MONTESSORI THREE-YEAR CYCLE:

It is never too early to start thinking about your enrollment plans for the next school year. This is especially true for those of you with children who will be ready for their Kindergarten experience next year. There is much to consider as you decide whether to transition your child to a more traditional school or to stay at Montessori and complete the third year of the Early Childhood (Preprimary). As you weigh your options, we would like to share the following information for you to consider.

The Montessori educational methodology is a very well designed and structured curriculum that evolved over years of scientific research by Dr. Maria Montessori. She spent countless hours observing how children learn and found that children evolve in developmental planes that run roughly over the following three-year periods: 0 to 3 years of age, 3 to 6 years of age, 6 to 9 years of age, 9 to 12 years of age, 12 to 15 years of age, and 15 to 18 years of age. She then determined that it is best to place all children aged in a given developmental plane in the same classroom. Hence, the multi-age classrooms of Montessori were born. She then developed appropriate materials to stimulate the learning of the children of all ages in each developmental plane. For a child to get the full benefit of the Montessori Early Childhood program, she should ideally attend all three years from age 3 to 6.

P. Donohue Shortridge, a Montessorian since 1980 and a Montessori school consultant, summarizes the benefits and opportunities lost to a student who does not participate in the third year of a three-year cycle in her article “Please Stay... Here’s Why” published in Montessori Life (Fall 2018). As we all know, children learn from their elders. What you may not realize is that they often learn from elder children more readily than they learn from adults. There is more comfort being guided by someone closer to your own size than by someone who towers over you. This is one of the reasons for our multi-age classrooms. When your child first enters the Montessori classroom as a new, young student, he receives much instruction from the older children: the “leaders” of the classroom. If your student leaves before the third year, she is deprived of experiencing this “leadership” year. Being a leader helps a student refine many executive functioning skills such as problem solving, appropriate social interaction in groups, motivation of self and others, and critical thinking. Further, there is no better way to cement one’s knowledge of a matter than teaching it to others. The “leadership” year in our curriculum adds so much to the Montessori experience.

DO WE STAY, OR DO WE GO?
PLEASE STAY, THERE IS MUCH TO BE GAINED.
Having a child complete a three-year cycle in a Montessori classroom truly gives the student the opportunity to fully acquire academic knowledge at his own pace without being pressured by an artificial timetable set by the needs of others. A 5- or 6-year-old child usually has much better control of her body. He also can concentrate longer and more fully. Thus, a student in the third year can better solidify mastery of the material and can even challenge herself further. Also, during the three-year cycle, the child has been with the same teacher in the same environment. The student is then completely comfortable with all environmental factors which can increase focus on the learning, on the experiencing, on the experimenting, on the taking in the information surrounding him. Independence, capability, and confidence mushroom!

The 5- to 6-year old child is also much more socially and emotionally developed than a 3-year old. The older child is more prepared to work collaboratively with others and is more able to understand another child. In a Montessori classroom, you will observe the natural growth of empathy and community building. The children who stay in the classroom through the three-year cycle have been together for so long that they know each other well and they know the classroom, environment, and the community’s expectations for them. They have become attached to one another. Their confidence and community spirit move them to take the younger children under their wings and help them learn and help them to join the community. As stated by Ms. Shortridge: “[a]cts of benevolence toward the younger child not only endear that younger child to his older classmate, they allow the older child to open his heart to the needs of other.” The amazing thing is that this happens all without the intervention of the teachers. It is a natural process occurring through the three-year cycle in a Montessori classroom. These children become strong global citizens: self-confident and self-aware but always cognitive of and respectful of the needs of others.

