

Montessori Matters



Tired of winter? Tired of the cold and snow? We're thinking spring, and spring means warmth and our Springtime Revelry! (left) Snow was removed from the roof of the portico.

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After School Studios

March

- 1 Discovering Chinese 3:00-4:30
- 2 Discovering French 3:00-4:00
- 3 French Club 3:15-4:15
- 4 Chinese Club 3:15-4:45
- 5 Art with Tina 3:00-4:00

On the Calendar

March

- 1 Summer School Registration Due
- 22-26 Book Fair
- 24 Parent Evening 5:30 - 7:00 pm:
“Parenting Children in an Ever-Changing Future.” A light supper and child care are available.
- 26 School Closed—Conferences
- 29-31 School Closed—Spring Break

April

- 1-2 School Closed—Spring Break
- 24 Springtime Revelry

Celebrating Montessori Education Week!

By Dr. Paul Epstein

Very few educational movements celebrate a legacy of 103 years. Since the first Montessori classroom in 1907, Montessori schools are found throughout the world today. The Montessori methods have provided beneficial educational experiences to children from every imaginable cultural, religious, economic, and national heritage

This is Montessori Education Week, and we honor the insights and genius of Dr. Maria Montessori (1870 - 1952). Her understandings of children are based on an idea that is surely relevant in our lives today – each child learns in his or her own unique way. If you are parenting more than one child, you know this truth intimately! Your children are both alike but also amazingly different. The success of Montessori education is due to trained teachers who know how to maximize each child’s learning potential. Research shows that Montessori graduates have high test scores and have more fully developed social, communication, team-building, thinking, and problem-solving skills. There is no longer any doubt; a Montessori education does prepare children for the 21st century challenges they will face as adults.

During the past year, I have been involved with a research study comparing the Montessori experience with the traditional school experience. The study is taking place in Laurens, South Carolina. This small public school district en-



Writing occurs throughout the day, in our programs, and in many ways. (left) Identifying the major river systems of North America. (right) An E2 student completes a Venn diagram comparison of the Olympics, historically and today.

rolls some 3600 students; almost one-third are enrolled in the district's Montessori program for ages three to eighth grade. We began this study by interviewing the first class of graduating high school seniors who did attend the Montessori early childhood through middle school program.

We asked questions about their preparation for high school and how they viewed their education. We asked them to talk about how their Montessori experiences contributed to who they compared to their non-Montessori friends. The following list summarizes the statements these students made:

- ✓ Montessori teachers really care about us as students.
- ✓ They want us to succeed.
- ✓ Montessori teachers really care about us as people.
- ✓ We are proud of our high academic achievements in high school.
- ✓ We know how to manage our time.
- ✓ We know how to initiate and

complete projects on time.

- ✓ We learned how to get along with all kinds of people.

Montessori education is the original, and, I think, the best brain-based model of education.”

- Dr. Steven Hughes.

- ✓ We learned how to resolve our conflicts.
- ✓ We are very good communicators.
- ✓ Our work ethic is stronger and more developed.
- ✓ We are more polite and courteous.
- ✓ We are more respectful.
- ✓ We've developed life skills.
- ✓ We've developed people skills.
- ✓ We've learned to be responsible.

These students had a lot to celebrate during their interviews including an over 95% acceptance rate (at that time) to colleges and universities. Dr. Steven Hughes is pediatric neuropsychologist and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Neurology at the University of Minnesota Medical School. In a recent publication he noted, "Montessori education is the original, and I think, the best brain-based model of education. There is research that directly

compares the effects of [traditional] learning vs. hands-on-learning. You will not be surprised to learn that hands-on learning matters. In a Montessori classroom, children learn that tasks have a beginning part, a doing part, and a completion part. All of these practices of life activities are supporting the development of [neurological] networks that will be utilized in practical daily tasks."

As we celebrate Montessori Edu-





Geometry, a study of relationships and the development of logical thought, begins with construction. (left and right) The relationship between polygons (triangle through decagon) and the circle.

cation Week, we are truly grateful to each parent for having chosen this amazing experience for their children. Thank you.

Why parents should keep their kids in Montessori

By: Isabell Dyrbye Wright, 4th grade student

Parents should keep their kids at Montessori for multiple reasons. Some of the reasons are independency and learning at their own pace, no homework or desks, being able to choose what to do and when to do it, great teachers, being able to talk while working, and having fun! There are people here from all cultures. That is why Multicultural Day is something RMS does to celebrate our nations and heritages. Other reasons are that we can interact with kids of all ages and sizes. It

is fun to be with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders. It's great to have a friend that last for 3 years and then forever. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, graders are together. 4th, 5th, 6th graders are together. This way we can all be friends!

After school studios are also available. There's Chinese, French, Chess Club, and Art with Tina. This way we can learn different languages and historical games, and art! In the summer RMS has GREAT summer school programs of all types. RMS has an awesome outdoor playground. RMS uses wood and tiny little things of metal. Most playgrounds are made out of steel. Ours is nature-like and fun. Sometimes there are parent visits. This way parents can see what their child is doing in his or her class. The Ribbon Ceremony is also a BIG thing at R.M.S. During the ceremony your child gets promoted to the next grade. It's like a big party with songs and rhythms. For these and many more reasons, I think your child should stay at Rochester Montessori

School from preschool through the 8th grade!

Save the Date! ***A Parent's Evening with Dr. Paul Epstein***

Topics:

- **Parenting Children in an Ever-Changing Future.**
- **Our School's Future Directions.**

March 24th, 5:30 - 7:00.

**A light supper will be served.
Childcare will be available.**

