

Montessori Center of Downriver - March Newsletter

Educating the Whole Child

"To stimulate life, leaving it free, however, to unfold itself, that is the first duty of the educator. For such a delicate mission great art is required to suggest the right moment and to limit intervention, lest one should disturb or lead astray rather than help the soul which is coming to life and which will live by virtue of its own efforts." - Maria Montessori

A Montessori education is one that is focused on educating the whole child--intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development. It promotes individualized learning and focuses on a child's interests, needs, and independence by providing children with opportunities to explore, learn, play, create, and discover. This is quite different from most education systems, which focus on solely on educational attainment in subjects like literacy and math.

What Is "the Whole Child"?

When we talk about the whole child, we mean seeing children in their entirety, not just their academic abilities. The philosophy of the whole child values the human spirit and the development of every aspect of a child: physical, social, emotional, and cognitive. Seeing children and their education in this way promotes their wellbeing and places value on things such as physical movement, nutrition, mindfulness, and community.

What Does Educating the Whole Child Really Mean?

Educating the whole child means that knowledge is not compartmentalized. Children are taught to see the connections and relationships between subjects, and learning goes beyond rote memorization to internalizing the how and why of things. Learning is done by engaging the senses and through movement.

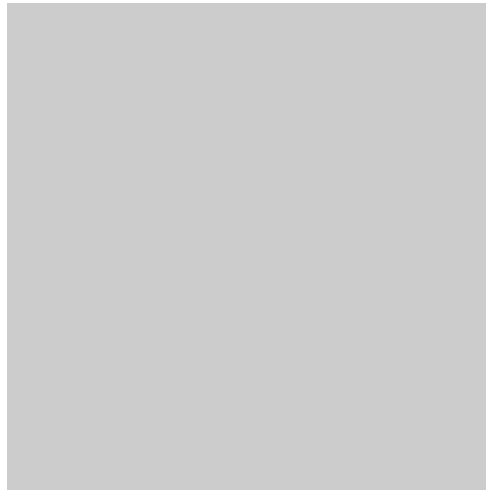
*"Till now, almost all educators have thought of movement and the muscular system as aids to respiration, or to circulation, or as a means for building up physical strength. But in our new conception the view is taken that movement has great importance in mental development itself, provided that the action which occurs is connected with the mental activity going on." (Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*, p. 142)*

Using this view of learning, children are not confined to a desk or certain space; instead, thoughtful and purposeful movement is encouraged in the classroom. Children are seen as autonomous beings, capable of deciding for themselves how and what to learn. This type of education also engages and encourages whole brain learning; that is, it engages both the left and right brain together.

In the Classroom

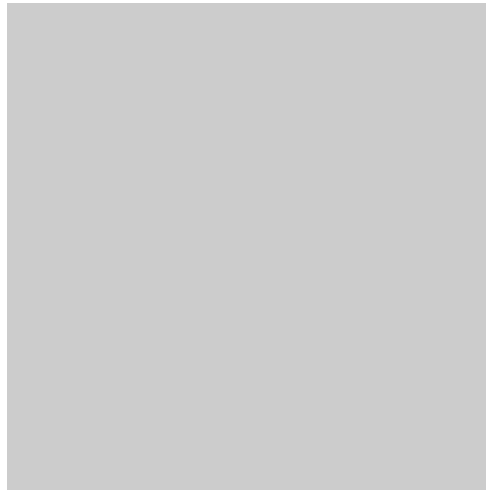
Ms Ashley's Class

Ms Ashley's class will be learning about our oceans and the creatures that live in them. They'll also be learning about the continents.



Mrs. Dona's Class

In March, Mrs. Dona's class will be studying South America. They will learn about the rainforest biome and floral art; they'll also do tropical food tasting and coffee grinding and will play a game called Embogue.



