent perspective on various topics relating to moral and ethical content. It is also important that the students share their thoughts so that further discussion may take place at home. This is just another link that we make between home and school.

EME Schedule: Semester 1

Monday, September 16th @ 5:15 PM

Tuesday, October 12th @ 5:15 PM

Monday, November 8th @ 5:15 PM

Monday, December 13th @ 5:15 PM

Elementary Summer Camp By Dariush Kakvand

The 2010 MSNH summer camp could be described with a plethora of words; however, I prefer one: Fun! This summer went by incredibly fast and just as soon

as summer bonds were made, they will continue into the fall as the school year commences.

The idea of having different "clubs" turned out to be nothing less than a success on every front. It allowed for teachers to work with specialized groups and focus on each child developing in its own right. For example, in robotics higher level students worked more on programming their robots than actual construction. The younger students focused more on construction and worked with an older child or Erdkinder student to assist them with the programming. The club idea also allowed for each child to gain experience in a lot of different fields in each session. One morning a child would go gardening, the next they would be in front of a computer learning how to type. Or maybe a child would do physical fitness with Miss Motlagh and then sit down and enjoy some relaxing sewing time with either Dr. Naghib or Mrs. Sher. In addition to all of our fun activities, we devoted time to academic enrichment—reinforcing concepts learned from the previous school, so they would pick up right where they left off in the upcoming year, as well as some new material.

In and out of the classroom we focused on "Biomes." At least one of the field trips during each session focused on our biome theme. It allowed the children to receive a fun-filled les-

son from Mrs. Sher as well as an interesting trip that allowed them to gather even more information. Most of our art and crafts were biome oriented as well as our story readings. On top of the "Biome" themed field trips, we also went on several other educational field trips such as The Rockford Discovery Center—a hands on museum which enabled our children to experience various aspects of life, from working on a farm to a television anchor on the news even to a virtual reality sports player.

All in all this summer was a blast. Everyone on the staff thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each child outside of the typical school year classroom setting. We would like to thank you for spending your summer with us and we hope to see you again next year.

Toddler Summer Camp **By Shelley Haskins**

The Toddlers had a fun-filled summer! During our really hot days, the children enjoyed romping in two wading pools on our patio. They loved it so much it was hard to get them out of the water. Their love of just being wet led to many water activities. From bubble making to watering plants, they were actively engaged. Our beautiful planters in front of the school are a result of all of their attention. They happily filled their watering cans from the

rain barrel's tap and carried them back and forth almost endlessly. That same attention went to their garden where they are now seeing melons and cucumbers growing on the vines. They loved working next to Mrs. Anees in the garden, especially if they got to use the hose! The class also went on many nature walks and really enjoyed exploring the outdoors. One of the toddlers' favorite words is now "outside" which just lets us know how much fun they have had.

Primary Summer Camp – Field Trips

By Mersedeh Wiskowski

The summer field trips allow our children to experience the outside world with the company of their classmates and teachers. For many of our three year old students, the summer trips were their first field trip experience, and as you can imagine they were very excited not only to go on a trip with their peers, but also to ride on the big school bus. The field trips are also a good way to get our students ready for future, longer field trips that they will be going on when they are in Elementary and Erdkinder.

The three field trips that we went on this summer were Lakeview Nature Center, Brookfield Zoo and DuPage Children's Museum. At Lakeview Nature Center the children

learned about different kinds of bears, in particular the brown bear and the polar bear. They explored their habitats, their food and their skin coverings. At Brookfield Zoo, the children attended a Critter Coverings class in which the children learned about mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, and how we can tell them apart by their coverings. They also enjoyed walking around the zoo and seeing all the beautiful animals. DuPage Children's Museum was a big hit among the students and the parents. The children explored exhibits such as Waterways, Make It Move, Math Connection, and many more. The hands-on exhibits made it fun and enjoyable for all the kids.

In the Elementary years, the field trips become longer and more adventurous. The students have the opportunity to stay overnight at the Shed Aquarium, go on a road trip to Springfield, as Upper Elementary students they will go to Costa Rica, and as Erdkinder students they will plan their own trip to Europe. When the exposure to field trips begins at a young age for the students, the benefits are much greater and the results are seen in the Elementary years and beyond.

**Primary Summer Camp
Fakhra Ali**

The primary summer camp is always exciting and the children learned new topics for our summer camp within the realm of Montessori philosophy and teaching. The children studied biomes, where they learned a lot of amazing facts about different habitats of the world. Children are naturally curious about animals, and they explored different animal characteristics through art projects and field trips.

We discussed forests—coniferous, deciduous, and rainforests, from all around the world. Activities included learning about parts of trees and an exercise involving gluing and

looping yarn to create leaves. These activities enhance fine motor skills, as well as painting and creating individual and collective projects like wall murals and collages. Special snacks were introduced: figs and dates for example went very well with our desert biomes.

Our children got the chance to observe animal markings when they visited Brookfield Zoo, and they learned that spots which look similar from far are actually different—especially on Zebras and Giraffes. Each member of the large cat family has different spots and animal markings. The children painted and separated them into each category, observing this scientific covering. Older children got a chance to play games and study fun facts about animal

habits and did basic research. We also read stories that corresponded with our biome themes. The *Emperor Egg* was read when we did the Polar Regions. The Marine biome was very exciting as children love Orcas, Great White Sharks, jelly fish, and the list goes on and on!!

Cultural subjects are very important in Montessori curriculum, which teaches children about geography, science and history. We introduce this content to preschoolers at a beginning level.

Water fun when days were scorching hot and picnic lunches at end of week were all part parcel of a very exciting MSNH and Lotus Summer Camp!

Monday	Aug 23 rd	Varies (See Next Column)	**Elementary Parent Meeting REQUIRED 5:00 PM Mrs. Haider's class 5:45 PM Miss Motlagh's class 6:30 PM Mrs. Scales' class
Monday	Aug 23 rd		Erdkinder Camp Trip Opening Day for Erdkinder
Tuesday	Aug 24 th	6:30 PM	3-6 yrs. Parent Meeting
Wednesday	Aug 25 th		Opening Day of School (except Erdkinder)
Tuesday Wednesday	Aug 31 st Sept 1 st	6:30 PM MSNH	Parent Education Session I All Ages
Thursday	Sept 2 nd	6:30 PM Lotus	Parent Meeting (REQUIRED for parents of 1 yr.-3 yrs. in Infant & Toddler programs)
Monday	Sept 6 th		Labor Day Holiday <u>SCHOOL CLOSED</u>
Tuesday Wednesday	Sept 7 th Sept 15 th	6:30 PM MSNH	Parent Education Session II ONE evening REQUIRED for parents of 3-6 yrs.
Thursday	Sept 16 th	6:30PM	Lower Elementary Curriculum Meeting
Wednesday	Sept 21 st		Peace Day Celebration
Tuesday	Sept 21 st	6:30PM	Upper Elementary Curriculum Meeting
Thursday	Sept 23 rd	3:30-6:00 PM @ MSNH 5:00-6:30 PM @ Lotus	Ice Cream Social