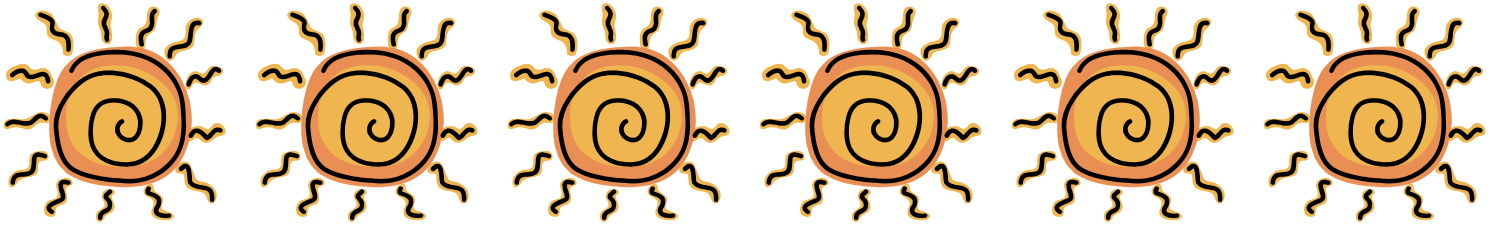


WHISPERING FARMS MONTESSORI NEWS



Independence Day Parade

We will be having our annual Independence Day Parade. Some of the festivities will include a bike parade, bounce house, face painting and magic show. All parents are welcome to attend!



Fall Registration

If you plan on having your child attend Whispering Farms in the Fall please make sure your Registration form and fee have been paid. If your child will not be attending the school please remember to submit a notice of withdrawal in writing.

Wonders of the World

For the month of July the children will be studying about China for the first two weeks and Egypt for the last two weeks of July. Children will learn about the Great Wall, Chinese language, and Culture and then study the Pyramids of Egypt as well as Ancient Egyptian art and life.

Summer Reminder

Just a reminder to all parents that children must have a pair of closed toed shoes for the summer. They can come to school in flip flops/sandals but please have a pair of tennis shoes in their cubbies.

Splash Days

With the beginning of our summer session comes the fun of Splash Days!!! An email will be sent out reminding parents of splash day- please remember to bring your child already dressed in their swim suit, sun block applied. Bring extra clothes and towels (all labeled) in a bag.

Summer Safety

The summer heat and sun are here! Please send a bottle of sun block (labeled) with your child so that it can be applied when the children go out in the afternoon. If your child has asthma or breathing issue please make sure to let the staff know- so they can be monitored during bad ozone days.

Whispering Farms Montessori Academy

07/01/2011

Important Dates:

07/01 Independence Day Parade

07/04 School Closed

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What Children get from Montessori

By Tim Seldin

As another school year comes to an end, this is a good time to stop and think about how your children have changed through their Montessori experience? How have they grown over the last year? Give some thought as to how their Montessori experience has been different from what it might have been had your children spent the year in more conventional schools.

Recently, a family I've known for some years told me that their children will be leaving Montessori to go to a local public elementary school in their community because they were so impressed with the music program that the school offers. Others come to the same decision because one school has a swimming pool, another a gym, another a large library. All of these differences are real and there is no doubt that Montessori schools are often both expensive, but also challenged when we compare the facilities with those available in much larger publicly funded schools.

My premise is simple: What makes Montessori schools special is not necessarily their vast resources and large student body. Yes, children will have more friends in other schools, and it may be that they might be able to participate in some more extra-curricular activities. But the question that I suggest you ask is: What really makes one school different from another, and how should one weigh those differences?

I would encourage you to ask yourself these questions:

What have you been hoping to see your children take away from their years in Montessori?

How important are those outcomes in your mind today?

And finally, I encourage you to ask yourself: How important do you feel the next few years in your children's education will be? How might they benefit if you are willing and able to stay the course and consider what may be lost if you can't.

Benjamin Franklin wrote: "An investment in education pays the best dividends." I suspect that most of us would still agree with him.

The question is what makes an education meaningful and worthwhile? I suggest that, for all too many children today, school is a process of preparing for the next test, completing this week's onerous burden of homework assignments, and somehow coping with the stress of having to compete, complying with someone else's requirements, and doing something that they would never do voluntarily. Many parents argue that this the way the 'real' world works. I would respectfully suggest that this is a recipe for burnout, boredom, and depression for all too many children and adults. Education is not a race. It is a journey that we are privileged to take together!

Our world has changed dramatically, requiring new skills and knowledge that are rarely taught and definitely not measured on the tests that have become the driving force in most classrooms. Test and accountability have become the primary focus in more and more public and private schools every year.

