

Montessori Moments

May 2015

Director's Message

As we head into this time of the school year, our thoughts begin to take us to warm places, where we can laugh and relax. Our students are still working diligently to progress through the curriculum and make the most of the time they spend at school. Please remember that we are still in the midst of SAGE testing and to prepare your child with a good night's rest and a hearty breakfast to help ensure their most optimal testing experience. Obviously, learning doesn't stop when a student leaves school for the day or for the summer.

Keep in mind the following tips to continue high levels of learning during summer vacation:

1. Foster the expectation that summer is a time for learning. Ask your child what he/she would like to learn over the summer. It's also helpful if you are a role model for learning. Discuss with your children what you plan on learning this summer.
2. Encourage reading by providing your children with plenty of books that interest them. Use school summer reading lists and library grade-level reading suggestions. Visit the library often and check out special summer events.
3. Understand that any topic of interest to your child can be a source of learning.
4. Car trips can evolve into math or geography lessons. Instead of the perennial kid question: "Are we there yet?" ask your children to estimate and calculate the travel time to a destination.
5. For social studies learning, make day trips to local historical sites in your area,
6. Let your child calculate what the change should be at stores, restaurants, and activities that require admission fees.
7. Try word games, including board games, such as Scrabble, and crossword puzzles and Sudoku to build vocabulary experiences.
8. Sharpen your child's math skills by playing games with him or her that require computation, such as Monopoly or dominoes.
9. Don't overlook the kitchen as a wonderful learning lab.
10. Inspire your children to write about their summer learning experiences.

We are gearing up for our last round of Parent/Teacher conferences. Be sure to check your specific teacher's blog to sign up for a time slot. There are numerous end of the year festivities happening this month, be sure to take note of all these important dates in this newsletter. Lastly, I want to thank all of the individuals that have helped make this school year a success. Our volunteers go above and beyond and we, as a school community, are so grateful.

Sincerely, Ms. Stephanie

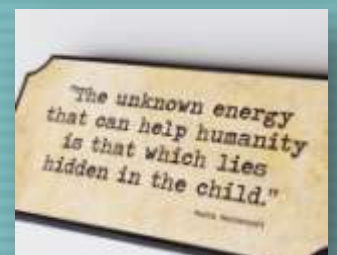
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Stephanie Speicher,
Director



Curriculum Connections

Summer Slide

One of the most wonderful advantages to having your child attend a Montessori school is the continuity from year to year. In August your child's teacher knows exactly where your child was at the end of the previous year. They are able to pick up from where they left off and your child can continue to soar. The communication that happens between the levels; lower elementary to upper elementary for example, also assures that students who have entered the 4th grade are ready to resume learning with very little re-teaching.

A *Summer Slide* sounds like a fun amusement park ride. Unfortunately this term refers to academic skills that are known to slip away during the playful and carefree summer months. Studies have shown that students can lose up to 2 months of reading ability and mathematical computation skills over the summer. This may not sound like much, but combine these months over a 12-year school career, and this can leave many of our children grade levels behind. The good news is, it's easy to stop the slide and help your child transition from school-year to school-year.

Six Books to Summer Success: Research shows that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing. When choosing the six, be sure that they are just right — not too hard and not too easy.

Keep Reading Aloud: Reading aloud benefits all children and teens, especially those who struggle. One benefit is that you can read books your child can't, so she will build listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This will increase her knowledge and expand her experience with text, so that she will do better when she reads on her own.

Get Involved and Make it Fun: Like most things, reading and math are more fun with a friend or a parent. Use e-books, apps and games to make reading and math interactive. Trips to libraries and museums also offer fun educational experiences that encourage your child's love of learning and your build relationships.

Creating a routine for your children that includes as little as 30 minutes to an hour of educational time a day during the summer will provide your child with an academic advantage that will build their self-confidence and independence throughout the entire year. If you would like more suggestions about stopping the summer slide, please feel free to contact me.

As always, thank you for your support!

Kacee Weaver

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I can change the world.



I am a Montessori child.

Kacee Weaver,
Curriculum
Specialist



Our care of the children should be governed not by the desire to 'make them learn things', but by the endeavor always to keep burning within them the light which is called intelligence.

- Maria Montessori

Upcoming Events

May 2015

Bridging Ceremonies

May 8th

Spelling Bee
Fat Boys Fundraiser Opens

May 20th

Box Tops Store
Early Childhood Bridging
Ceremony 11:00-12:00

May 21st

Early Childhood Field Day

May 22nd

Upper and Lower EL Field
Day

May 25th

No School / Memorial Day

May 26 – 29

Early Out

May 26 – 28

Parent Teacher Conf.

