Director’s Corner  

**MONTESSORI MYTH BUSTING**

“So, you recommend the Montessori School of Greater Lafayette, do you?”

“Oh, definitely.”

“But, the Montessori method? Isn’t that where the children just do whatever they want with little or no structure being provided?”

“No, no it is not!”

As a Montessori administrator, I often wonder just how many times this conversation or one like it occurs when our families recommend us to their friends and families. I know I frequently have similar conversations as I tour potential families about campus. So, I thought I would offer some information to help put this myth to rest.

The seeds for this myth are found in Maria Montessori’s own writings on her new method of educating children:

To assist a child we must provide him with an environment which will enable him to develop freely. A child is passing through a period of self-realization, and it is enough simply to open the door for him. . .

The new education has as its primary aim the discovery of and freeing of the child. . .

This new system of education has been widely discussed, particularly with respect to the reversed roles of child and adult - the teacher without a desk, without authority, and almost without teaching, and the child, the center of activity, free to move about as he wills and to choose his own occupations. . .

*The Secret of Childhood*, Dr. Maria Montessori.

It is easy to see how one could draw the conclusion that a Montessori classroom is one full of children just roaming and doing as they please. A deeper reading of her work is needed to put accurate context on the Montessori method.

To understand the Montessori Method, we need a shared understanding of the concept of freedom. As noted by Charles Kingsley, a 19th Century English theologian and novelist, “[t]here are two freedoms - the false where a man is free to do what he likes; the true where he is free to do what he ought.”

Dr Montessori fully adhered to this view and was always referencing true freedom when speaking of that which should be given to children. She said: “[t]o let the child do as he likes when he has not yet developed any powers of control, is to betray the idea of freedom.”

*The Absorbent Mind*, Dr. Maria Montessori.

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*The Absorbent Mind*, Dr. Maria Montessori.
For new and returning students, you will receive an e-mail in late July/early August with your child’s individual orientation times for August 12th, start dates and classroom assignments. **Please make sure your email address is updated with the office to ensure you get this information.** Students stagger start August 13 through August 16, 2019.

Dr. Montessori held a firm conviction that a child’s freedom must be limited by the needs of the larger group”

A child’s liberty should have as its limit the interests of the group to which he belongs. Its form should consist in what we call good breeding and behavior. We should therefore prevent a child from doing anything which may offend or hurt others, or which is impolite or unbecoming. But everything else, every act that can be useful in any way whatever, may be expressed. It should not only be permitted but it should be observed by the teacher. This is essential.

**The Discovery of the Child,** Dr. Maria Montessori.

Thus, limits are routinely set in a Montessori classroom. They are designed to serve the collective interests of the group and to foster respect for the individuals, the environment, the materials, and the community. Expectations for acceptable behavior are clearly conveyed to the children. Teachers instructions are to be followed. Manners are expected. Control of one’s body is emphasized so that others are not disturbed. The materials must be used correctly and treated respectfully. Presentations in proper use must be had before a work can be used. Walking feet in the classroom. After use, a work must be put away as it was found. Words, not bodies, are used to solve problems between friends. Everyone is referred to as friend. Peaceful spots are arranged in the rooms where a student can go to calm himself/herself as needed. Just roaming the room with no purpose is discouraged. Teachers observe, observe, observe to track progress and determine if redirection or additional instruction is needed. It is within these parameters that a child may freely choose his activity:

[i]t would seem to me that children are very well disciplined indeed when they can all move around in a room in a useful, intelligent, and free fashion without doing anything rude or unmannerly.”

**The Discovery of the Child,** Dr. Maria Montessori.

While a child is free to choose his work, his choice is limited to the offerings contained in the Montessori classroom. A Montessori classroom is a well prepared environment. In fact, it is a highly structured environment. Furniture and materials are sized to fit the age of the children. The works are set out in distinct areas of the classroom: Practical Life, Language, Math, Sensorial, and Cultural. The materials are placed in the room in a very specific order designed to entice the children to choose challenging work. Also, the materials are put on shelves and trays in a manner that allows the children to help themselves to the work. They are set out so the child proceeds from the left to the right in doing the work because that is how we read the written word. Based upon their observations of each child, teachers invite children individually to experience the materials in all the areas of the classroom. Thus, the children work through the materials in a logical, sequential order. With the strategic layout of the classroom and the gentle guidance of the teachers, a child freely works through the curriculum.