Every year, the consensus grows that our so called 'traditional' approach to education, so common in the U.S and other countries, is outdated and wasteful of children's energy, talent, and potential. Does it work for some children? Of course it does! Is it consistent with what we know today about children's learning and how to best facilitate their development? The answer is a simple no!

How can we best prepare our children for the future? Today, the global economy has changed. The great opportunities are shifting enterprises and skill sets based much more on innovation and information. The schools that most people think of as being 'traditional' are actually not very old historically. They emerged in North America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in response to waves of immigration from non English speaking cultures and the growing move from an agrarian economy to one that increasingly urban and industrial. The large public school district developed in the big cities and only later spread out to the suburbs after the Second World War.

The traditional American schools was, for centuries, the one room school house, which had multi age class groups and teachers who tended to remain with the same groups of children for several years.

Because children were immersed in the everyday life and work of their family and community, they tended to have much more direct, hands on experience with practical mechanics, everyday tools, daily chores and the cycles of the seasons from planting to harvest. The things children were expected to learn in those much smaller and simpler schools placed greater emphasis on cultural literacy, history geography, the lives of famous people, great inventions, and great poetry and literature.

Can you see the parallels between the on-room school house of America's past to Montessori?

The large schools that we all know today were consciously designed to educate the masses according to the plans and a course of study developed in the school districts central offices. And, ironically, for much of the 1900's the organizational model that inspired policy and procedure was the approach to mass production and de personalization of the American factory and corporation. Students were considered the 'raw material' the school was thought of as a factory and teachers were thought of as the 'work force'. The tensions between labor and management, is still present to this day in most school systems. Conventional schools were designed to produce complacent workers, or, in middle class communities, people who are good at working within the system, following the rules and responding to the demands and expectation of their supervisors.

Great education is not focused on text books, workbooks, hours of homework assignments, and preparing for a never ending series of test. It centers around reading, reflection, and energetic exploration of interesting topics and ideas in discussion and debate.

In the changing global economy, we need and reward people who see things in new and different ways. There is far less need for the workers who just put in their time and go along with the current corporate party line. It is obvious that corporation's are far less committed to loyal employees. But what may not be obvious is that the best jobs are increasingly going to people who are incredibly intelligent, creative, and forward things. It is a high octane blend of people skills, the ability to organize and coordinate projects, and innovation that wins elections and builds successful businesses.

We know that Montessori works! I am constantly amazed that, year after year so many parents express the same concerns, as if Montessori were a new untested experiment. There are tens of thousands of Montessori schools around the world, and they have produced outstanding graduates for more than one hundred years. Montessori has historically been the choice for parents who do not value conformity but rather the cultivation of their children's curiosity and creativity.

In my case, I wanted my children to be fascinated by books, interesting people, and new ideas. I wanted to ensure that they felt their education was a gift not a burden. I did not want to encourage them to accept what their teachers taught without question. I did not value obedience over kindness, respect, and courtesy. What are your own goals? The final choice is, of course yours, and you must do what is right for your family. By having your children in Montessori, you have given them a great gift. By keeping them in Montessori you will not only continue to give them the gift of lifelong learning, you will help all of us by providing the next generation of leaders who understand how to take initiatives to change the world for the better.

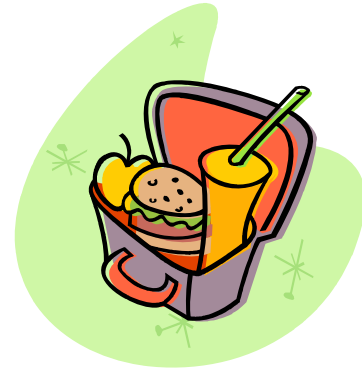
July Birthdays!!!

Alec	7/1
Addison V.	7/6
Ms. Marta	7/13
Ms. Sylvia S	7/14
Ms. Francisco	7/24



Lunch Reminder

Our school lunches are an easy and nutritious option for your family. If you choose to provide your own lunch please make sure to send it with a cold pack. Also please do not send any frozen lunches, we can reheat food but do not have the capacity to cook them.



Whispering Farms Montessori Academy

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Whispering Farms Montessori Academy is Prosper's first (and only) Montessori school. It was founded in January 2003. Lead Teachers in the Primary program are Montessori Certified. All teachers are CPR and First Aid Certified. We have a dedicated staff.

Our Goal is to provide a creative environment where each child will excel and learn at their own pace.

We would really appreciate it if parents could place a review about our school on any search engines like Google, Yahoo, etc..