

# March 2019 Newsletter

## IMPORTANT DATES

February 25 – March 1 – Montessori Education Week

March 1 – Early out (12:10 pm)

March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Parent Teacher Conferences

March 11 – 15 Spring Break – no school

Parent Teacher conferences are March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, if you have already signed up. If you have not yet signed up, please contact me. There are so many changes which take place during a year of growing. It is nice to share with you how your child is progressing socially and academically.

Please remember the time you have chosen/been given and let us know if you are unable to make it and wish to reschedule.

Please have your child wear the appropriate outdoor clothing, each day. We have had quite a few children come to school without snow pants and gloves/mittens. They still go outside but their choice of where to play is limited to the sidewalk if they do not have appropriate wear. Some of the children still do not bring mittens or gloves every day.

Please make sure that your child has shoes each day. Wearing winter boots in the classroom, all day, is not only a safety concern but the children's feet get pretty warm, too.

Check our website for new pictures!

There is more news on the back! 😊

## Our Montessori Classroom

As noted in our important dates on the front page, this is Montessori Education week. Maria Montessori was a peace educator. She believed that peace comes through education.

One way for us to teach about peace is to have a peace tray. On the tray are peaceful items from nature, such as sand, rocks, and shells. There is a little rake to move the sand about or create places in the sand for the items on the tray. To begin with the children are only learning that this is a place where they can find a calm feeling if they need to. As we continue to learn about the peace tray, it will become a place where they can go to resolve a difference with a friend or a place where a teacher and child could go to talk about feelings and emotions which have disrupted the culture of the classroom.

This will become a safe spot for a child to communicate how he or she is feeling when upset, sad, or even mad about something. Children will learn to resolve issues independently and develop empathy for others.

You can develop a peace tray or area at home, if you like. It would nice for it to be away from all electronic media. It is good for children to be able to relax and think about things other than electronic devices.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "If we are to teach real peace in this world...we shall have to begin with the children."

Look for more information about our Montessori Classroom in next month's newsletter.

Sincerely,

Peggy Enerson

Oak Classroom (Room 313)