Stephen Curry, the NBA basketball player for the Golden State Warriors, is a Montessori graduate. He attended a Montessori school from the time he was 3-years old through 6th grade. He describes what he gained through his Montessori experience: It gave me a lot of confidence at a young age. I was able to learn the way I wanted and needed to, to gain a sense of achievement as I went along. I was able to push myself, and it taught me a lot of self-discipline and a work ethic. . . Montessori taught me that anything I put my hands on and practiced, I could accomplish. . . Montessori enhanced my personality because the person I was when I walked through the door was embraced and encouraged. I didn’t have to change anything about myself. I could harness my strengths and work on my weaknesses, and it allowed me to nurture my love of people and an ability to accept anybody that I come in contact with . . .

I’ve had a lot of success in the sports world, but to go to a school like Davidson [college] and excel in the classroom there, all that’s based on the foundation of how you learn and how you attack certain things in the classroom. So Montessori really helped me to navigate that part of my life. . . I want people to know that Montessori can work for everybody! I had so many different people, personalities, and different backgrounds that came together in my Montessori experience. We came together, and we helped each other. It was a cool experience for the 6 years I was part of that environment. Montessori allows your creativity to shine, and your true personality to shine. “Nothing but Net: An Interview with the Curry Family,” Montessori Life, pp. 22, 24. (Winter 2013-2014).

Please consider allowing your child the opportunity to complete his/her three-year cycle at MSGL. There truly is much for the student to gain.

Warmly, Cindy Garwood, Executive Director
The 16th Annual MSGL Auction is an event you won’t want to miss. Join other parents, families and friends on Saturday, November 10 at Carnahan Hall for a night to support the school. This event is open to the public so feel free to bring friends and family; the more the merrier.

This event is the school’s largest fundraiser.
In the past, money raised at this event has helped to fund scholarships, teacher needs, building needs and more.
Purchase your tickets today at www.wedoauctions.net/msglauction.

Tickets are $30 per person
Dinner buffet provided by D&R BBQ
Dessert buffet provided by Richelle in a Handbasket

Cannot make the auction but would still like to bid? Sign up to bid from home, you will be able to bid on silent auction items. Please pick up the items you won at MSGL the week of November 12th.
Not looking for anything for yourself? Why not get a little something for your child’s teachers?
Purchase a raffle ticket for the teachers basket for just $5 or 5 for $20! Give your child’s teachers the chance to enjoy lunch out, coffee, and more!
We hope to see you on at Carnahan Hall on Saturday, November 10 at 5:30 PM.

For any questions, or to help the auction committee, please contact Gen Wang at development@msgl.org.
The Importance of Outdoor Play
Anita Trent, Red Oak Lead

As teachers, we understand the value of being on the MSGL natural playground each day. We usually play outside in the light rain, oppressive heat, as well as snowy days that include very cold temperatures. We understand that enduring these varying weather patterns offer safe exploration for the children of MSGL. It allows the child's senses to be stimulated toward what they feel, hear, see, and touch. When children are prepared for all types of weather they become accustomed to organizing their own items for their bags each morning. A parent might say, "It's going to rain. What do you need for school today?" If it is quite warm, a parent might say, "The temperature will be hot today. What should we pack and wear to school today that will help you stay cool?" These are wonderful teachable moments that help children enjoy the four seasons at school while giving them a sense of organization for what they need to be comfortable.

As parent and teachers, we want to give children opportunities that will enrich their lives. The MSGL playground offers children who are natural leaders the opportunity to organize games. Children who feel more comfortable following at this time in their lives join in or step aside to make a different and equally valuable choice on their playground as there is much to do.