Hopefully, the next time you hear a description of Montessori as being that place where kids do whatever they want, you can share a bit of information to help paint a more accurate picture of a Montessori education.

**Cindy Garwood,** Executive Director
Montessori Math Series (Part 2)
by Emily Frazier

The Montessori Math materials in each classroom are designed to reinforce concepts learned throughout a child’s journey at MSGL. There are many colors that are repeatedly seen and consistently represented by specific numbers place value. Last time we talked about the Golden Beads and Colored Bead Chains. Here, we’ll talk about three colors frequently used on our Montessori Math journey, with the Stamp Game.

In the Early Childhood classroom, using the Stamp Game, a child will encounter three colors that she/he will continue to see all the way through Upper Elementary, when they begin working with Square Roots. Green represents units, blue for tens, red for hundreds, then green again for thousand units. These colors will be repeated regardless of family (simple, thousands, millions, etc.). This consistent and repetitive color presentation helps to reinforce place value and number concepts for the child. She/he will feel a sense of familiarity when the teacher introduces a new operation (addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division) using the same colors. The Stamp Game is a perfect example of this, as it is used to present all operations to the child after various stages of proficiency.

It may seem simple when you look at it, square pieces of different colors, with numbers printed on one side. It’s so easy! In a way, that is the goal, an ease which leads to independence and mastery. What we want, at this level, is a step towards the transition from concrete (with materials) to the abstract (on paper). The child is still able to use materials, but the materials are more manageable. A red stamp that is labeled “100”, is much easier to maneuver than a square made of 100 beads. The Stamp Game also allows the child to perform those operations without knowing all of their math facts. The simplicity of laying out each “stamp” and equally distributing them to find the answer in divi-
sion is gratifying for a child who has not yet learned all of their division facts. That she/he can do so without my help, is the independence we strive for in our classroom everyday.

To schedule a time to see some math work in action or observe in your child’s classroom, please contact the office. You are always welcome to observe in the Elementary classroom, whether you have an elementary student or not. The space may be tight, but observations are always encouraged.

Here you can see the same colors being used to find the square root of a number.

**MSGL All School Calendar** as of May 24, 2019

check calendar regularly for changes

6/3, Hillslide Installation

6/3, First Day of Summer Camp

6/22-7/8/2019, MSGL OFFICE CLOSED for cleaning

7/29-8/2/2019 MSGL OFFICE CLOSED

8/5-8/9 Staff Training / Teacher Prep Week

8/12, Orientation Day

8/13-8/16, Students Stagger Start

be sure to check the email address you have provided to us for regular communication!

The office has limited hours (9am-3pm) over the summer.

Appointments available upon request.

info@msgl.org   765-464-1133
From the Development Office...

Hannah Scott development@msgl.org

It’s been a great year of fundraising at MSGL.
Thank you to all of the generous donors who have helped contribute to this community.
Annual Fund Campaign 2018-2019: $13,680
Auction 2018: $16,607
Fundraisers 2018-2019: $7,044
Outdoor Classroom Campaign: $35,550

These contributions have helped fund the following:
Scholarships, Teacher training, Teacher wishlists (materials in the classroom),
Phase 1 of the Outdoor Classroom project

The Outdoor Classroom Campaign is in full swing!
Phase 1 is in progress and we can’t wait to see the work that The Adventurous Child does to create a natural playground centerpiece on the MSGL grounds.
We are over halfway to our goal but we still need your help to finish the job!
Donations can be made in the office or online at any time.
Check out our Fundly page for updates on the project.
www.fundly.com/the-outdoor-classroom

Save the Date for the 2019 Auction
MSGL’s biggest fundraising event!
Saturday, November 16
Carnahan Hall
If you have never attended this event, we would love to have you!
This is a wonderful way to connect with others in the MSGL community, gather for a meal, win some wonderful prizes, and support your child's school.

