

CC-Montessori School

www.cc-montessori.com

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January 15, 2021

Welcome to 2021. We hope everyone enjoyed a safe and happy break. Please help us continue to keep everyone safe as we make our way as a community through the next few months by social distancing, daily health checks and making responsible choices when out and about. If your student or family is exposed to Covid-19 please plan to engage in Distance Learning while you self-quarantine. Your child's teacher will contact you with any work, along with our Ascend Math and RAZ Kids online programs. On our first week back we focused on outdoor social distancing while engaging Outdoor Learning (Reading Activities, Mathematics, Science) and spruced up our campus with outdoor projects. This was such a great time. I have attached some great photos and we have some on our Parents Facebook Page. We returned to classroom learning on January 11th. Friday Face to Face classes begin on January 22nd. **For our Face to Face learners - please return your Chromebooks next week.** Please join PTO! A flier was sent out about joining and is on the PTO page of our Website and our Parents of CCMS Facebook page. As always we will focus on keeping our campus healthy, safe and learning. Reach out with questions, concerns or ways we can help. We also love to hear positives and successes. Thank you for being a part of our amazing community.

Upcoming Events

January 18	Bad Weather Day/No School
January 19	M.S. Boys Basketball game 5 p.m. @ YCA
January 21	PTO Meeting via Zoom
January 22	Face to Face Friday begins
January 25	MAST Board Meeting 12:00 p.m.
February 1	Intent to Return forms home-due 2/11
February 3	12:15 Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 12	Staff Development - No Face to Face

Graceful Parenting

Teach your child about Emotions

From the time your child is born, talk about how they are feeling. Teach your children how it feels to be happy, sad, afraid, angry or nervous. In simple language, discuss the details of what causes these emotions. When children understand and talk about their emotions, they won't get frustrated or angry so easily.

"It is well to cultivate a friendly feeling towards error, to treat it as a companion inseparable from our lives, as something having a purpose which it truly has."

– Maria Montessori

Exciting Happenings!

We received our Imagination Building Blocks and are excited to share with the students.

National Montessori Week is approaching quickly. This year for our 15th year anniversary we are asking students to design a t-shirt idea for our National Montessori Week Celebration in February. Start brainstorming about Montessori. Information is on the Website and t-shirt designs are due back on January 22nd.

Great plans are in place for our playground space. We are looking for a parent who would like to powerwash, attach replacement parts and stain the playground. If you are interested, please call Ms. Ada.

We are looking for more outdoor seating spaces-patio furniture, picnic tables and benches. If you can help with this, please let us know.

Our National Montessori Week celebration and our Scholastic Book Fair the last week in February will look different this year. Stay tuned for more information.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IS MESSY. MONTESSORI'S FOUR PLANES HELPS.

Have you ever raised a litter of kittens? It's pretty amazing. Kittens are only kittens for a short time, little nothings with sharp claws and silky fur. Within just six months, they have changed into long, sleek, almost-adults capable of having litters of their own.

Watching kittens grow -- or plants sprout -- makes development seem so orderly and straight. We ingest calories; we grow bigger. We acquire information; we get smarter. Inputs and outputs.

NOT A LINE BUT A WAVE

The truth is that growth happens not in a steady trickle but in waves of passion, long periods of lethargy, occasional bouts of depression and changed interests. Growing is push-pull, grab and release, ache and exaltation.

To us, the cat is the miracle of life in miniature. In July, it's a kitten. By Christmas, it's having kittens. But to the cat, the journey is long and hard and begins before it takes a breath. The time spent in the womb and the effort made in his own birth are intense and miraculous.

We forget that when our kitten's eyes were sealed shut, it must have felt like he was seeking nourishment out of the darkness for ages.

We overlook the energy it requires to learn the physical skills needed to hunt for food -- to try and lift his entire body into the air and - for the first time - pounce.

It is the same with humans, but since our childhoods are so much longer, so, too, the journey. By adulthood, we've lost our memories of the darkness of the womb, the ache in our muscles from learning to stand upright and walk. Even the long, painful years we spend yearning for independence yet subject to the whims of adults fade in time.

