

CC-Montessori School

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December 18, 2020

Welcome to Winter Break. We hope everyone enjoys 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 during the holidays, daily health checks and making responsible choices when celebrating. If your student or family is exposed to Covid-19 during the break please engage in Distance Learning while you self-quarantine. For our first week back we plan to focus on outdoor social distancing while engaging Outdoor Learning (Reading Activities, Mathematics, Science) and Beautifying Our Campus with many outdoor projects (creating front sensorial gardens, building more outdoor work areas, stepping stones, painting murals, playground equipment and more). Please ensure your student prepares for daily by wearing appropriate clothing (clothes that can get dirty or stained), old tennis shoes and packs lots of snacks, lunch and reusable water bottles. Our goal is to return to classroom learning on January 11th with Friday Face to Face class beginning on Friday, January 22nd. 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. Enjoy your Winter Break!

Upcoming Events

December 19 - January 3	Winter Break
January 4	Staff Development/ No School
January 5	Back to Campus
January 5 - 7	Beautify Our Campus
January 18	Bad Weather Day/No School

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. More information coming soon.

Great plans are in place for our playground space. So excited for us to begin in January 2021.

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

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.

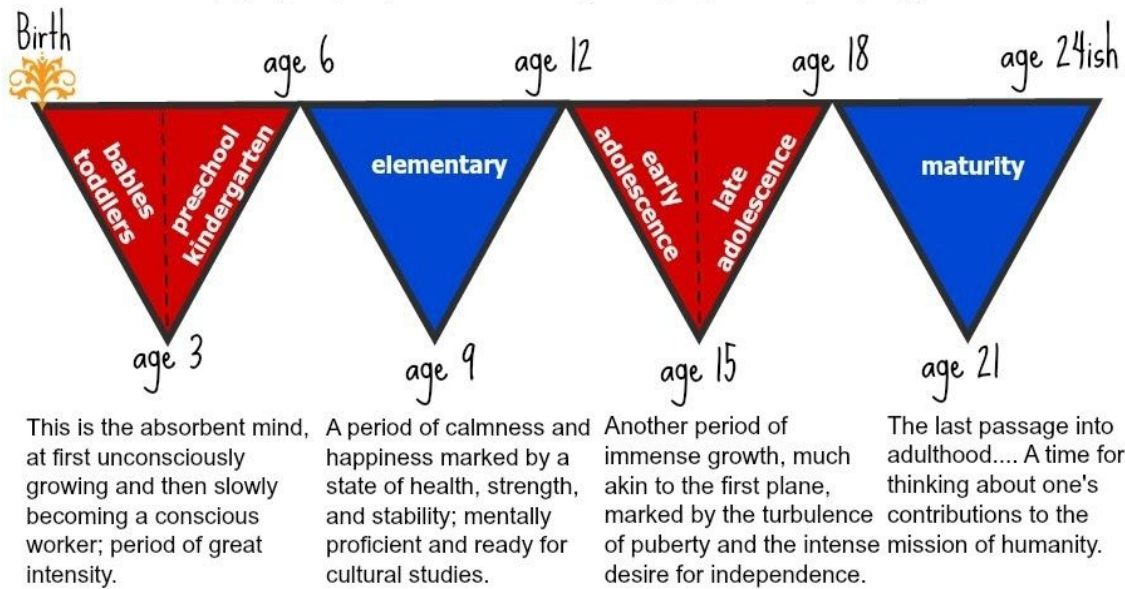
But these events shape us -- whether in our conscious minds or not -- and when we take it all in, from conception to maturity, we see it is a long road worthy of our admiration. Growing up should be celebrated.

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)



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 it's 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.