

# Miniapple Int'l Montessori Newsletter

## April 2017

### Director's Corner

Thank you to the families who have turned in their fall registration forms. We have had several referrals from our parents, and we are so grateful for your recommendations. Thank you!

We've been lucky enough to have extra clothes on hand to send home with your child if they are missing something. However, we have not always gotten them returned to us. If your child was sent home with MIM clothes, please return them so other children can potentially use them in the future.

### Dates to Remember:

**April 7<sup>th</sup>: MIM CLOSED: Conferences**

**April 17<sup>th</sup> - April 21<sup>st</sup>: Paths to Peace Week**

**May 18<sup>th</sup>: Spring Program/Kind. grad.**

**May 25<sup>th</sup>: Preschool Recognition**

**May 29<sup>th</sup>: MIM closed (Memorial Day)**

**May 31<sup>st</sup>: Last day of school year**

**June 12<sup>th</sup>: School Age Program Begins**

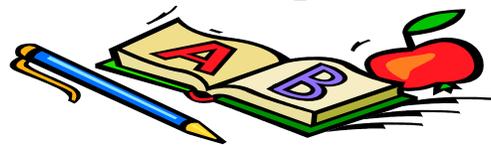
**June 13<sup>th</sup>: Mini-Kickers Soccer begins**

For the first time in several years, we have a couple of openings in our Summer School Age program. For our current Kindergartners, you are welcome to join us. Please let me know if you would like registration information.

**We are really thankful for your calls/emails when you are going to be late or out for the day. This helps us plan classroom activities accordingly. Our school day officially begins at 8:30 and we still have several families who arrive much later. This is a disruption to our classrooms and the children miss out on so much (classroom circle, Grace and Courtesy lessons, etc.) We are not a drop-in daycare, and expect all families to arrive on time. We understand situations arise, but having consistent late starts makes it hard on your child and the classrooms.**

We would like to remind parents that it is a licensing requirement that we have parents **sign in and out every day**. We appreciate your dedication to this. Thank you very much!

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Lee & Lindsay



## April Classroom News

### INFANTS

Spring is finally here! This month, we have a lot to plan for our growing infants. Many of our infants are currently learning how to eat baby food and we encourage you to keep introducing it at home. Our older infants are being prepared to be more independent, and socially active for a future toddler transition. All of our infants are doing an amazing job! Our baby of the month is Aksel. You are welcome to view his baby/family pictures in the kitchen. Monthly reminders; please do not forget to label your child's belongings (containers, bottles, clothes, etc.) We hope you have a lovely month and hope that this spring lasts long.  
Love, Monica, Amy and Chyna

### Toddler House 1

Hello, toddler parents. Finally spring is here (I think)! We will play outside more frequently, so please bring outdoor gear every day and label everything. Thank you so much for the practical life/food items you brought! This month we have many fun activities planned. We are going to talk about frogs, spring colors, spring weather, spring showers and Easter. Our new friends are learning about basic work, rolling work mat, taking one work out at a time, etc. On April 7<sup>th</sup> we are closed for conferences; the sign-up sheet is posted outside of the classroom for you to choose a date that works best for you. We celebrate two birthdays this month: Otto on April 5<sup>th</sup>, and Scarlett on April 15<sup>th</sup>. We wish Damon the best of luck on his transition to CH4. Our Spring Program will be on May 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please see me or Alie. We always appreciate your suggestions and advice.

With love, Reshma & Alie

## TODDLER HOUSE 2

Hello, Toddler 2 families, and welcome spring!

We will be going outside as much as possible now that the ice and snow are gone, with more walks around the neighborhood. Please continue to bring boots as the playground can get wet and muddy. As always, we appreciate you labeling everything that comes to school. Please also take a moment to check that your child's extra clothes bin is stocked with clothes that fit – the toddlers have grown a lot since last fall!

We say goodbye to our friend Callum who moves to CH3 with Molly and Chelsea. We welcomed a new friend, Jillian and her family to T2. Please say "hello!" Conferences are on April 7<sup>th</sup>, and Miniapple is closed that day. If times on the 7<sup>th</sup> don't work, please talk to Miranda about a different time/day. This is a great opportunity for us to connect about your toddler and to think ahead as they move towards the Children House environment. We welcome a new toddler assistant teacher, Dorothy! She has over 10 years of experience working with children, and we are so excited to have her! We look forward to hearing from you!

