

Montessori Center of Downriver - February Newsletter

"Love is more than the electricity which lightens our darkness, more than the etheric waves that transmit our voices across space, more than any of the energies that man has discovered and learned to use. Of all things love is the most potent. All that men can do with their discoveries depends on the conscience of him who uses them. But this energy of love is given us so that each shall have it in himself." - Dr. Maria Montessori (The Absorbent Mind)

In the Classroom

Ms Ashley's Room

The theme for February in Ms Ashley's room is "Our Solar System." They will be learning fun facts about each planet throughout the month. They will also be making a Valentine's project to take home to loved ones.

Mrs. Dona's Room

"Thank you for your participation in our parent conferences. I enjoyed sharing your child's accomplishments.

January's art project was Modern Art by Piet Mondrian. We talked about primary colors and different types of lines. You can find more on Mondrian [here](#).

In February, we will delve into the continent of Africa. We will study some of the different foods, traditional clothing, and animals found there. We will also paint a Savanna sunset." - Mrs. Dona

Dates to Remember

February 14, 2022: It's pajama day! Children are invited to wear their favorite jammies and enjoy a relaxing day with friends. The school will provide a special snack. No need to send in any Valentines.

February 21, 2022: The school is *open* for Presidents' Day.

Ms Paula's Room

In January, Ms Paula's room finished up their work on the solar system and then learned about birds. They even made bird feeders for our feathered friends! In February, they'll be learning about the continents, starting with Antarctica.

Mrs. Melissa's Room

In February, Mrs. Melissa's class will be learning about ocean life. They just finished learning about the solar system!

Announcements

1. Please be sure that we have your correct email address on file. You can check this in your profile on the Procare app. Let us know if you'd like to change it.
2. Are you concerned about your child's screen time? Not sure how much is too much? The American Academy of Pediatrics has [a great tool](#) for creating a family media plan.
3. Many of us (myself--Ms April--included) are currently dealing with kids who are in the process of dropping naps. It can be a difficult transition--for everyone! We will work with you to help transition your child away from naps if need be; just let us know. Here's [some extra info](#) on how to drop naps and increase nighttime sleep.
4. Registration for our summer program is currently open only to enrolled families. However, we will be opening registration to our wait list on March 2nd. If you'd like to register and have not yet done so, please do so as soon as possible using this form. We will reach out to you soon about fall registration.

Fun at Home

Heart Weaving

Weaving makes a fun and easy Valentine's Day craft. Simply cut a heart out of a paper plate (or sturdy paper, felt, etc.), punch out holes along the plate's parameter (use a heart-shaped hole punch if you have one), and have children weave colored yarn/string through the holes.

Montessori Philosophy

Work: Purposeful activity. Maria Montessori observed that children learn through purposeful activities of their own choosing. Montessori schools call all of the children's activities "work." While "work" sounds like a serious endeavor, Dr. Montessori observed that children exhibit joy and experience this purposeful activity as play.

Work cycle: Within the prepared environment of the Montessori classroom, children are taught to complete a work cycle which includes 1) choosing an activity; 2) completing the activity to completion (perhaps repeating the full sequence of the activity multiple times), cleaning up and returning the materials to the proper place; and 3) experiencing a sense of satisfaction to have fully completed the task.

Local Events and Resources

1. Gleaners is doing a drive-thru food distribution in Wyandotte on 02/04/2022 and 02/18/2022 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.

2. The [JCPenney Kids Zone](#) is on 02/12/2022. Kids get a fun craft, an id badge, a lanyard, and collector's pins.
3. Admission to the Detroit Institute of Arts is free for all Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland county residents, and this month, they're also offering two fun family activities: On [February 12th](#), kids can make a sculpture, and on [February 19th](#), children will be able to design a quilt. The DIA currently [requires reservations](#).
4. The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy has two special weekends set up this month at Valade park: [Motown Love weekend](#) on February 11-13 will feature horse drawn carriage rides, Motown music, ice sculptures, selfie stations, and hot drinks. Or celebrate [Mardi Gras at Valade](#) (February 25-27) with a Caribbean and Louisiana feel. It features live music from the Gabriel Brass Band, kids activities, beads, some great creole inspired food, and more!

For the Love of Reading

For Parents

1. [What to Know About Montessori Preschools](#)
2. [Starting Each Day: Tips to Getting Out the Door On Time](#)

Children's Books

1. Under the Love Umbrella by Davina Bell
2. The Invisible String by Patrice Karst
3. I Am You: A Book about Ubuntu by Refiloe Moahloli