

The Montessori Lexis

March 5, 2010 The Montessori School of Bowling 515 Sandridge Road Bowling Green Ohio 419-352-4203

Dr. Maria Montessori – Planes of Development Adapted by Patricia Yonka

Birth to Six	Six to Twelve	Twelve to Eighteen	Eighteen to Twenty-Four
Child wants to know what things are	Child wants to know why things function, operate, etc.	Child wants to take action on what has been learned.	Acquired knowledge and experience helps to form the new or continuing adult.
Repetition is a learning and enjoyment experience. Child is presented with the practical life area of the classroom as his/her preparation for life.	While repetition continues, the child, needing to learn about the world, is given “Great Lessons” which open the wonder of the universe to the child. Montessori calls this Cosmic Education.	Research of interest/study guide areas requires the child to fulfill his/her role for the good of the whole.	Continuing education further feeds the thirst for knowledge.
The sensorial area of the environment allows the child to learn organization and sequence while involving the 5 senses.	The child’s sense of justice is evident. Moral development is explored through an appreciation of those who have come before us.	The great lessons of the adolescent environment concern personal growth and the challenges of the real world.	Adulthood brings with it ongoing responsibilities. Through continued study of personal and professional challenges, our internal and external growth can continue.
Prepared environment meets the needs of the child as he/she learns more about the world and him/herself.	While the environment is prepared, the child has the need to explore the world. This is provided by going out into the community, a continuation of study from the classroom and in service to others.	The child’s need to become self-sufficient is further enhanced by the implementation of small businesses, service projects, and the land lab experience.	The roles that we hold as adults can be described in terms of our professional and personal lives.
Concrete materials give understanding with as few words as possible so that the child can form the concept for him/herself.	Concrete materials continue to assist the child and move him/her to abstraction.	Abstraction is preferred by the child but concrete experiences are continuously provided through participation in experiences at and outside of school.	While adults function in the abstract , it is good to remember that concrete experiences allow us to discover or rediscover the wonder of our world and our lives.

The Importance of the Three Year Cycle

Current research is validating Dr. Montessori's genius in proposing how children learn and develop. She viewed the growth of an individual from birth to age 24 in four "planes of development." Each plane consists of a three year age span in which children have unique needs and exhibit characteristics which transcend cultural differences. For an overview of the planes of development, see the above chart.

Dr. Montessori spent over fifty years living with and watching children all around the world, educating teachers and refining her materials and methods. The materials are designed to meet the developmental needs of the children at each plane or cycle. The curriculum generally takes three years to complete. Children are able to work at their own pace to acquire necessary skills and concepts. Most children demonstrate strengths in some areas and challenges in others. If help is needed, support is provided by direct one to one instruction from the teachers. Opportunities for peer sharing and tutoring provide additional reinforcement of skills. Conversely, if skills come easily, children are free to pursue the next level of challenge in their work. By the end of the third year of the cycle, children have generally internalized the knowledge gained over the last three years. Throughout the indepth learning process, successes are recognized and affirmed. Self-confidence is built and sets the stage for further growth.

At MSBG, we have highly trained teachers who have great knowledge of the classic Montessori materials and how and when to use them to benefit the children's growth. The teachers also closely follow Montessori principles as they develop new materials and curriculum to meet the needs of children.

The scope and sequence of the Early Childhood (3-6 year olds), Lower Elementary (6-9 year olds) and Upper Elementary (9-12 year olds) curriculum is designed to cover three years. Studies demonstrate students gain in-depth knowledge, have increased leadership opportunities, and intrinsic motivation with a three year cycle method. One example of the three year cycle scope and sequence curriculum is found in the Upper Elementary cycle for History.

Year A	Year B	Year C
Timelines of Life and Humans Clock of Eras Needs of Humans Ancient Civilizations Simulation of Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome	Needs of Humans Aztec, Inca, Maya, Native Americans Simulation of Medieval Europe Renaissance Explorers	Needs of Humans Simulation of Coming to America Colonial America Simulation of Westward Expansion Ohio History

This kind of cycle is also present in other areas of curriculum. The Lower Elementary years follow the same kind of three year cycle. To receive the optimal benefits of a Montessori Education, it is highly recommended that your child stay through sixth grade.

