

# Montessori Center of Downriver - December Newsletter

*"Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future." - Dr. Maria Montessori*

## A Word from Our Director

I wanted to thank each of you for how vigilant you have all been in keeping your children home when they're ill. This has gone a very long way in keeping contagions out of the building and lowering the spread of illness.

We also wanted to note that Covid safety protocols are working. So far this year, we've had multiple families test positive, but as we are currently not allowing parents in the building, we have not had any exposures or positives in the building. Thank you for your patience and understanding—it is keeping all of us safe. We very much look forward to being able to welcome you in the building in the future!

Happy Holidays!

Mrs. Mary

## In the Classroom

### Ms Ashley's Room

Ms Ashley's room will be learning about food/health in December. They will be trying all 5 food groups! They will also be practicing different types of exercises and learning what part of the body they are good for. They will end the theme with a taco bar that incorporates all 5 food groups.

### Ms Paula's Room

The children in Ms Paula's room will be leaving the firm ground of the farm and heading up into space! They will be learning about the solar system in December. They'll also be learning a special holiday song.

In Mrs. Dona's room, Mrs. Donette has been teaching the students about her home country, Guyana. She introduced them to its location in South America, along with the country's flag, attire, and popular animals. She also taught them dough kneading and a song on the steel drum. In December, she plans to introduce plants and money. We are so thankful that Donnette has shared her culture with us!



### Mrs. Dona's Room

Mrs. Dona's room will be teaching children the many ways people celebrate Christmas around the world in December, and Ms Kimmie will help the children make a special project for their parents! They will also be introducing Europe.

### Mrs. Melissa's Room

Now that they know about where food grows, in December, Mrs. Melissa's room will be learning what else you find on farms: farm animals!



## Announcements

1. In November, all staff attended a Michigan Montessori Society workshop on the neuroscience of Montessori. One thing we wanted to share with you is [the importance of sleep](#) on children's executive function and ability to learn. Up to 25% of children are not getting the sleep they need, leading to excessive daytime sleepiness. Did you know that [preschoolers need 10-13 hours of sleep](#) each day?

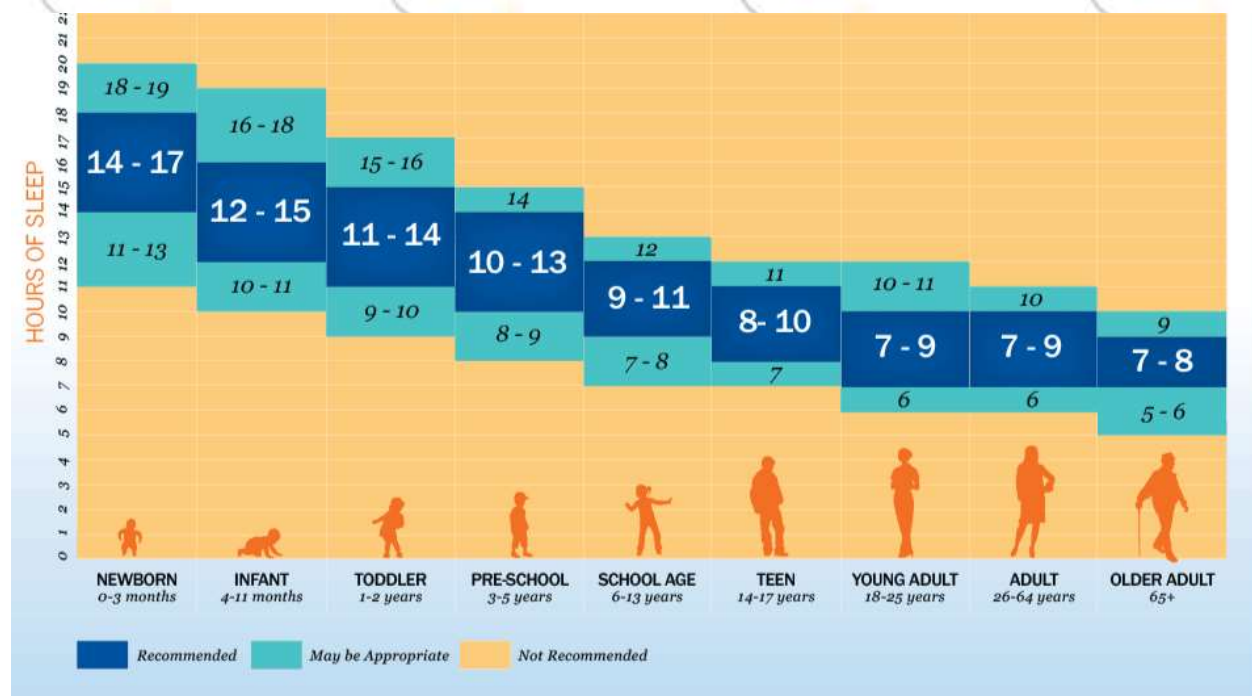
One of the best ways to ensure your children are getting adequate sleep is [a good bedtime routine](#). And a good bedtime routine offers [more benefits than just sleep!](#) It can promote literacy, language development, and emotional and behavioral regulation.

2. We've added a new page to our website: [Meet Our Staff!](#)

3. We recently sent information regarding our summer program offerings. The email includes dates and pricing. Please be sure to fill out the form regardless of whether you plan to attend.