With the passage of each year as a teacher here at MSGL, I continue to see the value in the social-emotional aspect the playground offers. Children learn to problem solve. They learn to use their "firm words." They know and highly regard the safe places to hide if they need space from other children and simply want to observe the happenings on the playground. This type of observation is so valuable as it offers the child a sense of control when perhaps she felt or was close to play that felt unsafe or out of her control. There is freedom for children to work out conflict with an onlooking adult. Teachers step in when hitting or pushing occurs, yet children are left to raise their voices or even cry until they get their point across. We always step in when asked for help.
Over the years a few parents have questioned my desire to remain on the playground for more than 30 minutes. I happily suggest to them to notice our large natural space. I tell them about the three-inch stick bug we observed for many minutes. I tell them about the praying mantis egg sack that hatched what seemed like 100 infant praying mantis on our grounds in the garden. I let them know that carrying large pieces of tree wood feels very powerful to young children. I tell them their child is able to lead her friends in a game of hide-and-go-seek while her friends conform to her requests. I explain that both rejection and acceptance by peers are necessary for navigating current and future relationships. Last, I give great appreciation for the child who after 100 attempts learns to ride our two-wheeled bike or goes all the way across the monkey bars as he has been trying for months. There is no amount of classroom work that can offer this kind of courage and accomplishment for young children. Please join me as we celebrate our large natural playground here at MSGL as we all grow and learn from each other in this great space!

Designate MSGL for your United Way Contributions

Fall is the time a year that we fill out our United Way gifts. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity. Your United Way dollars can be designated to MSGL under Montessori Parents, INC. If you have any questions about your gift to MSGL through United Way please feel free to email Hannah and Gen at development@msgl.org or call 765.464.1133.
“When I came to Montessori, I just fell in love.”
An interview with Maple Room (All Day Program) teachers, Chloe and Katie.

The Montessori Mirror:
Tell us how you came to be a teacher at MSGL.

Chloe: Sometimes I feel as if I’ve been here sooo long, since, of course, MSGL is where I went to preschool. After high school I did my first semester at Ivy Tech. I had heard that Suman [Harshvardhan, then director of MSGL] was looking for a lunch assistant for the spring semester; that’s how I started, in 2013.

When making plans for my year abroad, I needed to save up, so I asked Suman if there were other jobs at the school that I could do. I ended up being Early Arrival Coordinator, Sound Table Assistant, Lunch Assistant five days a week, extra teacher in the afternoon classrooms and lead teacher for After-School Program for the kindergarten and elementary kids.

So, you were at school from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.?

Chloe: Yes, first one there, last one gone. I did that for a couple of years; then did my year abroad. When I came back I wanted to work, so I talked to the office about whether we could schedule something that would allow me to spend some time in school, and some time working here. Cathy [Stier, then lead teacher in the Maple Room] was retiring, so this was a great fit.

How about you, Katie?

Katie: I was in Ivy Tech’s Early Childhood Education Program, which requires a certain number of hours of hands-on internship experience for the degree. I went to [a childcare in town] first, because I had heard that it was a good place, but… a lot of the children had challenging behaviors that just were not being addressed properly; there was just yelling at the kids every day. I’d come home drained. I realized that part of the childcare world was not for me.

When I met with [current MSGL director] Cindy to see if I could get a summer internship here at MSGL, she gave me a tour and explained to me what Montessori education was: the works, the internal motivation versus looking for external praise, and I thought, “This is amazing. I wish I had had this as a child.” I found it so fascinating that I went home, did some research about Montessori and then I thought, “Oh, my gosh, I *hope* I get this internship!”

You may notice teachers putting observation notes on a computer or taking attendance on an iPad this year. As a part of our AMS accreditation we have adopted a cohesive record-keeping program formulated specifically for Montessori schools. We are grateful for generous donations from Wintek and the Beers family to help our school meet its observation and tracking goals!
Chloe, also, had had an unsatisfying experience at a non-Montessori school.

Chloe: Very similar to what Katie’s saying, when I was in the Early Childhood Studies program at Sheffield Hallam University in Sheffield, England, I needed to work in an English preschool. I was surprised at some of the things the children didn’t know how to do, because I would be thinking, “Wait, we* learned that when we were two.” But beyond the sort-of “academic” things, what really struck me was that nobody said “please” or “thank you”. They just didn’t have time for that, it seemed. And also some children would act really furious with me. I mean, of course, children get upset or frustrated by various things, but I don’t think I’ve ever seen an exchange here at MSGL where children just rage at you like that.

Katie wanted to learn more about Montessori, and was delighted when the school invited her to do more.