May 26th

Third Grade Bridging
Ceremony 11:30-12:30

May 27th

Crazy Hair / Hat Day

May 28th

Crazy Sock Day
Sixth Grade Graduation
/Bridging 10:30-11:30

May 29th

Last Day of School!
Dress Down Day
Yearbook Signing

Bridge: Noun- a connecting, transitional, or intermediate route or phase between two adjacent elements, activities, conditions, or the like

Graduations are a special part of the MMA School experience, and the teachers recognize the growth and personal achievements of their students in a meaningful and heartfelt way. Instead of graduating and receiving a diploma, the children leave their group and join the new community through a bridging ceremony.

This concrete experience to join with the senior classrooms marks a significant period of growth in a child's life. It is also an exciting beginning to new adventures and discoveries for the child at MMA.

Families are invited to attend the bridging ceremonies. Ceremonies will be outside, please bring a chair or blanket. Picnics will be held following the ceremonies, you are welcome to attend with your child. We look forward to seeing you! Thank you for supporting our community during this exciting transition!

May 20th, 11am-Noon Kindergarten Bridging

May 26th, 11:30-12:30 Lower El Bridging

May 28th, 10:30-11:30 Upper El Bridging

Check MMA's & you're
your child's teacher blog
for more information.

Counselor's Corner

I can't believe we are nearing the end of the school year. It has been an amazing journey for me and all the students that I have been able to work with. We have all learned a lot and built lasting relationships in our social skills groups. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of your children this year.

It has also been very rewarding going into the classrooms every month to do the 7 Habits of Happy Kids lessons. I have loved seeing their excitement and enthusiasm when we do the activities to follow up with the lessons on each habit. They are lifelong skills that will be beneficial for them to know. They have all done very well.

Working with the junior high this year has been amazing. These children are absolutely wonderful. I have now finished up registration for next year with the junior high students, and it has gone very well. I am happy to say that we are offering some amazing elective classes next year. The registration forms have been going home with your students, and if you have not returned them please do so now. I will start putting all junior high students into classes the beginning of May. I need all registration forms returned.

Just one last reminder about the required community service hours for the junior high students: we are down to one month left of school and those signed community service hours forms need to be turned in to my office. If those are not completed and returned, the students will receive a failing grade in their capstone class.

Thank you all for sharing your wonderful students with me this year. I look forward to working with them again next year.

Valeri Cruze
School Counselor

Valeri Cruz
School Counselor



Don't Forget!

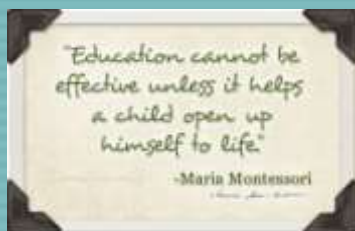
Please check your student's teacher's blog to sign up for end of year Parent Teacher Conferences! These are student led conferences and give your child a chance to showcase their best work to you!

MMA's Jr. High

The Jr. High would like to thank all who have supported our MMA Café. All of the proceeds go toward the 9th grade trip. The last day of MMA Café will be Wed, May 20th.

Items for sale include:
Fresh & made to order fruit parfaits - \$2
Kerns nectar- \$1
Fish Crackers - \$0.50
Motts fruit snacks - \$0.50
Zone bars - \$0.75
Crustables- \$1.25
Capri Sun pouches- \$0.75

Any remaining Kerns nectar will be sold the last week of school for 1\$ during lunch in the south commons area.



Daily Schedule

Regular Schedule

AM Kindergarten:
8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
PM Kindergarten:
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Grades 1-8:
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Early Out Schedule

AM Kindergarten:
8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
PM Kindergarten:
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Grades 1-8:
8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

The month of April was a busy one for the Jr. High. Between testing, field trips, the introduction of the first annual Spelling Bee, and the school play along with their normal school schedules, these students have had a whirlwind month! We wanted to highlight a few of these wonderful experiences.

The kids were able to go to the North Ogden Community Gardens and offer service to the community by weeding and prepping the gardens for planting as well as cleaning the area around the gardens. They had a great experience and the members of the community gardens were so impressed by the students and their willingness to serve and help. The students learned about pruning and weeding and the importance of teamwork for big projects.



Many students were able to go on a field trip to the OWATC to learn about courses available to them starting in 10th grade. They were able to have tours of the Automotive Tech, Healthcare, and Construction programs. This trip was in-line with their focus on career paths and learning about planning for their futures. They enjoyed getting some hands-on experiences on this excursion.

This year at MMA we were so excited to introduce our first ever Spelling Bee! All the students were tested on grade level words and the top five from each grade will be progressing on to the next level. The student's who will be moving on for the Jr. High levels are as follows:

7th: Colin, Brigham, Mason K, Emma, Madeline

8th: Eden, Abby T, Sam, Aldridge, Carter

We are so proud of all the students who worked and studied so hard! The Spelling Bee will be held on May 8th @ 11:00.



