



11/30 Studio Pot Luck & Presentation
5:30 - 7:00 pm

12/1 Parent-Teacher Conferences

12/2 Parent-Teacher Conferences



*Happy Holidays from
the Teachers and Staff*



Parent - Teacher Conferences

Thursday, December 1st

Friday, December 2nd

As a teacher, I always looked forward to the December Parent-Teacher Conferences. It was a time to sit down and engage in open, honest communication with parents about how their child is fitting into the school year--about their passions, their friendships, their frustrations. Most of the time, these conversations are wonderful, as both parents and teachers learn a little more about each other and about the child. They are an opportunity for each to bring a more complete glimpse of who that child is, and why she might behave a certain way. They are a time to come together as a team and negotiate techniques that will benefit both parties. Occasionally, these can be difficult conversations, especially if parents or teachers feel judged or misunderstood. It is important for all parties to keep in mind that we all have the child's best interest at heart, and that we are a team, working toward a common goal. Below are some tips and questions, put together by Marie Conte for an American Montessori Society webinar on conducting effective Parent-Teacher conferences. These were her tips for parents. I hope that you will find them helpful, and that they will help assure a wonderful conference for you and your child's teacher.

Here are some general hints on how to have a successful conference:

- ◆ Ask your child if there is anything that he would like you to discuss with the teacher.
- ◆ Jot down everything that you want to talk about at the conference.
- ◆ Arrive promptly or a few minutes early.
- ◆ Begin with positive comments about the teacher or classroom.
- ◆ Avoid lengthy discussions of topics that are not related to the purpose of the conference.
- ◆ Be open-minded to suggestions from the teacher.
- ◆ Keep your emotions under control.
- ◆ Take notes about what has been discussed to share with your child.
- ◆ Express appreciation for the conference.
- ◆ Do not stay beyond your allotted time.

Ten Questions to Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- ◆ What are my child's strengths and areas that need work?
- ◆ What are some specific examples of these strengths and weaknesses?
- ◆ Is my child participating in classroom activities?
- ◆ Does my child challenge himself?
- ◆ How does he/she behave at large group time?
- ◆ How are my child's social skills?
- ◆ Does my child seem happy at school?
- ◆ Have you noticed any unusual behaviors?
- ◆ Do you think my child is reaching his/her potential?
- ◆ What can I do at home to help support his/her academic progress?

"Play is the work of the Child"

María Montessori

Calendar Changes

In order to accommodate our staff's attendance to large, professional conferences this spring, we need to switch around a few days. Instead of being closed for a Staff Work Day on **Thursday, February 16**, we will be **open for business with children as usual**. We will take **Friday, February 17** as a work day (**no students**), and Monday, **February 20** we will be **closed** for President's Day. Then, on **Thursday, March 9**, we will be closed for a Staff In-Service Day so that we can attend the conferences in San Diego and Durham. We will continue to be **closed** as planned on **Friday, March 10**.

FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day No School Celebration	15	16	17 NO STUDENTS Teacher Work Day	18
19	20 NO SCHOOL President's Day Weekend	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 NO SCHOOL Staff at Conference	10 NO SCHOOL Staff at Conference	11
12 Daylight Saving	13	14	15	16 Studio Night for Parents Evening Event Details to follow	17	18
19	20	21	22		24 Spring Break	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
← Spring Break →						

Looking for a little help around the house?

If you are still looking for that perfect holiday gift, consider purchasing quality Montessori inspired materials. Not only will you and your children benefit, but Children's Garden will as well. We receive a percentage of the sales to our families, through December 31st, which is used to purchase classroom materials. December 31st. Order online at forsmallhands.com. Be sure to complete the School Credit Promotion at checkout.

The required information is:

School Customer Number: 103289

Address: 444 Detroit Street, Denver, CO 80206, School phone: 303-322-0972

Afternoon Teacher Found!

I am delighted to inform you that we have found a permanent afternoon teacher. Beverly Jackson has committed to staying for the whole year. This will be a wonderful opportunity for everyone - the children will not have to adjust to another teacher, Dale will have the chance to learn all the ins and outs of Children's Garden, and I will have plenty of time to find a teacher for next year. Beverly has definitely fallen in love with the children and the classroom, and is taking this as an opportunity to ease into her retirement. We look forward to keeping her around for a bit more, and hope that this new development will put you all at ease.