But these events shape us -- whether in our conscious minds or not -- and when we take it all in, from conception to maturity, we see it is a long road worthy of our admiration. Growing up should be celebrated.

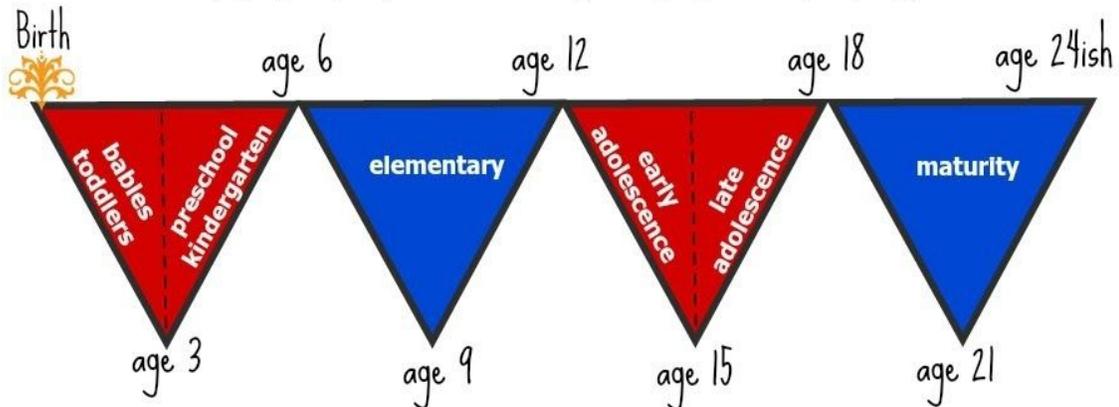
THE FOUR PLANES OF DEVELOPMENT

Still, our drive to find linear order in growth is strong. To counter, we find guidance in Maria Montessori's work. She described human development as occurring in a series of four planes, or periods, and in 1951 developed a graphic to help explain the concept. Here's a version:

The Planes of Development

The Constructive Rhythm of Life

(Originally developed by Maria Montessori in 1951, presented/interpreted here by Aubrey Hargis)



This is the absorbent mind, at first unconsciously growing and then slowly becoming a conscious worker; period of great intensity.

A period of calmness and happiness marked by a state of health, strength, and stability; mentally proficient and ready for cultural studies.

Another period of immense growth, much akin to the first plane, marked by the turbulence of puberty and the intense desire for independence.

The last passage into adulthood.... A time for thinking about one's contributions to the mission of humanity.

The flame at birth represents the beginning of life: the spark of existence. As the child grows up and passes into and out of each plane, different characteristics emerge. They are surprisingly consistent across all of humanity regardless of culture.

The graphic is powerful because it lets us see that development is not as a single, smooth line but rather like waves. It very clearly distinguishes the different planes of development from one another yet shows their balance and unity. Notice, for example, how infancy and adolescence mirror each other, as does the elementary child and the college age almost-adult.

Moreover, it captures the journey within each plane itself -- for example, the change at age 3 from toddler to preschooler. Growth and development become like waves within waves, a turbulent ebb and flow that captures the truth of the matter. Growing up is hard.

THE STORY CONTINUES

For all its strengths, no single image can really capture the complexity of development. The sharp points of the triangles and the heavy lines convey too much rigidity or structure. Growth is more like the gradual lift and decline of a hill, not the stiff peak of a mountain. (Maria must have felt the same hesitation because she later developed a more organic visualization).

None-the-less, thinking of child development in this way is truly powerful, for it simultaneously recognizes the ebb and flow of development while giving it an understandable structure. Like the kitten that seems to age before our eyes, the chart makes tangible what is abstract. The miracle of life in miniature.

Welcome Back to School - Work and Learn Outside - January 5 - 8, 2021



Butterfly Entrance to our Fairy Garden



River Rock Entrance

Science



Creating Geodes



Making Moon Rocks



In the Garden



Painting, building and more painting...





Middle School Basketball

