

CC-Montessori School

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December 11, 2020

We cannot believe the end of our first semester is almost here. What a wonderful semester it has been despite the situation. Our students are happy and learning. We have lots of outside learning happening and our new afternoon enrichment schedule is filled with exciting activities. Ms. Serita (one of our previous Middle School Montessori teachers) has joined our community and is focused on small group Math lessons in the mornings and STEM lessons in the afternoons. The students began our Fall planting and we look forward to some yummy veggies soon. Mr. Tevin added a Pitcher plant to our outside classroom and the students enjoy observing and feeding this unique addition. Please ask your child for more information about this interesting plant. We are in the final stages of preparing our Outdoor Classroom. This includes adding signage, a pollinator's garden and a birding area. We still need support completing these areas. Please reach out to Mr. Tevin if you can help. We patiently await our Imagination Playground 100 Mixed Blocks for our outdoor play area. This will allow our students to build outside using their imagination (a \$3000.00 value). We would also like to welcome Mr. Freddy (our evening/weekend maintenance person) and Ms. Gina (our daytime custodian). They help keep our community sparkling. We continue to focus on keeping our community safe and healthy. Our students practice safe hygiene, social distancing and work outside whenever possible. It has been exciting to observe them learn and adapt to this new learning environment. Please help us continue to keep everyone safe as we make our way as a community through the next few months by social distancing during the holidays, daily health checks and making responsible choices when celebrating. Reach out with questions, concerns or ways we can help. We also love to hear positives and successes. Enjoy your weekend!

Upcoming Events

- December 15 PTO Meeting 6 p.m. - virtual meeting
Zoom ID 660-404-5347 P/W 78411
- December 16 Dinner Night Out 4-8 p.m. - **Freddy's**
L/E. Pajama & Reading Day
- December 17 M/S Basketball @ St. James 5 p.m.
- December 18 Last Day of Distance Learning & End
of Six Weeks
- December 19 - January 4 Winter Break
- January 5 Back to Campus

Graceful Parenting

Parents often get frustrated or angry with their children because they expect them to do things they can't do yet. Some parents expect children to act like grown-ups, but they're not. Don't expect too much from your child. Instead, learn what to expect from your child at each age by reading a book or talking to a professional. Children can be loud, impolite, selfish, and demanding. This is normal behavior for them. Don't expect your child to be naturally caring and polite; you have to teach them these behaviors. No child is born knowing how to act like an adult.

Exciting Happenings!

Our CC-Montessori community rocks! We raised \$1,348.80 on our Read-A-Thon. Super exciting! Thank you for all the reading and sharing.

Outdoor Classroom Update - we had a visit from Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries and Nueces Delta Preserve and they are thrilled with the progress of our space. We are excited to move forward and add more items to our space.

PTO is working with local t-shirt companies to create shirts with our "new" logo. We are so excited to see them.

Our Role as Leaders within our Families

Our initial responsibility as leaders, no matter what field we are in, is to first do no harm.

If we are going to be problem solvers and remove obstacles to a child's development, we have to take risks.

Change always involves the danger that what we do may not work but change also creates the opportunity that our modifications may work better than we imagined.

Our risk taking is calculated so that we give up something good to get something better.

The knowledge, skills and attitudes of a leader become critical as we endeavor to make changes.

- Have we listened carefully to those around us to truly understand needs and requests?
- Do we have the ability to respond to those needs?
- Can we take the responsibility?
- Can we bring enthusiasm and passion to our tasks?
- Do we have a clear vision in order to empower others to see their worth and potential?

We have three basic ways to affect change:

- We can change our attitude about a situation.
- We can change the rules that govern the situation.
- We can change the environment.

Change our attitude.

Martin and Lela were frustrated that their four-year-old, Olivia, would not settle down for a 7:30 bedtime.

Until after 9:30 every evening Olivia was up for a drink of water, jumping on the bed, surfing down the stairs on her stomach, and various other non-sleeping activities.

Using a leadership idea of "ask more, talk less," Martin and Lela decided to ask Olivia why she couldn't get to sleep and how they might help her.

Much to their surprise, Olivia suggested that they take a walk after dinner every night so Olivia could exercise. A thirty-minute walk around the neighborhood with flashlights in the cold seemed to be the antidote for their sleeping pill.

Martin and Lela changed their attitude about what bedtime should look like. Risking what might happen if they let Olivia set the routine, created a situation that was a win/win. Olivia got tired enough to go to sleep. Lela and Martin got some exercise and energy for the rest of their evening.

Change the rules.

Pam and Pat, dealing with much the same situation with their four-year-old, Logan, took another tactic.

After getting input from Logan, they decided to change his bedtime routine.

Logan could turn off his new bedside lamp with the clap of his hands, empowering him to have more control over when he went to sleep.

After a nighttime routine of brushing teeth, pajamas, story and prayers, Logan agreed to not get up from bed, but would read and listen to music until he was ready to sleep.

Working with Logan to find a solution to bedtime problems, created new expectations. A clap of the hands changed bedtime for the better.

Change the environment.

Jeff and Julie were getting more ragged every day as their sleep was disrupted by their daughter Morgan's 2 am visits.

Tucking Morgan into her own bed didn't help her get back to sleep. Nobody got any sleep if Morgan got into bed with Jeff and Julie.

In a parenting magazine, Julie came across the idea of putting a sleeping bag at the foot of their bed for Morgan. Morgan agreed to the idea of using the sleeping bag if she got up in the middle of the night.

After a few more days of investigations, Jeff discovered that the air conditioner came on around 2 am each morning and blew cold air on a coverless Morgan. Moving Morgan's bed and changing the thermostat to come on at a later time fixed Morgan nocturnal roaming.

Leadership requires that we take risks by changing our attitude, changing our rules, and changing our environment to help make life better for those around us—ourselves included.

"The child has other powers than ours, and the creation he achieves is no small one; it is everything"

— Maria Montessori