

LOUISVILLE MONTESSORI SCHOOL, INC.  
461 TYLER AVENUE LOUISVILLE, COLORADO 80027  
PHONE: 303-665-2002 FAX: 303-665-2008  
LOUISVILLE\_MONTESSORI@YAHOO.COM  
WWW.LOUISVILLEMONTESSORISCHOOL.NET

## **SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER**

**“Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future.” Maria Montessori**

### **Important Dates:**

**Thursday, August 31, 6:30-7:30: Back To School Night!**

**Monday, September 4: Labor Day – School Closed!**

**Thursday, September 28, 4-6pm: Bring Your Parent to School Night!**

We hope to see you at our Back-to-School night! It is good to meet you, hear your questions and share information and curriculum with you. After a pleasant three-day weekend, we will be ready to start into September. Each of our newsletters will contain some information you will need to read and dates to place on your calendar. This month we have included brief information about our staff members, about separation anxiety, our extra- curricular classes, and news from each of our classrooms. Our monthly menu will be emailed at the same time as well as posted on the lobby counter; the newsletter will be posted on the bulletin board.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT!**

Our back-to-school night is Thursday, August 31. If your student attends a morning class, please plan to attend from 6:30-7pm. If your child is in afternoon kindergarten or preschool, you can attend from 7-7:30pm. This evening is for parents only – no child care will be provided. Each classroom teacher will talk to you about the specifics of their classroom, the Montessori way of learning, and allow you to meet other parents. We highly encourage you to attend – “old” and “new” parents alike!

### **BRING YOUR PARENT TO SCHOOL NIGHT!**

We are holding a special Open House for our Montessori students and their parents. On Thursday, September 28, from 4 to 6:00pm, your child invites you to come to school and see what they are doing during their preschool day. Ask your child what lessons they have had and they will show you that particular activity. They have not had all of the lessons yet, so it is good if you do not ask them to show you things that they have not done before.

Because this is a special time for your preschooler and kindergartener, we ask that older and younger siblings not attend unless they are a baby in your arms. We look forward to seeing you on September 28<sup>th</sup>!

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### SCHOOL STAFF

In time you will get to know most of our school staff. I'd like to introduce them to you in this newsletter. In Classroom One the lead teacher is Shellie Zeiler. Shellie teaches morning preschool and afternoon kindergarten. She joined our staff during the summer of 2015. She received her Montessori certification from Montessori Education Center of the Rockies and has 10 years experience teaching children 3 to 6. She also is a certified Love and Logic teacher. Priscilla Wilson is an Early Childhood teacher; she has worked with us since 2009. Parvathy Balaji is an Early Childhood teacher, with a Bachelor's in Education and Masters in Biosciences.

In Classroom Two, Jasmine Leeseekamp is the lead teacher. She is new to our school this year. She received her Montessori certification from the Montessori Education Center of the Rockies in 2012. Brooke Brewster joined our staff this summer as a Classroom Assistant. She is currently working towards her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Colin Polluconi is a Classroom Assistant who worked at our school while she was in high school and rejoined our staff in January 2013.

In Classroom Three, Jenelle Green is the lead teacher. Jenelle is new to our school this year, she received her Montessori certification from the Montessori Education Center of the Rockies in 1990. She has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Masters degree in Engineering. Arielle Powers is also new to our school this year and is a Classroom Assistant in Classroom Three. She has a Bachelor's degree in English with a minor in Education. Jessie Clisham is an Early Childhood teacher and has a Bachelor's degree in Business Management. She has been with us since 2015.

Asia Crossley is a Classroom Assistant, who is currently assisting in each of our classrooms and has been with us since 2013. She is getting ready to have a baby on September 14!

Tay Robinson, our chef, will be providing lunches for the children each day and also working with the children from 4-6pm. She has been with us since 2010, working as a Classroom Assistant, and assisting everywhere!

In our afternoon program, Jasmine Leeseekamp, Brooke Brewster, Parvathy Balaji, Tay Robinson, Kiara Crossley and Denae Tarrant will be working with the children. Kiara Crossley is an Assistant Teacher who has been with us since 2013. She is currently working towards her Bachelor's degree in Social Work. Denae Tarrant is a high school student at Monarch High School who is working with us from 3-6.