4. We go outside daily whenever possible. Please make sure your child has a winter coat, hat, gloves/mittens, and warm boots or shoes. Please label all items. Bright Star Kids has personalized iron-on patches that make labelling easy, or try a stamp made especially for clothes.

5. We've noticed that sometimes children's lunches are missing a protein. [Protein is so important](#) for growing bodies and busy brains. Healthy lunches should also include fruits and vegetables. Stuck in a lunch rut? [Check out](#) these sites for [ideas and tips](#).



## Upcoming School Events

Winter Break: School will be closed December 20th through 31st

### Car Seat Safety - An Important Note from Ms April

As parents and guardians, we spend a lot of time worrying about our kids: Are they happy? Are they healthy? Are they meeting milestones? But one important aspect of their lives that we sometimes take for granted is their car seat. This has been heavy on my mind lately, as my 5-year-old daughter recently lost a friend in a car accident. I want to make sure that all of our kids here at MCOB are as safe as possible as we go into the travel-filled holiday season.

No one likes to think about this, but road injuries are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States. A properly installed and correctly used car seat can reduce your child's risk of death by 71%, but over half of all car seats are not installed or used correctly.

### New Drop-Off Policy

While considering how best to keep our children safe, we have implemented a new policy with regard to the morning drop-off car line:

We will no longer be able to get children out on the driver's side of the car because it is unsafe for both students and staff to be walking between moving cars. We have had several close calls with drivers not paying attention.

Single children must have their car seats on the passenger side of the car. If you have more than one child enrolled, please have the oldest child on the driver's side. You can unbuckle them and they can climb out the passenger side after the staff helps the younger child.

If you are not willing to move your child's car seat, we will give you a time after the car line is finished to park and walk your child to the door. Please do not walk up while drop-off is still occurring.

We'd like to offer you a few resources to ensure all our kiddos here are safe:

1. <https://ucsg.safekids.org>
2. <https://www.safekids.org/tip/car-seat-tips>
3. <https://ucsg.safekids.org/basic-tips/right-fit/>Children's Hospital of Michigan in partnership with Kohl's Cares has launched the Kohl's SAFE 4 Kids (KS4K) program to Strengthen Accident-Free Environments.

KS4K focuses on pregnant women, caregivers, and children from birth to five years of age to enhance their ability to prevent the leading causes of unintentional childhood injuries in our community.

Attendees can receive a free smoke alarm, convertible car seat, and hot water tester.

[Register here.](#)

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in keeping everyone safe.

## Local Events and Resources

1. JCPenney is offering a free craft kit for kids on December 11th. Kids can take home materials to make a holiday magnet.
2. Holiday Train Rides: Take a free ride on the holiday train and enjoy the decorations at Kiwanis Train Park on December 4, 2021 from 6-9pm.
3. Light up the Park: Market Center Park is going to be filled with twinkling lights and festive decorations for the last three weeks of December. You will be able to walk through the park every night (5-10pm), admire the sparkle of the holiday lights and drop off your letter to Santa in the North Pole Mailbox.
4. Wyandotte Library Scavenger Hunt: Locate the holiday items hiding in the library for a small prize. Available whenever the library is open from December 06, 2021 to Thursday, December 23, 2021.
5. Annual Old Fashioned Christmas & Tree Lighting at the One-Room Schoolhouse in Waltz on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at 4-8 pm: Learn about some toys of Christmas past; popcorn, sweets, and hot cocoa will be served; the children's tree will be filled with ornaments; and horse drawn carriage rides will be offered. The surrounding area of the schoolhouse will feature live music, holiday vendors, a children's craft, live reindeer, and more! The carriage rides will be offered 5-7pm. Children will be able to take home an ornament from the children's tree. All free!
6. The Downriver YMCA offers free bundled meals/groceries for children. Families can pick up a bundle for each child under the age of 18 in the home. Bundles are available every Thursday from 1-1:30pm. No registration necessary, but first come, first served.
7. Gleaners is doing a drive-thru food distribution in Wyandotte on 12/10/2021 from 9:00am to 11:00am at the Yack Arena. Families can receive a box of fresh produce and shelf-stable goods. No registration necessary.

## Montessori Philosophy

The 3-period lesson: A 3-step technique for presenting information to the child. In the first—the introduction or naming period—the teacher demonstrates what “this is.” (The teacher might say “This is a mountain” while pointing to it on a 3-dimensional map.) In the second—the association or recognition period—the teacher asks the child to “show” what was just identified (“Show me the mountain”). Finally, in the recall period, the teacher asks the child to name the object (“What is this?” she asks the child, while pointing to the mountain.) Moving from taking in new information,



to passive recall, to active identification reinforces the child's learning and demonstrates her mastery of the concept. [\(Source\)](#)

## In the Kitchen

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Except it's cold. Don't want to shiver outside making snowmen? Kids will love making these [easy snowman rice krispie treats!](#)

## For the Love of Reading

### For Parents

1. [The Importance of a Simple Environment](#)
2. [10 Easy Ways to Cultivate a Language Rich Environment in Your Home](#)
3. [Tips and Tricks For Potty Training](#)

### Children's Books

1. My First Kwanzaa by Karen Katz
2. Joy to the World! Christmas Around the Globe by Kate DePalma
3. The Night Before Hanukkah by Natasha Wing
4. Let's Celebrate! Special Days Around the World by Kate DePalma