Katie: That year I spent all six weeks of summer school with [morning preprimary teacher] Angie as my mentor; I had Ivy Tech assignments every week – things that I was supposed to implement in the classroom. And as I was going through these assignments, I began realizing that this was all similar stuff to what the MSGL *toddlers* were being taught.

Wow! Children are ‘way more capable than I was giving them credit for! They can be independent; they can do all these things!

When the internship was up, the MSGL office staff said, “Can we put you on the substitute teacher list?” And I said, “Is that really an option?! Yes, please!”

Katie enjoys her role this year as assistant teacher in All-Day Program in Maple classroom.

I love it. When I came to Montessori, I just fell in love. I discovered, yes, I *can* enjoy teaching young children.

The Montessori Mirror: When children come to your room, they’ve had, what, a morning and an afternoon class already? What would you say that they need when they walk in your door?

Chloe: It depends on the child. The children arriving at 3 o’clock *have* had a morning and an afternoon class. They definitely need unstructured play time. We have some practical-life works out, but mostly we supply materials that allow for more free-form

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Mable’s Labels
Keep your child’s items out of the lost and found this school year with labels from Mabel’s Labels and support MSGL at the same time. Select Montessori School of Greater Lafayette, West Lafayette before making your purchase and MSGL will earn 20% of your purchase.

MSGL is now an Amazon Associate
MSGL will receive a return from qualifying purchases you make after clicking through our link to Amazon. Using our associates link will not add any additional cost to your product but will automatically donate a percentage of your purchase to MSGL. The Amazon Associates program does not work on the mobile app. You must click the link and use a web browser if ordering from your phone.

MightyNest is another company that supports schools when you shop with them. Mighty Nest has many "green" products that are great for packed lunches. They will give 15% of your purchase to MSGL when you select Montessori School of Greater Lafayette, West Lafayette, IN

Box Tops for Education
Clip and Save Box Tops for MSGL. Each coupon is worth 10 cents, and they can add up pretty fast. Some packages that you will find box tops on are: Annie’s products, Kleenex, Ziploc, and General Mills.

Sign up for Kroger Cares
Montessori Parents Inc. #AX108
play. That’s a necessity after six hours of structured work time; they’re spent. They need that mental freedom. If a child’s going to be at school that long, maybe until 5:30 -- basically all of a full day – this is the way to provide for them, this is what they need.

For Lunch Bunch, the children who are arriving after morning class – it depends on the child. Last year, we had a really young group, so they were hungry and they also really needed their rest time. And they needed the nap to be scheduled absolutely reliably, with no variation from day to day; they craved a predictable schedule. They needed help with pretty much everything, prompting for every transition. That was just their stage of development.

This year, our Lunch Bunch is an older group. Because they are older, we have that flexibility to offer them: if they need to eat lunch early, at 11:45, this day, we can do that; if they need to stay outside for an extra half-hour, we can do that as well. We can give them variety – not SO much variety that they can’t handle it – but variety based on what they are showing us that they need on that particular day.

Generally, what we are focusing on is manners and socialization and mutual respect. In fact, I was just talking to a young friend in class this afternoon about how being a friend doesn’t mean only talking to people, but also means “listening” to people. Multiple times we’ll hear them say something and we’ll need to say: “Try it again. How could you say that politely and respectfully?” Courtesy is such an important thing, and kids of this age need help with that. And here, we have a program that focuses on that.

It’s one of the things I valued, as a parent sending my children here.

Chloe: Yes, that is always something that my mom and my dad appreciated when they were sending me to school here, and it is one of the advantages that I think MSGL gave me.

The Mirror: Is there anything that either of you would like for parents to know?

Chloe: I’d like parents to know that whether it’s Maple room or whatever room, your child is getting something valuable in absolutely every classroom at MSGL. And I’d like parents to consider – I mean, I do understand: when a person is looking at a list of things it is tempting to just “put everything” on the child’s plate, thinking that you are getting them the most value that way. But, if that child is really not ready to be in academics six hours a day, then actually the child ultimately suffers. So, I would ask parents to really know their children and check in with their children’s teachers before deciding to really load up the class schedule on a child.