Calendar of Events

Enrollment Packets Distributed
Friday, March 5, 2010

Parents of Kindergartners Visit Lower Elem.
See Classroom for Times
Week of March 8th

Parents of 3rd year Students Visit Upper Elem.
See Classroom for Times
Week of March 8th

Enrollment Materials Returned to Office By
Wednesday, March 17, 2010

PTO Meeting Monday, March 15, 6:15 pm

Calendar of Events

LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, March 20, 2010, 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Evening Conferences March 25, 2010

Evening Conferences March 30, 2010

No School April 1, 2010
Conferences All Day

No School April 2 – 9, 2010
Spring Break

Grandparent/Special Relative Visit Week
April 12 – 16, 2010

Montessori Wins at U.S. Jr. Chess Congress

Four boys from the Montessori School of Bowling Green and a 4th grader from Gibsonburg combined their talents to win 3rd Place at the 2010 United States Jr. Chess Congress on February 20th and 21st in Indianapolis. The national title event sanctioned by the United States Chess Federation attracted the talent of over 170 players from 14 states as far away as Texas.

Representing the Montessori School of Bowling Green were Jared Bechstein, Robert Hoffman, Isaac Rogers and Anthony Shepherd. Representing Gibsonburg's Hilfiker Elementary School was Ben Brasic. Both schools combined to form a "club" in contrast to a scholastic team. The US Chess Congress is one of the few tournaments in the Midwest that permits "club" play among students.

The Montessori Chess Club scored 14.5 points in 6 rounds over a two-day period to place 3rd in the 6th Grade and Under Section. Hoffman, Rogers and Brasic lead the team with 4 points each while Shepherd and Bechstein also contributed wins.

This is the second time that a team from the Montessori has successfully competed at this national event. In 2007, the Montessori School of Bowling Green also placed third.

Way to go Boys!



Save The Date**April 23, 2010**

Our Spring Concert will be Friday, April 23, 2010. The complete program with all grade levels performing will be held at 10:15 am and 2:15 pm. This will allow you to pick the time that best works with your schedule. It will be exciting to see all classrooms performing at each time slot. We are very fortunate to have Miss Teresa working with the children and I know you will enjoy this event so... Save The Date!

Needed**Bales of Straw**

As the temperature rises and the snow melts we find the pathway to the Elementary playground has a few mud pits. We are in need of about 5 bales of straw to be delivered to the school and carried to the area leading to the Elementary playground. If you are a farmer or know a farmer who could donate and deliver please let us know.

Your child's footwear, pants and coat greatly appreciate your time and donation. Thank you!



Early Childhood - West

It is hard to believe that March is here, where has the year gone?

Pax's West Room Class has many older children (5 and 6 year olds). We are enjoying listening to the observations and ideas they come up with. This week we added an addition unit to the math area. Two boys were exploring the Addition Bingo. They had the following equation:

$$\begin{array}{r} 29 \\ +37 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

After looking the work over, one of the boys walked over to Miss Emily and said, "Hey, we need a calculator to figure out this problem!" The boys were shown the calculator they could use: the Golden Bead materials! The boys laughed at this "calculator", but were very successful in figuring out the addition problem.



In March we will be celebrating three birthdays. Neena is 5 ½, Braeden and Yelia are both turning 5.

We would like to thank the Duran family for bringing in a unit on skins and fur of Ohio wild animals from the Toledo Metro Park system. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience!

To end our Chinese New Year celebration we will be parading through the building visiting each classroom wearing masks we have made. The streamers flowing from the masks give the illusion of a Chinese dragon.

One of our BGSU 302 students, Brittany Mullins, brought a sunflower seed planting project to our classroom. She read a story about the growth of a plant and now we are watching our sunflower seeds grow!