Many thanks to everyone who has donated so far:
Melissa and Oliver Beers
Rick and Courtney Biancofiori
Oriana Suh and Joel Dragoo
Lena and Brett Atkinson
Julie and Joseph Peretin
Genevieve and Jeff Wang
Cindy and Doug Garwood
Morgan and Andy Loetz
Lucy and Nicholas Piotrowski
Katie and Josh McDowell
Shannon Hepburn Carey and Josh Carey
Bethany and Garrett Jackson
Michael Shen
Becky and Brien Dick

MSGL Mission Statement
We provide a child-centered environment facilitating independence and learning for the joy of learning, guided by the educational philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori. With a foundation of respect for self and others and a strong emphasis on cultural appreciation, our staff and parents create a supportive network for families to help children become well-rounded individuals.
Summer Camp 2019
MSGL students (alumni, current and future), ages 3-6 are welcome to attend Summer Camp. New students and toddlers who are entering Early Childhood are strongly encouraged to attend at least one week, regardless of their birthday.

What do we do at Summer Camp?
- Reinforce school-wide ground rules of respect for our environment, for ourselves, and for others.
- Provide general exposure to weekly topics to pique the children's interest and curiosity in these topics. June classes will focus on Science and July on Art.
- Prepare new children entering Pre-primary classes by offering practice with basic routines such as using the bathroom, sitting on line with a group, using rugs to define the work area, putting work away, and learning how to prepare a snack.

Summer Camp Tuition for 2019
8:30-11:30 is class time. Additional childcare is available at $6/hr with consistent hours for an entire week. See prices below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td>$131 /week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am - 1:30 pm</td>
<td>$191 /week, includes lunch bunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am - 3:30 pm</td>
<td>$251 /week, includes lunch bunch and free play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>$281 /week, includes lunch bunch, free play, &amp; after care</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class size is limited and placement is determined by date of enrollment.
Register by May 1 in order to have the tuition billed to your account.

Any changes made to your child’s summer camp schedule after May 1st will result in a $25 fee charge per change.

Summer Camp Registration
Week 1: June 3-7, 2019
Week 2: June 10-14, 2019
Week 3: June 17-21, 2019
Week 4: July 8-12, 2019
Week 5: July 15-19, 2019
Week 6: July 22-26, 2019

Toddler Camp: details emailed

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 Transparent Classroom, 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!

Smugmug Photo Site
MSGL uses Smugmug to house all of our school photos. The photo site is password protected and secure. Please check here often as pictures are uploaded all year! Email info@msgl.org if you have trouble logging in.
Enrollment / Admissions Redux

The 2018-2019 school year has been a time of growth for enrollment. We gained 20 collective students from August until May putting MSGL at almost maximum capacity in all programs. Outreach efforts on behalf of the MSGL administration, staff, teachers, and Board of Directors have been valuable and can been seen in our boosted numbers. We hosted over 60 families at our Open House in February. Teachers and board members helped to show prospective families what makes MSGL special. After the Open House and launching re-enrollment at MSGL, we happily accepted 181 students into 262 placements at MSGL. With the expressed interest in our programs and long wait lists, we opened an additional 3-day afternoon early childhood program and are currently filling those spots.

Summer Camp is filling up as well. We have a very excited teaching staff that are already working on fun exciting projects for campers. We still have a few spots each week if you are looking for summer fun for your 3-6 year Montessori child.

Thank you to all the families for sharing how happy you are to be a part of MSGL to your friends and families. We have gained a lot of enrollment from word-of-mouth recommendations.

MSGL Board of Directors—Year in Review

The 2018/2019 school year has been a year of many challenges and positive outcomes for the MSGL Board of Directors.

We started the year by welcoming four new board members and quickly saw the need for more robust onboarding processes for new board members. As a result, we developed an onboarding process to ease the transition of new members and help the entire board stay current on its understanding of its roles and responsibilities. We continue to support the administration in the development of policies to streamline and document the school’s business processes.

Two new policies the board finished and approved this year are the Document Retention Policy and the Termination Policy.