Jesse and Andrea Colby clean our school in the evenings.

Theresa Cole is the Director of the school. She also handles all of the accounting and billing needs of the school. She has an AA Degree in Early Childhood Education, as well as Business Management and Medical Billing.

Nicole Brannan is our Assistant Director. Nicole has worked at our school in many capacities over the years. She completed her AA degree in Accounting and holds a certificate for Director Qualifications for large childcare centers.

Judy Cole is an Owner, Director and RN, CCHC. She will be working part time this year.

Besides these qualifications, all staff members have and will continue to attend workshops and classes to remain updated in our field. Most are certified in First Aid, CPR, Standard Precautions and Medication Administration.

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### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

This year we are offering the following extra-curricular activities:

Monday AM: 8:15AM: Musicare  
Tuesday AM: 8:25AM: Harmony's A.C.T. Art Class  
Tuesday PM: 3:30 PM: Teams of Tomorrow Sports  
Wednesday PM: 3:30 PM: Spanish with Susan!  
Wednesday PM: 3:30 PM: Tiny Tykes Soccer  
Thursday AM: 8:00 AM: Tiny Tykes Soccer  
Friday AM: 8:30 AM: Yoga from Webby Dance Company

Information for all of these classes with their fees are on the lobby bulletin board in the front hall. These classes are provided for you and your children to participate in as you choose. If you have any questions, come into the office or call the school.

### BITS OF INFORMATION

**Separation Anxiety:** The "new school jitters" are common for both children and parents. Perhaps some of you have already experienced it these past two weeks. Our staff members are experienced and will help you at drop-off time. A hug and kiss and letting your child know when you will return is the best goodbye. Lingering good-byes sometimes increase tears and anxieties. After you leave we will support your child through the separation phase. Learning to separate is a big undertaking for all. You are always welcome to call and see how they are doing any time you want.

**Labeling:** Please remember to label each item of clothing you bring for your child. We have so many beautiful pieces of clothing that end up in our lost and found. If we are able to find your child's name, the item will find its way back to you!

**Newsletters and Menus:** The monthly newsletter and menu will be sent by email. If you are not receiving these, please let us know. If you need a hard copy of the menu or newsletter we can place one in your parent pocket.

**School Directory:** We are sending out forms for our 2017-18 School Directory, look for these in your Parent Pocket. If you would like to be included, please return the form by Friday, September 8. We hope having a directory will help you create connections with other families as you plan play dates and parties.

**Photo Permission Form:** We are also sending out permission forms for our teachers to take photos of your children. These photos will be used for monthly newsletters and classroom activities. Please let us know if you have any questions!

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## **NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS**

### **Classroom One: Shellie Zeiler, Priscilla Wilson, Parvathy Balaji**

Welcome to a new school year! It has been wonderful seeing returning families and meeting our newcomers. We are so excited to partner with you on your child's journey.

The first few months of school will be filled with many lessons on Grace and Courtesy, how to roll a rug, walking feet, inside voices, choosing and returning lessons, how to interrupt, and so much more!

Each year we start out in space and move our way inwards. We will start learning about each planet and what makes them unique, along with a few of the constellations and ending with the phases of the moon. Space studies always bring a sense of awe and wonder to both children and adults. Keep your ears open for all the fun questions and observations your children will have.

Finally, our classroom schedule has changed from the summer and last year. Our morning line starts at 8:15. Please try your hardest to have your child here on time. It is very hard disruptive to the children who are trying hard to focus and learn as well as a harder transition for your child. It is a time where group lessons are given as well as focusing on our unit study.

We appreciate each one of our families and look forward to a wonderful year!

### **KINDERGARTEN NEWS SHELLIE ZEILER AND PRISCILLA WILSON**

It has been such a great start to the Kindergarten year. The children all have entered the class with excitement to learn and of course use their school supplies! We are slowly moving into their routine and understanding of the expectations as kindergarteners. They are learning to balance social time and work time, which are both important. We are using work contracts, which help them stay focused and strengthen their work cycle. There is a lot of excitement around our chapter book Flat Stanley in Space. It is a time where they use their sketch books and oil pastels to illustrate how they see the chapter we read. We will continue to adhere to the Montessori philosophy and follow each child individually and meet them right where they are. We look forward to guiding your children this academic year.