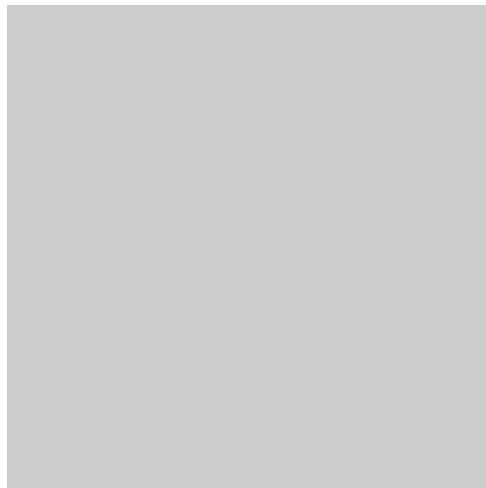
Ms Paula's Class

Ms Paula's class will be learning about South America. They will also begin studying the works of Monet.



Mrs. Melissa's Class

In March, Mrs. Melissa's class will be learning about wild animals from around the world.



Dates to Remember

March 27-31: Spring Break

April 3rd: School resumes

April 7: School closed

Updated Policy

We have added the following policy to our [Parent Handbook](#): “Children must be properly secured in a car seat. We will not release children if they do not have an age-appropriate car seat.”

You can receive a free car seat for taking the following course with the [Michigan Children's Hospital](#).

Local Events and Resources

Southgate Library

Find the Missing Crayons! March 1-30
Crayons have gone missing at the Southgate Library. If you see them, let the front desk know for a reward.

Let's Color! March 30, 4-5pm
The library is hosting a coloring party in honor of National Crayon Day! Color, create, learn the history of the crayon, and win colorful prizes!

Family Storytime: Tuesdays at 10:30m.

Wyandotte Library

Makerspace Crafting: Lucky Green Bracelet: March 6th-11th
Stop by the front desk to pick up a lucky-to-be-wearing green craft kit. Supplies are limited so grab one quickly!

Slime-the-Makerspace: Color Changing Slime: March 15, 4-5pm
Learn how to make color changing slime. All ingredients and a storage container will be provided. This class is limited in size to ensure the safety of all participants.

Make Time For Play: March 28, 10-11:30

1. NASA has many [fun at-home activities](#) for children!
2. [The DIA is free](#) to all Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland county residents.
3. Did you know that you can get free museum passes (including to the very fun [Outdoor Adventure Center](#)) from your local library? Check out the [Michigan Activity Pass website](#) for more info.
4. Get a [free Visit Detroit pass](#) and you can get one free admission to the Michigan Science Center with the purchase of one ticket.

Gleaners

Gleaners provides boxes of food and fresh produce to anyone in need. No registration required.

City of Woodhaven
23101 Hall Rd
Woodhaven, MI 48183
03/14/2023 9:00am - 11:00am
03/28/2023 9:00am - 11:00am

Ford Community and Performing Arts Center
15801 Michigan Ave
Dearborn, MI 48126
03/07/2023 9:00am - 11:00am
03/21/2023 9:00am - 11:00am

City of Wyandotte
Yack Arena
3131 3rd St.
Wyandotte, MI 48192
03/03/2023 9:00am - 11:00am
03/17/2023 9:00am - 11:00am

The storytime room will be changed into a playgroup space featuring multiple play and learn stations for children to circulate through. The stations will include dramatic play, large and small motor play, sand table, and a rotating monthly themed station. Families are welcome to come and go throughout the morning.

03/31/2023 9:00am - 11:00am

*Kennedy Building - Central Office -
Ecorse Public Schools*
27225 West Outer Drive
Ecorse, MI 48229

03/07/2023 2:00pm - 4:00pm

03/21/2023 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Trenton Library

Pajama Story Time: March 2, 2023,
6:30-7:00pm and March 16, 2023,
6:30-7:00pm

A family storytime to help get kid ready for bed! Everyone comes in the PJs, and we read relaxing nighttime stories. Please call the library at (734)676-9777 or stop by the reference desk to register.

Budding Bookworms: Pre-K: March
29, 2023, 11-11:30

Early literacy storytimes for the youngest bookworms. Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. for children ages 3-5. Please call (734)676-9777 or stop by the reference desk to register.

Budding Bookworms: Toddlers: March
29, 2023, 10-10:30

Early literacy storytimes for the youngest bookworms. Wednesday morning at 10:00 am for children ages 0 to 3. Please call (734)676-9777 or stop by the reference desk to register.

Taylor Library

Toddler Storytime: March 28, 10:30-
11:15

Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, and fun! Toddler storytime is for ages 2-4, but older and younger siblings

are welcome.