

January/February 2004

News Letter



Nature's Classroom Montessori

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We welcome the year 2004 with many hopes and dreams. We await the completion of our new building with great anticipation. We are in the planning stage of a new program for the 2004 – 2005 academic school year. In order to meet the needs and desires of parents and students alike we will be adding a Full-Day Program for our younger classmates (8:30 am to 3:00 pm).

This Full-Day Program will serve the capabilities and interests of the younger 3 – 4 year old child. The children will have their typical half-day schedule with an added option for lunch at school, followed by a short rest period and an additional work cycle geared exclusively for them.

Our Extended Day Program for the older 4 and 5 year olds and separate Lower Elementary Program for 6 – 9 year olds will be scheduled from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm. All programs will offer a before school care option (7:30 am – 8:30 am) at an additional cost. The pick-up time for the Extended Day and the Lower Elementary Program may be adjusted to the East Troy/Mukwonago School bus routes as it is a service they offer for children living in those communities.

Open House

An Open House is scheduled for Saturday, February 14th from 9:00 am to noon. We would love to have our students “model” behaviors working with the materials for prospective families to see. If you and your child could spare an hour, please sign up with Mrs. Freese. Thanks!

Re-enrollment

Please send in your confirmation in order to reserve your child's place for the 2004 – 2005 academic school year. We anticipate a great deal of interest, especially with our new building, and we would like to secure a spot for our beloved current students!

A question came up regarding classroom placement/teacher preference for next year that we would like to address. It is NCM's school policy that your child's placement will be made by the Admissions Director with your child's best interest in mind.

“Special Friend” Valentine Exchange

This year we will be celebrating Valentine's Day differently. Each child will draw a classmate's name from a hat! It would then be their responsibility (in partnership with you, naturally) to purchase a small gift for their “Secret Valentine Friend.” Gifts should cost less than \$5.00 please. On Friday, February 13th we will exchange the gifts and reveal the identity of the secret friend. Remember, no telling who the “secret friend” is until the exchange!



Parenting Information

Family life for the early elementary child should include as many of the following elements as possible:

- A slow-paced lifestyle with long hours of sleep on a regular schedule, a nutritious diet high in protein and fresh fruits and vegetables, plenty of exercise, and a generous amount of time in nature.
- Someone to behold the child's face with joy and hold her, hug her, and treasure her for herself alone.
- Someone to read chapter books aloud for twenty to thirty minutes every day, at a level three years beyond the child's reading level.
- Someone to recite poetry every day, a new poem each week.
- Someone to sing every day, a new song each week.
- Someone to tell delightful stories of the child's own life.
- An atmosphere of open curiosity and inquiry, in which everyone in the family treasures learning.
- Responsibility for caring for himself and his own things as well as contributing to meal preparation and the care of the house, garden, and pets.
- A two-hour weekly limit on all screen media – movies, videos, TV, and computer games – combined.
- Freedom from being dragged around on errands.
- Freedom from the cynicism and sarcasm appropriate to later years.
- Parents who say no cheerfully and mean it.
- Parents who wait until their children are in bed to listen to music, watch movies, play computer games, and watch TV programs, even the news, that are not appropriate to the children's ages or that would give children more media hours than is best for their development.
- Parents who establish and uphold a family child-rearing culture that is appropriate to the child's age and who support age-appropriate independent thought and action and an age-appropriate role in decision-making in as many areas and as often as possible.

A parent's perseverance in providing a child with the most nutritious diet, sufficient sleep, exercise, time out of doors, freedom from electronic media, opportunities for independence, and an esthetically pleasing order in the home prepares the child to learn how to learn and helps the child learn by herself.

Lower Elementary Class News

This month we moved into our own space! We are currently housed in a classroom down the hall from the Primary Class students. Many of our Elementary Level materials are already in place!



Dessert/Demo Evening on Wednesday, February 4th (6:30 – 8 pm)

Please join the Lower Elementary students as they host an evening presenting lessons to our parents. This is a “parents only” educational evening geared to introduce Montessori Elementary philosophy and method to our Primary parents. We will be sending our special invitations with a RSVP in the mail. This is a great idea for parents who are interested in continuing with Montessori but are not sure what it’s all about! Please come!

NCM Newsletter Goes On-Line

We are happy to announce that our newsletters will be available electronically beginning with the next issue! We will be putting this month’s newsletter onto our website as our “trial run” issue to work out any technical problems. After that, each month’s newsletter will appear on the website in a timely manner. Printed versions of the newsletters will be available from the office upon request.

- Simply go to our website at www.nciw.org
- Click on “Visit Nature’s Classroom Montessori”
- Click on “Montessori Information”
- Click on “Newsletter” (note that it may take a while to set up our “tester”)

Dates to Remember in February

Wednesday, February 4th, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm – Dessert/Demo Evening

Tuesday, February 10th — Mrs. Bertschinger will visit the classroom to help the students make picture frames!

Friday, February 13th – Valentine’s Exchange with Secret Friend

Saturday, February 14th, 9 am – noon – Open House