Katie: I’d like to reiterate just my lightbulb moment of: “Children really are ‘way more capable!” Just last weekend I
was visiting with family; they had four boys there ranging from the age of 13 down to 5, and none of them had the manners, none of them had, like, something so simple as, you are done with your food, please take your plate to the counter, and thank Grandma for making all this food for you! You need to clean up your mess, because that is what grown people do. Be respectful, and offer your help. I had to help these children in my extended family multiple times, help them to realize what would be appropriate behavior.

If you can show children how, and then just encourage them to do it, they can clean up after themselves. When they use their capabilities this way, it is better for everyone, the child, and the family.

I’ve had the privilege of babysitting for some of our MSGL families and I see in some homes where the parents have given this some thought, and moved the dishes lower, so that the child can get his own glass of water, his own bowl. Things like that really help. The child can do so much! Let him! Let her!

That’s the Montessori way. When I saw how much the children could do, I said, “This is the life for me!” I saw what it was like outside the Montessori world, and then I saw what it was like here.

I don’t think I’ll ever leave the Montessori world, no matter where I go.

Chloe and Katie lead the All Day Program (ADP) in the Maple room. Interview and Article by Mary McKay

Pictures, Pictures, and MORE Pictures!!! Don’t forget to go to our SmugMug page and look at all of the pictures we have taken this year! There are also pictures of community events and classroom activities!
Montessori Math
Wednesday, December 5th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Montessori math materials are some of the most beautiful and inviting pieces in your child's classroom.

They were created to inspire curiosity in the child while helping to expand concentration, build confidence, and encourage independence.

Join us as we explore Montessori math materials from Infant (12 months) through Upper Elementary (9-12 years old).

Each family will receive a copy of Math Works, by Michael Duffy, where he gives concise explanations of Montessori math materials. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions, get presentations, and complete a work!

This event is open to the public but registration is required and limited to the first 36 families to sign up. There is a $10 supply fee per family for the Math Works book.

Childcare is available to all current MSGL students and their siblings ages 2 to 9. The cost for childcare is $10 per child and includes age appropriate activities and pizza. Register at www.msgl.org.

Reservations MUST be made for childcare. Once you have signed your child up for childcare, you will be billed. Food and staffing are based on registration numbers. Childcare cancellations must be made at least 24 hours in advance of the event. Thank you for understanding.

Alumni Panel
Wednesday, January 23rd from 6:00 - 8:00 PM

All parents are invited to come and listen to a panel of Elementary graduates as they respond to questions posed by the audience about "life after Montessori."

High school students, college students, and young professionals who graduated from the Elementary program at MSGL return to reflect on their experiences in Montessori.

This evening was designed to answer questions about transitioning to more traditional academic environments following Montessori as well as the lasting effects of an MSGL education from those who know it best – our graduates.

This event is open to the public but registration is required. Childcare is available to all current MSGL students and their siblings ages 2 to 10. The cost for childcare is $10 per child and includes age appropriate activities and pizza. Reservations MUST be made for childcare. Once you have signed your child up for childcare, you will be billed. Food and staffing are based on registration numbers. Childcare cancellations must be made at least 24 hours in advance of the event. Thank you for understanding.

Please register online today. Deadline to register is Friday, January 18th.
Find PHOTOS of classrooms, parent education sessions and community events on SmugMug!
Just what is the Montessori School of Greater Lafayette? This school was started by parents who wanted a great preschool option for their children. The group decided to start a parent-run school using the Montessori method of education. In 1972, the school began as two classes for children ages 3 to 6. It is currently celebrating its 46th year of operation and has programming for children ages 1 to 11 in 13 different programs. We are a school rather than a daycare center so we follow an academic calendar that runs between mid-August to late May. Six weeks of summer camp are offered in June and July.

