

Montessori Matters



Rochester Montessori School

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We begin 2010-2011 with our new logo (above left), website (above right), shade structures, a new toddler play area (see inside), and, soon, our new building.

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Welcome to 2010-2011!.....1

Welcome to 2010-2011!

By Paul Epstein, Ph.D.

On the Calendar

September

- 15 E2 Parents' Meeting 6:00 - 7:00 PM
- 15 Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 21 Toddler Parents' Meeting 6:00-7:00 PM
- 23 E1 Parents' Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM

November

- 13 House Warming Party Night!
A social gathering in celebration of RMS

Rochester

Montessori School

•Spanish Immersion, • Environmental Education, • Technology in Instruction, • the Arts, and • becoming an International Baccalaureate Middle School program. *Because how children learn influences who they will become.*

A Montessori education. Completing a new building for elementary, music, and art classrooms and the School's library/media center. Every child immersed in daily Spanish instruction. Art and Physical Education classes for children in the kindergarten and elementary programs. Becoming an International Baccalaureate middle school. Shade structures for each Children's House classroom. A newly constructed Toddler play area. Refurbished play areas and gardens. A new logo and a new website. Welcome to the new school year! We've accomplished a lot since last Spring, and we have more underway.

Montessori education

A Montessori education is based on three pillars: Understanding the unique learning styles and strengths of each child; preparing the learning environment; and, the preparation of each adult guide. The projects noted above exemplify the necessity of preparing environments for children. A prepared environment is a laboratory in which children explore, discover, and select their own work. The independence that children gain through this process empowers them socially and emotionally. Children also become comfortable and confident in their abilities to master the environment, ask questions, puzzle out answers, and learn continuously instead of waiting for adult direction.

Montessori prepared environments are based on several design principles including freedom of choice, beauty, and contact with nature and reality. Chil-





(left) Building shade structures for Children’s House classrooms. (center) Windows (above left) on the front of the new building. (right) The new toddler play area (right) will offer many opportunities for interesting explorations and discoveries.

dren learn to make better choices as they become observant of the natural results each choice presents. Each prepared environment offers beauty. We carefully choose the colors, shapes, and sizes of materials because children are naturally attracted to elegance. By design, the materials represent reality and nature because children resonate positively with real life.

The outdoor environments

Our outdoor environments have been refurbished. Each Children’s House classroom can now access its own outdoors shade structure. The toddlers will certainly enjoy their new play area. The vegetable garden in front of the school is filled with a fall harvest; flower beds have been cleaned. A few weeks ago a trail was remade through the prairie grasses. Children enrolled in the summer programs showed their delight with this environment by running and running and running (!) through the grasses. During the school year, children will learn from outdoor studies and investigations as they develop ecological literacy.

A new building

The Rochester Montessori School is growing, and our new building will allow us to educate our increased enrollment as we continue to grow to the eighth grade. We expect to move in by mid-October, and these new prepared environments will house two E1 classrooms and two E2 classrooms. A “commons room” is located between the pairs of classrooms and will be used for lessons, projects, and lunch. The new art and music classrooms are significantly larger; the benefits of involvement with the arts for children warrants this step. Already, for example, students have begun instrumental lessons at school.

A new logo and website

Last spring we gave considerable thought to our logo and website. Our goal was to refresh our general public appearance. The website, for example, was developed almost six years ago which represents “eons” in our fast moving world of technology. Our new logo suggests a child’s dreams and aspirations by reaching for a star. A child’s natural growth and development is suggested by

the stairway. The pieces of the logo are not symmetrically placed because life for a child is about becoming, about figuring it out, and about putting it all together. The earthy blue and green colors suggest that we are connected to nature and that children need to learn how to become stewards of the planet they will soon inherit.

Our website offers these same themes and uses the same colors of our logo. The new homepage presents a slideshow and easier navigation tools. The faculty page provides information about faculty and staff.

We have made the website more user-friendly and useful. For example, you can sync your personal electronic calendars with our website calendar. We will place copies of the Parent Handbook and Montessori Matters on the website. You will also be able to download admissions and re-enrollment forms.

Welcome to the new year. We look forward to the amazing learning and growing experiences your children will enjoy.

