

Little Flowers Montessori School



Celebrating 100 years of the Montessori Method

September 10, 2008

Wednesday Folders

Every other Wednesday, your child (one folder per family), will be bringing home a folder. In this folder there will be important information such as newsletters, tuition receipts, permission slips, etc. Please read the information carefully and return the folder the next day. This folder may also be used for you to return important information back to school.

Welcome

We would like to introduce our newest staff member, Abby Anderson. Abby will be working the mornings and afternoons in Casa 1. We are very excited to have her join our team.

Emergency Numbers

When filling out the new emergency card, all phone numbers *must be local*, this includes all emergency contacts. If there is an emergency, the emergency contact that lives far away cannot help. Please notify all of your contacts that you are putting their number down.

On September 15, all emergency contact numbers will be tested. Please prepare your emergency contacts that we will be testing the numbers. We will be calling only local numbers. The teachers will be notifying parents if any of the numbers they put down are long distance and need to change.

Required Forms

Little Flowers Montessori School is required by Department of Human Services: Rule 3, to have all forms filled out completely and in a timely manner upon admission into our program.

Your child's teacher will be contacting you if you need to turn in forms and/or if the forms are not complete. Please help by turning in all of the required forms.

Children in the Toddler Community will be required to turn in a new Health Summary and Immunization Record when they turn three years old and have moved up to the Children's House.

Arrival

Children may enter their room between 8:20am – 8:30am (this does not include children who are in the extended day program). Please help your child change into his/her slippers and then say good bye at the door.

In the Children's Houses, when parents enter the rooms, the children are very distracted and then have a hard time settling back into their work. If you have any further questions, please ask your child's teacher.

The slipper cubbies are to be used for slippers only. Shoes are often too big to fit in the small cubbies and we also would like to keep our environment clean.

This year we are asking all children to wash their hands when they first enter the Casa. Our nurse consultant thought that this was a great idea and has said that in other schools the amount of illness has been reduced.

Dismissal

When picking up your child at 11:30am, 11:40am or 3:30pm, please stay in your car or stand just outside of the building. We will bring your child to you. We need to dismiss the children to you outside of the building in order to maintain control of the situation and to keep everyone safe. The reason for this is that it can get too chaotic if children are being picked up inside the building. The other children began to stand up and want to walk out the door and/or look for their car.

If there is a large gap in the line of cars, please pull forward if it can be done safely (you can pull forward as far as the shed), before we bring your child to you. We have got to keep the line of cars moving so no one is stuck on Zachary Lane for a long period of time.

If you need to come into the building or talk with another parent, you must park your car. We cannot have the car line backed up and out onto Zachary Lane.

Community Building

We decided to dedicate this year to community building; to building a better community inside and outside the Little Flowers Community.

In the school calendar there are some events scheduled to promote this. The first event is September 11, the Parent Gathering. Throughout the year more are scheduled. Please look ahead and help us to build a better community.

Parent Gathering

The Fall Parent Gathering is tomorrow, Thursday, September 11 from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. Appetizers will be provided. This event will be held outdoors in the back yard, please dress appropriately. This is a great opportunity to build community and get to know other families at Little Flowers Montessori. We are looking forward to it.

Apple Jack Orchard

On Tuesday, September 30, there will be a field trip for children who are 4 years old and older. They will be going to Apple Jack's Apple Orchard in Delano. If your child is 4 years old or older (as of September 30), look for the field trip permission slip and return it along with the fee as soon as possible. We can have one parent volunteer per casa to go on the field trip with us. Each parent will have to pay their own way. The first parents, who volunteer, will be able to go.

A Montessori Minute

The exercises of practical life are the means for all-around human development – physically, emotionally and intellectually. They help the child develop his psycho-motor skills like the hand, mind and body. The mind and the hand integrate as an instrument of the intelligence. Dr. Montessori said, "The exercises of practical life help the child to become joyful, calm and peaceful," and they lay the foundation for intelligence and for all future work.

Plymouth Magazine: Seeds of Knowledge by Meredith Barzen

Meet Preethy Goonetilleke: Originally from Sri Lanka, this Plymouth resident of 16 years and mother of two is the owner and head of Little Flowers Montessori School.

- *What was your childhood like?* Happy, secure and memorable.
- *When and why did you move to Plymouth?* We moved to Plymouth in 1992. Education was very important to my husband and me. Hence, we chose to move to the Wayzata school district.
- *Tell us about the transition from Sri Lanka to Plymouth.* [I went] from a tropical island to a place that has four seasons. As a young and energetic woman back then, I was ready to explore the world. But the warmth and kindness of Minnesotans changed my mind to stay here.
- *Where did the name "Little Flowers" come from?* Children are like little flowers. Flowers blossom in a nurturing environment.
- *What do you think is the most important thing for an educator to understand?* That we are there to serve the whole child: intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual needs.
- *What's your favorite part of working in a school?* Being with children. They are the greatest gift.
- *Has your career in education affected your relationship with your children?* Absolutely, especially since I am a Montessori teacher. I believe that the Montessori Method is brilliant, not only for education but for parenting as well... I never had my children go through terrible 2s, and I absolutely love spending time with my teenagers.
- *What do you do when you're not in school?* Spend time with my husband and children, and read.

The above article was printed in the August 2008 issue of *Plymouth Magazine*. Preethy was interviewed for the Cityscope: Faces Feature. If you would like more information on *Plymouth Magazine*, please visit the website www.plymouthmag.com/plymouthHome.asp

Calendar Notes

September 11 – Parent Gathering with appetizers 6:30pm – 8:00pm
September 30 – Apple Jack’s Orchard field trip (for children 4+ years old)
Tuesday, October 7 – The Different Areas of the Montessori Environment;
6:00pm (for parents only)
October 16 & 17 – No school; teacher workshops
October 21 – Lifetouch school pictures
October 31 – Halloween party (please do not bring candy to share, more information to follow)
November 7 – Parent/teacher conferences