Our Parent/Infant Program is a 1 or 2 morning a week class for walking children between the ages of 1 and 2. The parent and child are offered a prepared environment that stimulates the child and that instructs parents in how to encourage age-appropriate independent activity. Our Toddler Program offers a morning class for children between the ages of 2 and 3 years. We offer 2, 3 or 5-day options.

We have a variety of options for children ages 3 to 6 in the morning and afternoon. All are in multi-age classrooms that include children ages 3 to 6. We have 5 classrooms with the traditional Montessori curriculum and one that is the same curriculum in a Spanish immersion environment. There are 3 and 5-day options for all these classes. We have one class emphasizing science. This is a 2-day afternoon class that must be taken in conjunction with another class.

The school offers Kindergarten through 5th Grade and plans to add 6th Grade in 2020. The 1st through 3rd grades are in one classroom and the 4th through 6th grades are in another classroom in the elementary house.

Parent/Infant classes are on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Toddler classes run from 8:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. The morning Pre-primary classes are from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and the afternoon classes are from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Elementary program meets from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We also have an early arrival option that starts as early as 7:30 a.m. and aftercare that runs as late as 5:30 p.m. All classes except Parent/Infant are offered Monday through Friday.

Our classrooms offer a graceful and courteous environment in which students are afforded the same respect as adults. The rooms are purposefully arranged with self-correcting works designed to entice the child into independent exploration and learning. Rather than leading students, our teachers function more like guides who direct the children in the proper use of the materials from which the learning occurs. Children progress at their own pace through highly structured curriculum. Their progress is monitored and stimulated, as needed, by the teachers. We offer tours for all of our programs so feel free to call and schedule one to see the Montessori method in action.

765.464.1133
info@msgl.org
Annual Campaign
MSGL is a non-profit entity, and therefore runs on a very tight budget. Our efforts to keep tuition increases to a minimum, cause a need for general fundraising so that we can offer the best programming for your child(ren).

One of our fundraising efforts is our Annual Campaign in which we ask the entire MSGL community, including alumni, to give to MSGL.

In October you should have received MSGL’s annual campaign request in the mail. Please take the time to consider what amount is right for your family to contribute. For the last two years we have had 100% staff and board participation in the annual campaign.

Our teachers and staff who work hard to bring your family an amazing Montessori experience also contribute financially to MSGL. It is our hope that you will join your child’s teachers and contribute to the annual campaign. MSGL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity so your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. This is the perfect opportunity to make a year end donation. I hope you will join us to reach or surpass our goal of raising $30,000 to help cover things such as scholarships, new playground equipment, teacher training and maintenance needs.

Questions about Fundraising at MSGL
Q: Isn’t tuition enough?
No. Tuition only goes to pay operating expenses of the school, and occasionally it does not even fully cover all operating expenses. As a privately accredited school, MSGL receives no state or federal funding, and yet has many important financial needs. Funds for capital expenses, program improvement, scholarships, and some teacher training all must be raised outside of tuition. Most important is the on-going maintenance, improvement, and expansion of the school’s programs and facilities. The funds raised through the Annual Campaign provide additional unrestricted dollars for MSGL’s operating needs.

Q: Why should I make a charitable donation to MSGL?
Many past and present parents, Board members, and school staff members have generously contributed to the MSGL to ensure that we would be here to serve your children and more children in years to come. Consider joining their legacy to ensure that quality a Montessori educational opportunity remains available in Tippecanoe County. Also, generosity and sharing with others in your community are two of the basic concepts learned by students in a Montessori classroom. What better way to reinforce this lesson than serving as a first-hand example for your child(ren) by giving to his or her school?

Q: Is there a specific amount parents must give?
We understand that the ability to give varies from family to family, and no one is expected to give beyond his or her means. We hope that that every member of our community, including parents, board, faculty and staff, considers making a contribution. Every donation both big and small is important. Keep in mind that many businesses will match all or part of their employees’ gifts to nonprofits. Check with your employer to see if this option is available to you.

