

Children's Circle Montessori

Established 1981

130 Skyway Rd - Primary I

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121 Skyway Rd - Primary II

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WELCOME!

Welcome back to our former students returning after the summer off, and a warm welcome to our new students and their families.

The beginning of a new school year brings an opportunity for the staff to review our policies and plans for our communities. During our staff training days we had the opportunity to listen and learn from Montessori educator, Dorothy Carrera-Harmon. Her presentation was titled "Peace Education", and we all thoroughly enjoyed it and are going to implement some of her ideas. She shared songs and activities that will help make our communities more caring and connected. In the Primary 2 community we are going to implement her ideas for birthdays and sharing in September. Please be sure to read them as these two activities are very important to the children! You will find information about both of these in your parent folder. In the Primary 1 community we are going to use her idea for birthdays. Both communities are already using some of the songs and activities she shared with us. She was happy to see we are using photographs of the children's families in our communities. There is a note about the photographs in the parent folder, but this is another reminder. Please send a photograph of your family for us to use. In the Primary 1 community we need your photo in a frame. In the Primary 2 community just send a photo as we are putting them in a book for the children to look at in our classroom.



Our summer focus on astronomy was a great success and throughout this newsletter you will see pictures of some of our activities. Each week of the summer was spent learning about the sun and the planets. Our weekly plan was to introduce the planet on Monday. On Tuesday we began making our planet for that week. This part of the project carried over to Wednesday as we made sure each child had a chance to make the planet we were presenting that week. Thursday and Friday were spent painting the planets.

At gathering times we sang our planet song and reviewed the information we were learning. Each Thursday we asked the children what they could tell us about the part of our solar system we were studying. Here is what they told us:

Sun: Never look directly at the sun. The sun gives us light and heat. It helps plants and we could not live on Earth without it. The sun is a star. It is 5 billion years old. The planets go around the sun. The sun is made of gasses that are very hot.

Mercury: Mercury has many craters. It has no air. It has no water. Mercury is the closest planet to the sun. No plants or animals can live on Mercury. It gets very hot during the day. Only the dwarf planet, Pluto, is smaller than Mercury.

Venus: Venus has poisonous clouds. It is very hot and the clouds are foul. You can't live on Venus. It rotates backwards and very slowly around the sun. It has many volcanoes.

Earth: Earth has water and air. We live on planet Earth. Earth has one moon. Plants and animals live on Earth. Earth takes 1 year to rotate around the sun. Earth's clouds are made of water.

Mars: Mars is very cold and dry. It has ice in two polar caps. It is called the red planet because its sand is red. Mars has two small moons. Mars has the biggest volcano in our solar system. It has no air for us to breathe.



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WELCOME! (CONTINUED)

Jupiter: Jupiter has a big red spot. The red spot is a huge storm. It has many moons, at least 28. Jupiter has no water or plants. It is made of gas and liquid. It has no people living there. It is the largest planet. It is the fifth planet from the sun.

Saturn: Saturn has thousands of rings. They are made of rocks, ice, and dust. Saturn is made of gasses and liquid. It would float in water. Nothing can live on Saturn. It has 30 or more moons. One moon is named Titan.

Uranus: Uranus is the seventh planet. It has no air and is very cold. It has 21 or more moons. It is a gas planet. Uranus has 10 rings. It is tilted. Scientists think an asteroid knocked it over.

Neptune: Neptune is very, very cold. It is the eighth planet from the sun. Its clouds are blue.



We did introduce Pluto as a dwarf planet, but we did not make a poster of it as we wanted to reinforce the concept of it as a dwarf planet. Our summer ended with a trip to Morrill Hall and a show at Mueller Planetarium. The planetarium show was called “Little Star” and we all learned quite a lot about stars! For a grand finale, about 14 children and their parents attended a “lunar party” at Andrea’s house. We enjoyed looking through some powerful telescopes and seeing the details on the moon! We hope to repeat this astronomy focus in 3 years, so the children currently in Primary 1 will have the opportunity to make their own solar system!

Parent Meeting, Tuesday, September 1st 6:30PM-7:45PM at Gere Library, 2400 South 56th Street (on the southeast corner of 56th and Normal Boulevard) “Discipline: The Montessori Way”

IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR BUILDINGS!

Over the break there were improvements made to both buildings. In 130 Skyway we had new linoleum and carpet squares installed in the entrance area. The new linoleum continued into the bathrooms. This was a great improvement to the area and the children and staff are enjoying it.

At 121 Skyway Road, new linoleum was installed in the bathrooms. The toilets were pulled and caulked and the bathrooms

look much cleaner now. The carpets were also cleaned at 121. Please be sure your child has indoor shoes that are the correct size to wear at school. This policy of outdoor/indoor shoes has made a great difference in keeping our carpet clean.



MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

Tuesday, September 1st:

Parent Meeting, 6:30 to 7:45pm at Gere Library

Monday September 7th:

SCHOOL CLOSED ~ Labor Day Holiday

...The development of character is a natural sequence of events resulting from the child’s own individual efforts in everyday tasks.

~Maria Montessori