Upcoming in the Jr. High

For the month of May the Jr. High students will have the following opportunities:

On May 8th the school Spelling Bee will be held. Then on the 14th and 15th the students will be going on their final trip to the Holmgren Historic farm on an overnigher. Please make sure your student turns in their permission slip and packs all the necessary gear for this trip! On May 20th the Jr. High will be presenting their Capstone projects. All Jr. High parents are welcome to attend the Capstone Fair. On the 22nd the kids will be helping run the Early Childhood's field day. If you have any questions about any of the upcoming events please feel free to contact your student's teachers

We Scream, You Scream... We all scream for Fatboy's Ice Cream!

Starting May 6th we will be selling Fatboy Ice Cream Sandwiches and Fatboy Nut Sundaes for \$25.00 a box.

Each box contains 30 delicious Ice Cream treats.

This is a pre-sale fundraiser, which means you will need to collect the money up front. Each Student will be sent home with a Fatboy Fundraiser Order form and an envelope by May 5th.

All order forms and money collected will need to be turned in to the main office no later than May 20th. We will also have a table set up in the North Shore Parking lot before and after school on May 20th for parents or Students to turn their order sheets in at. (no money will be given to individual teachers)

Orders will be ready for pick up May 29th In the North Shore Parking lot beginning at 12:45 p.m. Once you pick up your order it will need to be delivered or placed in a freezer within 45 minutes. **THIS IS THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!**



The Jr. High Students at the North Ogden Community Gardens



Your child's safety is a priority. It is imperative that you **keep us updated on your contact information**, so that in the event of an emergency, we can contact you.



All MMA students are invited to show off their amazing design talents by creating a one-of-a-kind MMA T-Shirt!

The winning design will appear on
2015-2016 MMA
T-Shirts.

Entry Deadline: May 18th
to the office

T-Shirt Contest Rules

- Computer design or drawing on 8 ½ X 11 Paper, name & grade on back.
- Design must be in Black and White, please no pencil designs.
- Submission Deadline: May 18th to the Office.
- Submissions must be Original Student Artwork.
- Winner will receive a free T-Shirt with their design.
- Winning artwork becomes the property of MMA.



MAPA-Meet the new Board

President - Melinda Montgomery

Vice President - Autumn Douglas

Treasurer - Mande Stephens

Secretary - Teara Galbraith

As parents we all support our children with their education. As a MAPA, we work collaboratively to support the school through many events and volunteer opportunities. Together we can ensure that every child succeeds. This is your MAPA and you are welcome and encouraged to attend all of our meetings and events. Together we strengthen our children's learning and our entire school.



MAPA Board for the 2015-16 school Year



MAPA

Teacher appreciation Week May 4-8!

Monday - Show your teacher grace and courtesy.

Tuesday - Teacher Spirit Day! Wear your teacher's favorite color.

Wednesday - Bring a flower to your teacher and assistant.

Thursday - Make your teacher and assistant a THANK YOU note.

Friday - Bring a piece of fruit or a veggie for your teacher and assistant.

General MAPA Meeting! Thursday, May 7th @7pm

We will serve Ice Cream Sundaes!

We will discuss this years successes, go over next years budget and meet next years MAPA Board. We will also have loads of summer activity ideas. It's a meeting you won't want to miss!

Skate Night!

Our 2nd skate night at Classic Fun Center in Layton will be May 11th!

Last Box Top Store of the school year is May 20th!

Bring your clipped, unexpired box tops to "buy" lots of great things!

May 22nd is Field Day!

This is a day the kids really look forward to! This year our theme is The Olympics. We will need help to make this field day a success.

Look for a wejoinin to sign up to help with the fun!

Lower Elementary 9:00am til 11:00am

Upper Elementary noon til 2:00pm

May 2015

Help Wanted

MMA is looking into starting the *Opera by Children* program! We would like to offer this as an after school program for our students, but we will need parents to get involved to run it. If you are interested in helping with this program for the 2015-2016 school year please contact Anna Hafen in the front office! For more information please follow the link below to see what *Opera by Children* is all about!

<http://www.operabychildren.org/>

MMA needs parent volunteers to sand and re-stain the Early Childhood tables. Our Early-Childhood students have washed and washed the tables so well, they need to be re-finished. Any time donated will count toward your volunteer hours.



Students In the Spotlight

This month we wanted to spotlight the students who participated in the school play: *The Brave Little Tailor*. The students had a full house on April 23rd and were able to bring the audience to their feet!

These students did a FANTASTIC job and really pulled off a great show. They got the crowd to laugh, cry, and relayed the wonderful story through their teamwork and great acting skills. They were coached/directed by Chelsea Nielson, a parent here at MMA. Way to break a leg Mountain Lions!