Q: Can I have my contribution added to my billing statement?
Yes! You can have your account billed for the full amount on your next monthly statement or have it divided evenly across the remainder of billing periods.

Thank you for your generosity! Genevieve Wang

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We are excited to welcome Hannah Scott to our administrative team as the Development Coordinator for MSGL.

Hannah is a West Lafayette native and a graduate of Purdue University who studied Math Education. She taught Math at the West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School for 3 years before having children.

Hannah is married to Sean Scott and they have two children, Willow age 2 years and Fallon age 2 months. Willow is currently one of our Toddler students!

We are very excited to have Hannah join our team and look forward to getting to know her and her getting to know you

—Cindy Garwood, executive director
Parents Doing Projects

Like many of your children, our girls have spent many hours and miles on the bikes at MSGL. Over the years, we have cheered along with them as they not only gained confidence in riding themselves, but also excitedly told us about their friends' achievements as well. After seeing how easily our kids took to keeping their bikes organized with a bike rack, we wondered if it might be a small project that might benefit the school. Before, the students would try to put the bikes away as neatly as they could, but it was not easy, especially for the younger ones. Our youngest, Mallory, was often frustrated because she knew there must be a better way, but wasn't able to move things around the way she wanted. We asked Miss Chloe and other teachers if they thought a bike rack would be a good way to keep things organized, and help promote independence in the Montessori spirit. They were very receptive, so the project was a go! With just a bunch of 2 x 4's and some screws, we were able to create a simple bike rack that fit in the shed. The response was extremely positive from the teachers who appreciated a way to keep the shed a little tidier, but the best feedback was from the MSGL students who were excited and PROUD to be able to put bikes away neatly, and completely on their own. We loved finding a fun, simple project to help the school while keeping in mind the spirit of Montessori learning. —Dr. Jeff Wang

Many thanks to the Wang family for their commitment to our parent-owned corporation. Parents doing projects keeps our school community strong!

Join us on Facebook:

Request to join our Closed group and like our Business page.

Playground Guidelines

We have school rules regarding the playground that we hope you will enforce when your children are under your care and playing on school grounds. These rules are intended to keep our environment safe, clean, and promote respect and responsibility to our playground as well as to others.

· Please walk up the stairs
· Climb up stairs and slide down slide
· Use chalk on sidewalks or basketball court only
· Woodchips and mulch stay on the ground
· Trikes and bikes stay on the bike path sidewalk. They are stored in the shed
· Balls stay on the basketball court and are also stored in the shed.
· Flowers are for observing, touching, and smelling. Please let them grow so everyone can enjoy them.
· Logs, stumps, and wood cross sections need to stay on the grass under the trees.
· No gum on the playground
· If enjoying snacks while on the playground, please:
  " Have children sit on benches or curb until finished eating
  " Throw away all trash in large trash bins
  " Pick up and throw away large crumbs so another child doesn’t pick it up and eat it
· Only adults may open gates. Please discourage children from climbing on gates to unlatch them.
· Please do not climb on the fences, gutters, shed, pergola or trellis.

Thanks for your cooperation in making our playground safe!
Thank you to the parents and grandparents who helped out on MSGL’s Work Day. Our community comes together and accomplishes so much for the school. Thank you! Asem Aboelzahab, Carson Reeling, Dai Nakatani, Emily Kinsell, John Fassnacht, Julie & Joe Peretin, Meng Cui, Pat Levin, Ralph Johnson, Tommy Daniel, Francisco Montalvo, Victoria Proano Reyes. Snacks & Lunch: Marge Wu & Cary Kerr

This is a big job and we welcome any help. You are not obligated to weed the entire garden if you start weeding. If you are interested in helping with any of these jobs email grounds@msgl.org and we can show you where the supplies and materials are located.