With love, Miranda, Raj and Dorothy

## Children's House One

The Children's House environment is set up with one set of each material or work. If the work is being used by another child, one must wait for her turn. Waiting might look like walking away and choosing a different work, asking to observe the peer in work, choosing to sit in the waiting chair and soak in the disappointment. Sometimes a child might have a stronger reaction to HOW LONG the peer is taking with the work.

It is tempting for the adult to step in immediately and help the child work through her emotions. Montessori theory begs us to hold off and trust children to work through the problem at hand. Oftentimes the children are able to support each other through the situation at hand using their skills of Grace and Courtesy.

If adult assistance is required, we get down on the child's level and 1) acknowledge the child's wants/needs 2) label the emotion the child might be feeling 3) ask

"what can you do?" or "how can I help you?" For example, a girl enters the Children's House all set to do the egg slicing work. To her great dismay, she finds that a boy has already chosen the work. Tears spring to her eyes. The boy sees that she is upset and lets her know she can do it when he is done. This makes the girl even more upset. She cries out. An adult makes her way over, get on her knees and gently says, "I can see you had planned on starting your day with the egg slicing work." The girl sadly nods. The adult says, "You are so disappointed that the work isn't available. Waiting can be hard." The girl takes a step closer to the adult. The adult asks, "What can I do to help you?" The girl requests a hug. After hugging it out, the girl is calm and ready for the question, "What do you want to do while you wait?"

Taking the time to acknowledge and connect with the experience of the child is often enough to move through to a more peaceful place. The next time a big emotion washes over your child, I invite you to give these steps a try.

Peace to you, Erica and Annah

## Children's House Two

Happy Spring! The birds are coming out and singing for us! So, it's time to take out the Parts of Bird work as well as study different types of backyard birds from North America.

Did you know that Children's House 2 is working on making silence? During circle, we have a moment of quiet. We pay close attention to the sounds around us or perhaps the silence between sounds. We pay attention to our breathing and our thoughts. Maria Montessori came up with the Silence Game during her teaching. She noticed how the silence game gave the children a sense of joy and achievement and developed their self-control. Try making a habit of finding a moment of silence at home for fun. Everyone needs a peaceful moment in their busy day.

We are also practicing self-control and listening with a few games and songs during circle. We play David Kisor's songs like "Self-Control," "I Can Settle Down," and, "Hands up, Hands down." Plus, we play a game where the children walk around the classroom, then stop when their name is called and follow a given direction. Help us model this at home by having high expectations for your child to acknowledge you when you call their name and follow through with a direction.

Best, Mia and Will

## Children's House Three

Hello Spring! We are so happy to say goodbye to winter. As spring emerges, we will be looking for all of the changes this season brings! This month, we are welcoming a new friend from Toddler House 2, Callum! Callum is ready to move to preschool! Please welcome him, and his parents Hans and Kelly. This past month has been so busy. We have been making maps, counting to 100, and growing really tall! We are so happy Ms. Chelsea is with us and is settling in nicely. She is a calm and peaceful presence in our room and we are so grateful to have her. We also welcomed a beautiful fish, Humu humunkuapa (Huma) Shadow Montessori! He is a short fin betta fish and he has added so much joy to the children's lives. They love feeding him and he seems happy in his new home. In the coming month, we will be practicing our program song, welcoming Callum, and enjoying the spring weather! Don't forget about conferences on April 7<sup>th</sup>!

Molly & Chelsea

## Children's House Four

We are happy to welcome Damon and his family to our Children House 4 from Toddler House 1.

Our Show and Tell is now every Tuesday instead of Wednesday, due to our class yoga on Wednesday at 10:20am. Some parents are very good at assisting the child with show and tell that has things we can learn, like names of the country, names of objects, science objects and things that are very special and books.

This coming spring, conferences will be on April 7<sup>th</sup>, and will be a little bit different from last year. This time the forms are new and I will fill up all the individual conference forms and I will put a copy of them in your child's cubby 3 days prior to the actual conference day. I would like all the parents to read them and there is a space to write any parent's questions or concerns. So please feel welcome to write down any questions or concerns regarding your child. Hopefully, you can manage to attend the conference time. If for any reason you can't make it, please let me or Ms. Najat know when is the best time you will be available.

Wangmo and Najat.

