



January 2017

# Newsletter

## Important Dates

**Tuesday, January 3**

School Resumes

**Monday, January 16**

**School Closed**

Martin Luther King Day

**Friday, January 20**

**School Closed**

Inauguration Day

**Tuesday, February 7**

Science Fair at Apple

**Friday, February 10**

**SCHOOL CLOSED**

Professional Day for All  
Apple Staff

**Thursday, February 23**

Mom's Day in the  
classroom

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Here at Apple Montessori we are beginning to gear up for the 2017-2018 school year. The re-enrollment packets have been sent out already. Our present families have first choice to re-enroll, our new families will begin enrollment Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

In considering **re-enrollment**, please keep in mind that our Montessori program is carefully structured for children ages 2 through kindergarten. It follows children's natural stages of development and sensitivities, allowing them to find great joy in learning. All children benefit from a Montessori education, but the children who stay for the full program benefit the most.

If you have any questions about re-enrollment or the kindergarten year, please speak with your child's teacher or Ms. Tory.

Thank you!

## **KINDERGARTEN YEAR IN MONTESSORI**

**by Edward Fidellow**

Kindergarten is the harvest year for all the planting and intellectual tending that has gone on for the preceding years in preschool. The kindergarten child's learning explodes into an avalanche of reading, writing and math. All of the earlier preparation (practical life, sensorial) now finds academic outlets. The kindergarten child not only gains a wider breadth of knowledge but a deeper understanding of what she has learned and now is able to use this knowledge to enhance her own intellectual pursuits.

A Montessori education is not just cumulative in its learning; it is exponential in its understanding. The learning that happens in kindergarten is not just adding another year's knowledge but multiplying what is learned and applying it to what is to come.

It is common for Montessori kindergarten graduates to be able to read well (and write) and to understand math far beyond addition and subtraction all the way to multiplication, division and geometry.

Maybe even more significantly, the lifetime patterns of responsibility, goal setting, having a work ethic, working through mistakes, inquiry and curiosity are being firmly set.

To miss this formative year that sets successful life patterns is to miss the ultimate advantage of this unique preschool experience.

The kindergarten year in a Montessori classroom is also the year of mentoring. It is the year when the five year old is able to really help her classmates. This mentoring year is significant for two reasons. First, when you teach others, you really master the subject for yourself. Second, when you are asked to teach you demonstrate your mastery of the material. It is this mastery that produces the profound feelings of self-confidence and assurance that is the hallmark of Montessori students. Real achievement and real achievement demonstrated builds real self-esteem.

Leaving the Montessori program before kindergarten often places a child into an educational setting that is not as advanced; nor one that allows for the initiative that has been carefully cultivated during the earlier preschool years. The child is often introduced to a different curriculum one that lacks the individual intellectual satisfaction that comes from exploring and discovering the wonderful world of learning found in Montessori.

The essence of a successful life is to be able to make wise choices. The Montessori kindergarten student is at a major threshold of exercising that wise decision making power. To lose that opportunity is to lose a significant part of the hard won success of the preceding years.

The great gift of an education is not the accumulation of facts and statistics but the lighting of the fire of learning, discovery and joy. It is a gift that Montessori children have the privilege and pleasure of opening and using for a lifetime.

## Useful Information

**School Closing** - Winter brings snowy and icy roads. Apple follows the Montgomery County Public Schools concerning inclement weather. Listen to the radio or sign up at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx) for bulletins on weather related emergencies.

**If Montgomery County Public Schools:**

are closed  
open late  
close early  
cancels all afternoon school activities

**Then Apple:**

is closed  
opens at 10:00am  
closes at 12:00 noon  
closes at 3:00pm

**Outdoor Play** - Every Wednesday, the children explore the outdoors walking and running across the field and hiking in the woods. Children best enjoy this experience when appropriately clothed. In the winter this includes gloves, a warm winter coat, layered clothing and mittens. If very cold and/or snowy, snow pants and snow boots.

**Tax Information** - If you need a statement of your child care cost, go to your FACTS account and print out your statement of payments. It includes all your payments and Apple's tax ID number. If you need further information, please contact the office.

### Our children working!

Dylan watering our classroom plant.



Peter and Sammy  
(our kindergartners)  
working on the 8-  
chain.



Vasilis grinding  
coffee.