Shellie and Priscilla

If you are interested, we would appreciate any donations of the following:

- Board games
- Card games
- Children's cookbooks
- Beginner chapter books

Thank you!

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## **Classroom Two: Jasmine Leesekamp, Colin Paddock, Brooke Brewster**

### **Autumn Greetings!**

Though we have a few weeks of summer left, we have certainly felt a chill in the air, especially in the mornings. With fall around the corner, please be sure to send your child to school with a jacket. There are hangers on a rack in the hallway for your child to hang their coat. We will be working on independence of zipping or buttoning our jackets. A grace and courtesy lesson will be given to your child on hanging their jacket.

The children enter our classroom at 8:15am. Our line will officially begin at 8:30am. If line time has begun and the door is closed, please say good bye quietly to your child at the door. Another teacher will be there to assist. Hopefully drop offs are going smoothly; if not, we can brainstorm to find a way to get you off to your activities as smoothly as possible. Be confident and assuring when dropping your child off for the day. Encourage them to be kind and have a great day. Have an agreed upon parting, like two hugs and a kiss. We have recess at 8:45am, so a lot will be happening during our morning line. :)

The classroom has been very busy the last two weeks. We began the school year with a few new faces (including teachers!) Our main focus at line time has been getting to know each other and learning some of the materials in the classroom. At the beginning of the school year, we reduce the available work in order to create a sound running classroom. We have had a lot of practice with new routines during Week One. Practical Life lessons have been the second focus. Many of the children have been eager to explore the new works. Routines in art are different, the children are enjoying water painting, play-dough exploration, coloring with an art-mat and using a hole punch. More activities will be added throughout September :) During Week Two, the assessments of where each child is have begun! This is exciting because soon we will be able to delve into the wonderful works on the shelves with little limitations. Now into Week Three and onto Month Two, the children are really enjoying I-spy (beginning sounds of objects) and exploring the math and language materials.

Classroom Routines will be addressed at Back to School night. We have been engaged in many grace and courtesy lessons. How to carry a rug, unroll a rug, walk around a rug, bring a work to the rug, stay sitting at rug while working, putting away work, rolling the rug, carry a work to the table, work while sitting, tidy a work for putting away, tuck/push in chair before picking up tray, our snack routine, bathroom routines, lunch routines, and playground routines (which also include lining up and transitions! PHEW!) Your child has been busy! We cannot wait to see how your child has grown in a years' time, it's only just begun!

Just a friendly reminder: We have provided a **Friday Folder** for your child. (This goes home with your child on the last day of their week at school and returns on the first day back the next week.) At the moment, they are all the same color :) We will lay them out on the counter or place our folder bucket on the counter near sign in and out. We bring the "gater" folders to gate time :)

A few fun goals for the month of September: **1.** We will be painting Snack Stones. This will help us to visualize who has had snack and who has not. Snack is offered to every student during A.M. work period and P.M. work period. **2.** We will personalize our Friday Folders so they are easier to identify. We will do this with electrical tape. We intend to reuse folders next year if possible. :)

Thank you,

Ms. Jasmine, Mrs. Brooke, Ms. Colin

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### **Classroom 3: Jenelle Green, Jessie Clisham, Arielle Powers**

Welcome Families!

The classroom 3 team couldn't be happier to spend our days with our school family. After just one week, we are settling in to our schedule and focusing on building a community of caring friends. Each day, we begin class time with "Silence" and the singing bowl to show our love and light within. In 1930, Montessori wrote that the Silence Game brings "little by little, a discipline composed of calmness and inner beatitude." It also helps children develop a higher level of self-control, which in turn contributes to the normalization of the classroom.

We are also focusing on "Respect for myself, others and my environment," which is the basic ground rule to being a part of the school family. Watching the children give each other a hug during the switch-a-roo game is evidence of their deep inherent respect for one another. Another community building activity that we are implementing is "Greeting" after playground. The children are learning to shake hands with the "greeter" and both say good morning, calling by name.

For the next few weeks, we will continue to establish expectations of respectful conduct, learn process through activity and feel the comfort of our school family.