Miss Emily and Miss Brenda

MSBG ALUMNI PANEL To Visit the PTO Meeting This Month!

The next MSBG PTO meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 15, 2010 at 6:15pm.

At 7:00pm, MSBG alumni will speak about their experiences and answer your questions.

What questions do you have for Montessori School of Bowling Green Alumni? Email Jess Hover your questions at jessicadhover@hotmail.com.

Also, if you are an alumni, or have children who are alumni, please let us add you to our panel!

Early Childhood - East

Hello March! We are looking forward to warmer temperatures and seeing green grass again.

In the Practical Life area, water work has been introduced to the children. The first activity was sponge squeezing. Using a large water filled bowl, the sponge is used to soak up the water. Then using their hands the water was squeezed from the sponge. What fun! Then water was transferred from one container to another using a tea bag strainer and also a garlic press. These activities have led us to the exciting work of pouring water. This activity takes a lot coordination, concentration and builds focus.

The children have explored the concept of greater than and less than. We call it "Greedy Duck." They have enjoyed opening the ducks mouth towards the largest number and have taken the concept with them when exploring other number work.

We have introduced our food and nutrition unit and the children have been exploring food that helps their body grow big and strong. After exploring the human body in February the children have been very interested in how to take care and protect their body. As Miss Cindy's grandson was born on March 1, the children have been applying their knowledge of the human body, food and nutrition to think of what Ethan Alexander needs to stay healthy and grow strong.

We look forward to seeing you at conferences next month.

In Peace....Miss Cindy and Miss Carrie

Montessori Goes to Girls State Championships

Three Montessori girls competed February 20th at the 2010 Ohio Girls Chess Championships in Columbus. The event is a special tournament to encourage girls to play chess, a game which has traditionally been dominated by boys. Attendance at the girls championships has doubled over the past 3 years with 103 girls competing this year.

Winning 1st place for the Montessori School of Bowling Green in the U-600 section was 4th grader Elana Cable. Elana went undefeated on the day while drawing once in the Round 3 to finish the day with 4.5 points. Elana is among the NW Ohio's top elementary girl chess players.

Rounding out the scoring for the Montessori were Aubrey Bartman and Lily Krueger. Aubrey and Lily each contributed wins toward a team effort in the Unrated Section. This was Elana and Aubrey's first time at the Ohio Girls Chess Championships, while Lily was the veteran of the group with this being her 3rd time.



You GO GIRLS!

New Additions to Our Parent-Teacher Library:

Asperger's Syndrome, Asperger Syndrome and Adolescence, Taking the Mystery Out Of Medications in Autism/Asperger Syndromes, I Need Help With School!: A Guide for Parents of Children With Autism & Asperger's Syndrome, A Parent's Guide To Autism, The Myth of the ADD Child, The Survival Guide for Parents of Gifted Kids, Keys To Parenting A Child With Attention Deficit Disorders, In The Mind's Eye: Visual Thinkers, Gifted People With Dyslexia and Other Learning Difficulties, Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs.

These and other books are in the area outside the Lower Elementary classroom. There is a separate shelf dedicated to Autism/Asperger books. Please feel free to browse and check out books. Instruction sheets are on the shelves.

New Additions to Our Main Library:

Fairy Godmother, The Tail of Emily Windsnap, Emily Windsnap and the Monster from the Deep,

One of the goals for the library is to have all "picture books" be hardbacks. This will take a number of years but the hardback books are sturdier and able to be held easily by young hands. Please feel free to check out books with your preschool child. We love encouraging young children to love books and reading! The library is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**It's time to bring in your
General Mills
"Box Tops for Education"
Please place them in the bin
in the foyer.**

Please visit our website at
www.montessorischoolbg.com

The website features...

- The Latest MSBG News
- Weekly Calendar Events
- Forms
- Photo Gallery
- Montessori Education Video
- Lexis Newsletter and Archives
- And More!