Join our Book Club

I want to invite you all to participate in a community book club:

The Whole Brain Child, by Daniel J. Siegel, M.D. and Tina Payne Bryson, Ph.D., offers twelve revolutionary strategies to nurture your child's developing mind. It is an excellent resource to help parents understand how a child's brain develops and functions, and how they can help their child learn how to handle and respond to different experiences and challenges.

The message of *The Whole-Brain Child* is that families — both children and parents alike — aren't stuck in their current circumstances. Parents have the ability to change these circumstances by changing the way they respond and relate, and as they do this they can literally help to change their child's brain (and their own) in the process.

Our idea is to plan to meet in late January/early Feb to discuss the book together, so hopefully that gives everyone ample time to read. Depending on the level of interest, I can host a potluck party at my house or we can possibly have a larger group at school.

Once I gauge the number of participants, I'll send out a doodle poll with January meeting dates.

The school has generously offered to order copies of the book for us as well, so if you're interested, please email me back directly.

Katie Wickliff (katiwickliff@gmail.com)

“Education is a natural process carried out by children and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment.”

María Montessori

What do the founders of Google and Amazon, a Nobel Prize winner, doctors, artists, architects, musicians, chefs, British Royalty, and countless other creative, innovative, independent thinkers of the world have in common?

MONTESSORI !

Larry Page, Sergey Brin, Jeff Bezos, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, T. Berry Brazelton, Anne Frank, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Yo Yo Ma, Julia Child, Princes William, Harry and (now) George, all attended Montessori schools.

What is so special about Montessori? It doesn't look, sound or act like the kind of education most of us experienced.

What is really going on and why is it important?

What are our children doing and learning?

Why don't students “move up” every year?

How is making tea or lining up wooden rods a learning experience - and why do it again and again and again?

We hear lots of questions from our parents who put their trust into a mostly unfamiliar and unknown experience for their children. You are showing your value for innovation and progressive education by making the choice to send your children to Children's Garden.

Our teachers have set aside an evening to share what happens, what is so special and what is to come for their the children in their classroom. Come listen, watch, and experience Montessori classrooms for yourself.

Parent Workshop

Tuesday, December 13, 5:00 - 6:30 pm

RSVP - call, email or just send a message at the gate.

Hope to see you there!

jboes@cgmontessori.com

Lucy Chused for giving the staff Chipotle gift cards.



Thank You

Emily Stone for the yummy cookies and Sarah Weily for treating the staff to Starbucks



Thank You

The Walker family for watching Cake & Frosting over Thanksgiving.



thank you

Julie, Josh & Amelia Dorkin for making play dough for the school.



thank you

Planning for 2017/18 School Year

No need for additional holiday season stress, your returning children's re-enrollment and sibling application materials for the 2017/18 academic school year are coming after the winter break. Look for information from Jamie in your inbox in January.

WeeCycle Community Service

During this season of giving that is upon us, we will be hosting a baby gear and diaper drive for WeeCycle. WeeCycle is a nonprofit organization that collects new and gently used baby gear and matches it with local families in need throughout metro-Denver. Do you have a car seat your child has outgrown? Maybe a pack-and-play that needs a new home? Please bring in your donations for WeeCycle anytime during our drive from Monday, November 28 to Friday, December 9th. If you have any larger items (such as high chairs, swings, pack and plays, etc) that you cannot transport let us know and we can arrange for them to be picked up. Accepted items are listed on the WeeCycle website.

This year we will also reach out to the children and talk to them about the drive. In the next couple of school days before Thanksgiving we will take a few minutes during line (primary classes) to share with them our project. We thought it would be a perfect time to discuss with them being thankful for what we have and giving to others in our community since these same ideas may be repeated in your family Thanksgiving celebrations. We ask that if you have any item(s) to donate, to include your child in collecting your donation. Perhaps your child can pick a book or toy that they have outgrown to donate to WeeCycle.

Thank you and if you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Your Community Outreach Team,

Caity Barton (caityryan@hotmail.com) Lucy Chused (Istookes@gmail.com)

Nikki Martin (nikki@smarterchatter.com) Afsaneh Noori (afsanehsamimi@yahoo.com)