Part of our long term strategic plan is to expand the programs offered at MSGL to include classes up to the sixth grade. MSGL has opened the 5th grade class for elementary and we are now offering an early childhood class in the afternoon, as well as a 5 day afternoon science class, to accommodate the demands for our services. The Board is aware that classroom space continues to pose a potential challenge for the school, especially when we see an increase demand for our classes.

Our financial position at the end of the school year is strong, which has allowed us to approve a well deserved salary increase for our teachers and administrative staff.

Finally, several board members completed their service on the board at the end of this school year. The remaining board members extend their heartfelt thanks to Cary Kerr, Manjiri Dhoke, Ralph Johnson, and Rich Spencer for their dedicated service. We look forward to continuing to support our school and community over the summer and into the new school year.
As the school year draws to a close, it is always a joy to look back and consider the growth in our students. We remember the young toddlers full of trepidation in August, and now we see confident young explorers. Our Early Childhood friends, many of whom still looked like toddlers at the beginning of the year, are now working at full steam in the classrooms and have grown by leaps and bounds. We have many students moving up to new programs soon.

We rest assured that they are ready for their new adventures thanks to the wonder of the Montessori materials and the nurturing instruction of our wonderful teachers. Did you know that our teachers are also, over the course of the school year, learning and advancing too?

Since I joined the staff in May of 2016, three teachers have completed their Montessori credentialing through AMS approved training programs. Machelle French completed her certification for Birth through Toddler (0-3 years of age) and Ana Ramirez and Melissa Valencia both completed their Early Childhood (3-6 years of age) certification. These are rigorous training programs that they each completed by giving up summer break time to attend classes and giving up much family time over the course of two to three school years doing the coursework. Congratulations and appreciation are in order! We also have two teachers nearing the end of their credentialing processes. Mary McKay has just about completed her Early Childhood certification and Stacie Seipel her Lower Elementary (6-9 years of age) certification. Somdatta Datta Roy is currently working in a Masters Degree program studying special needs education. Thank you ladies. We are certainly blessed to have so many trained and talented teachers ready, willing and able to serve our children!

We also have teachers who recently moved or are moving up next year in their staff positions. Machelle French advanced into a co-lead teacher position in the Toddler Program in 2017, Ana Ramirez advanced into a lead teacher position in morning Early Childhood in 2018, and Stacie Seipel moved to a co-lead position in Lower Elementary in 2017. These ladies shone in their roles as classroom leaders! Diana Rangel moved to assist in Lower Elementary in 2018 which was wonderful as she is a credentialed Lower Elementary teacher. Melissa Valencia will advance to lead teacher for our new afternoon Early Childhood program this fall and Chloe Garwood will move to be her assistant. Constance Straight and Dena Saunders are launching our expanded Science and STEM program this fall with the help of Ginette Roos, Lucy Tascon Villa is advancing to be the lead teacher in the All Day Program (3-5 years of age) in the fall. In 2018, Erica Wallskog returned to the classroom as an assistant with Ana; Florencia Rodriguez returned as an assistant in our EC Spanish Immersion Program; and Olga Povolotska moved from a substitute teacher to an assistant teacher in Toddler. Each will be back in these positions next year. Thank you all for stretching your wings and serving as the school needs. Learning, advancement and growth, the Montessori way for staff and students alike!
Parent Involvement
As a non-profit, family-run school, your time is required to make our school community work. Every family will be required to complete at least 20 hours/year at the school (June 1, 2019 – April 15, 2020). This requirement is per family, not per child. Families have two ways to complete their required service time; volunteering around the school or buying out the time. The Board offers a buy-out option as a way to defer some of the costs that are incurred for general maintenance and site improvements when we do not have enough volunteer help. Your family may buy up to 19 of your service hours at $20 per hour. Snack rotation is still required, so you cannot “buy” those service hours. If your family has not met the service hour requirement by April 15, 2019, you will be charged $20 per remaining hour on your May statement.
Volunteer activities include hands-on time for laundry, yard work, recycling, office help, sound table, fundraising events, classroom fieldtrip chaperones, Board or committee service, buying items for class projects or celebrations, etc. Parents must log their service hours at www.msgl.org

Service Hours Opportunity: There are some tables, shelves and cabinets that need to be refinished in the Catalpa room. This can be done at your house over the summer. Please contact Constance for the details (science@msgl.org)

Swept some mulch?  
Raked some leaves?  
Shoveled some snow?  