Building and Grounds Committee Co-Chairs, Julie Peretin, Emily Kinsell, Cary Kerr

Be on the lookout for our Spring workday dates. We plan to hold two in the spring semester; one for adults (likely right after Spring Break) and another for the whole family (likely late April/early May). These days can both count towards your 2018/2019 service hours.

Thank you to Lou Nash for helping our garden thrive. The Voelkel family for power washing the white shed and weeding in the Oak Garden. We appreciate all families who do playground checks, water flowers, sweep mulch and improve our lovely campus!

Thank you to Cy Rangel for cabinet repairs and Dana Goodman for door repairs and working on the LED transition.

Thank you to Tommy, Lisa, Derek and Dylan Daniel for cleaning up after the windstorm!
Proper Clothing for Cold Weather
As cold weather approaches, make sure your children are prepared with the proper attire (coats, hats, mittens, snow pants, boots, etc.). We may go outside when the temperature with wind chill is above 10°, at the teacher’s discretion. This means that sometimes snow pants and snow boots are necessary even if there isn’t any snow on the ground. The children need the fresh air and they are happy to play outside with proper clothing. Please write your child’s name on their belongings, especially black or dark snow pants that all look the same! Don’t forget to change your child’s summer clothes for winter ones in the bathroom boxes. Thank you!

Playground Committee Updates
The playground committee is off to a strong start! We are planning to build a hill slide and move the sandbox this spring. The large metal and plastic equipment between Buildings A and B will be removed at the end of the school year. This play structure has reached the end of its expected life span and we want to update the playground in an environmentally sensitive way that will meet the needs of our community. If you would like to be involved with this project and aren’t already receiving the playground emails please stop in the office or drop a line to grounds@msgl.org.

School Closures
During snowy weather and other emergencies, please check WLFI TV Channel 18, the for announcements of school closing. You may not be notified personally. Updates will also be posted on the MSGL Facebook Business Page and MSGL Family Group. Tuition is not adjusted nor is the school calendar extended due to emergency closings. They will announce our name, Montessori School of Greater Lafayette. MSGL does not follow county or city school corporations because we are not dependent on bus transportation. You must listen for our school name specifically. If you choose not to send your child to school in inclement weather, please DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL. Simply fill out the absentee form on the website. If we close during the school day, we will contact parents by both phone and email. If parents anticipate trouble getting away from the office, it is imperative that your emergency contacts be up-to-date. Thank you.
Parking Lot safety: SLOW DOWN
MSGL wishes to foster a safe and respectful environment for everyone. We have a lot of cars and kids coming through the parking lot every day. Our parking lot is small and can get tightly packed. Please follow the parking lot rules and drive safely through our parking space.

Thank you for doing your part to keep MSGL a safe and efficient school!

Stay to the right as you enter the main parking lot
Do not cross the double yellow line
Watch for and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk
The speed limit in the parking lot is 5 miles per hour
Watch out for children, parents, or strollers coming from behind parked cars
Do not drive through designated parking spaces
The pattern in the main parking lot is counterclockwise
Park in designated parking spaces

If dropping off at the elementary house, stay as far out of the traffic pattern as possible

Zach Medler, muralist
Dave Weigel, photography

Peach watches her father work.

Spruce students used stencils to add flowers to the mural.
**MSGL All School Calendar** as of November 5, 2018

**check calendar** regularly for changes

11/6-7 School Picture Days
11/10 Auction, 5:30pm
11/13 Board Meeting, 6:30pm
11/14 Parent Workroom Program, 9 am
11/20 Thanksgiving Break Begins at 5:30pm

11/21-11/23 **NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Break**

12/5 Montessori Math, 6pm
12/21 Winter Break Begins at 5:30pm

**12/24/2018-1/7/2019 WINTER BREAK — NO CLASSES**

1/7/2019 Staff return

1/8/2019 **Classes Resume**

1/23 Alumni Panel, 6pm

1/28 Kindergarten Open House, 5:30pm

If you would like to submit photos, articles or information to be considered for the January 2019 newsletter please send it to info@msgl.org.