## CHILDREN'S HOUSE 5

Thank you to all CH5 March parent guest readers. You are greatly appreciated! We welcomed spring with our spring field trip to Dodge Nature Center to learn about maple syruping. We learned how to

pick out the right maple tree from which draw syrup. We learned about the process in making maple syrup. Our favorite part was tasting maple syrup. We even tasted sugar made from maple syrup. Oh what fun we had! Our classroom continent study during the month of March was Asia. We selected 4 different countries in Asia to study. The first was China, the second was Thailand, the third was India and the last was Russia. During our China study, Lucas' parents came in to do a China presentation. We learned that Chinese money is called yen. We tried on Chinese traditional costumes and we ate Chinese rice crackers. For Thailand, Ms. Yeng showed us Thai money and we learned that Thai money is called baht. We also counted from 1-10 in Thai language. We even taste tested "Thai tea." As we moved on to learning about India, Rajan's parents came in to do a presentation about India for us. We learned that Indian money is called rupees and/or paise. Rajan's family wore beautiful traditional Indian outfits – Rajan's mother wore a "lenga," Rajan and his father wore "pajama kurta." We learned about different spices and beans used in several Indian dishes. We also taste tested "lychee" juice, and we also taste tested Indian veggie sticks. As we bring Asia to a close, we will be learning about Russia. We will talk about food from Russia, Russian dolls, animals from Russia, and clothes from Russia.

We want to thank everyone in our classroom community for taking part in our learning. We look forward to your continuous learning contributions as we move forward with the end of the school year. Next month, we will talk about Australia. If you and/or your family have or are from Australia or have artifacts from Australia and/or have been to Australia and would like to contribute to our extended learning, please contact Ms. Yeng. We look forward to hearing from you!

## **News and Updates**

- Friendly reminders that spring conferences are on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. This is a time you and me to sit down to discuss your child's learning progress and goals. We will also discuss your child's social and emotional growth. We know that life can get busy but we believe that it is crucial to communicate updates from home to school and school to home on a regular basis. We hope to see you all during conferences! ☺
- A copy of your child's conference report will be placed in your child's cubby for your review next Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Please be on the lookout for it.
- April Practical Life Food Prep Donation Sign-Up sheet will be up at the end of this week. If you would like to contribute to helping us grow our kitchen skills in our Montessori classroom, you are welcome to sign-up. We really appreciate all you do to support our learning and growing!
- Parent Volunteer Readers Sign-up Sheet for the month of April will also be up at the end of this week. Our desired book themes will be listed then. Thank you to everyone who has and/or will be signing-up to come in to read to us. We enjoy having you take part in our classroom environment! Love, Yeng and Kay

## Preschool French

Bon Jour à toutes les familles et joyeux mois d'Avril. Please keep asking your child about what they have learned during French class. During this month we will practice using sentences in French to express ourselves ex: je suis heureux (I am happy), je suis triste (I am sad), je n'aime pas ça (I don't like that). We reached 70 (soixante dix) and we will count to 100 (cent). We are working on our program song: "j'ai perdue le "do" de ma clarinette" We are reading a book about accepting our differences and being peaceful to celebrate our peace (paix) week this month, it is called "L'histoire des pilibi" Merci, Najat

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Each year we offer parent/teacher conferences in October and again in April. This is a great way to connect with your child's teacher about their progress and ask questions. Conference day is Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. We will be closed that day, but childcare is provided during your child's conference time.



## Paths to Peace Week

We are very excited about our upcoming Peace Week. It will be from April 17<sup>th</sup> through April 21<sup>st</sup>. Each day has a theme with coordinating activities.

The events will be announced soon, with the themes: I Care About Others, I Care About My School, I Care About Myself, I Care for My Community, I Care About The Earth

If there is anything you would like to be a part of or would like to contribute in any way, you are welcome. Please let us know.

## Shelter Drills

Occasionally we will practice a "shelter drill" which your child may have recently talked about. We want to ensure all the children's safety if there was ever an intruder in our school. Our protocol is that I alert the rooms by announcing "shelter drill". The teachers gather the children into their classroom bathroom after tightly shutting and locking their classroom doors. We then do a check of the whole school to ensure we don't hear or see any children from the doorways of the classrooms. They all participate very well, are not frightened, and, in fact, they think it is fun. If you have any questions about our procedure, please let us know.

## Pennies for Peace



Pennies for Peace is a program that supports education in Central Asia. It was started by a group of students in Wisconsin and has grown to be an international support system. We will be collecting pennies in all of our preschool classrooms throughout the month of April to coincide with our peace week, and what we at Miniapple strive to live every day. Our kindergarteners will help count our totals at the end of every week. Please bring in your spare change to help promote change in the world, every little penny counts!