Log your completed service hours on the MSGL website.

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.

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

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.
Buildings and Grounds 2018-2019
Year in Review

Our favorite job is to say “Thank you!”
We held 2 paint days, 4 workdays, 1 elementary yard clearing and 1 special playground demolition day this school year. We also had a summer celebration for the Catalpa Tree with overnight camping and star gazing. Many people helped organize and pull off these activities. Special thanks to Stephanie Leavell, Ralph Johnson, Constance and Brian Straight, Tommy Daniel, Ryan Long, Chris Hood, Chris Witte, Dana Goodman, Matt Day, Toy Andrews, Zach Medler, the Biancofiori family, the Keegan family, the Wang Family, the Saxena Family and the Foland Family.

We helped facilitate the watering of gardens and flowers, cleaning up trash around the grounds, weeding, painting of our outdoor porches, painting the parking lot stripes, insulating our ductwork, getting the playground committee started, painting a beautiful mural on the Toddler shed and keeping the LED lights on.

We had 74 families participate in grounds work, workdays and playground checks; a slight increase from the 2017-2018 school year. We also had a few alumni families and friends of the school help improve our grounds.

Our budget was hit with two new furnaces in the fall and some emergency sinkhole work in the winter. The playground updates will reduce our long term mulch expenses. We always need parents to help weed, mulch and sweep mulch off of sidewalks.

After two years of projects and workdays we are ready to hand the organization of this work off to the next intrepid parent(s). If you are looking for a challenge, are good at assessing and prioritizing needs and enjoy communicating those needs to a variety of people we need you!!

Buildings and Grounds co-chairs,
Cary Kerr, Emily Kinsell and Julie Peretin

Find PHOTOS of classrooms, parent education sessions and community events on SmugMug!
Greetings Parents!
My name is Brooke Fassnacht and I help organize the MPA for MSGL. The MPA is the Montessori Parent Association, which is a volunteer opportunity for parents to get involved with their child(ren)’s classrooms, get to know your teachers, meet other families as well as help to plan, organize and host social opportunities for our school. I have been a parent at the school for nearly 5 years and I love our MSGL community! I look forward to growing the MPA during the 2019-202 school year, but I can only do it with your help! Please join our closed FB Group and introduce yourself. You can find it using this link: https://www.facebook.com/groups/MPAofMSGL/

Goals for the 2019-2020 school year include:

Volunteer Room Parent for each classroom/program
As a volunteer room parent, you will be a point person for other parents to help stay connected with classroom events such as Winter Celebration, Valentine’s Day Celebration, Teacher Appreciation Week amongst others, as well as to help teachers inform parents of work room related items to help fulfill volunteer hours (which is a great way to know what work your child is doing in the classroom). And as the contact person, ideally you would help collect money from other classroom families to pool together and purchase Teacher Gifts.

Create at least 3 social events for MSGL Families during the 2019-2020 school year to meet, mingle and have fun! Playdates, playground meetups, all family garage sale or other ideas are welcome! Opportunities for families to get to know each other outside of the busy drop-off and pick-up times.

New MSGL Family welcoming committee
I’d like to have a parent or two from each classroom (can be the room parent or other) to welcome new families at MSGL either during the beginning of the school year or throughout as needed.

I look forward to hearing from you and creating a fun, supportive MPA! You can reach me via the MPA FB page, bfassnacht@hotmail.com or 765.404.3295 Thanks!
Brooke Fassnacht
Mom of Owen & Renee Fassnacht

To volunteer in classrooms at MSGL you must undergo a background check. If you passed your background check last year you do not need to complete another check until 2021. The background check is free to the volunteer. Paperwork is available in the office and must be returned to Cindy Garwood, executive director.
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.

Playground Guidelines from the Parent Handbook page 17
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!