

# Peppertree Montessori

## *2015-2016 School Calendar & Parent Handbook*

427 College Blvd., Suite 1  
Oceanside CA 92057  
[www.PeppertreeMontessori.com](http://www.PeppertreeMontessori.com)



Office: 760-940-1931  
Fax: 760-940-6010  
Office Hours: 8am-5pm

Welcome to Peppertree Montessori. This information booklet contains the philosophy of the school and the necessary information on the rights and responsibilities of the staff, parents and children, and information about safety and security matters. Please read it carefully and keep it for future reference. If you have questions or comments, please contact the Office at 760-940-1931.



**AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY**  
education that transforms lives



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#376700384 & #376700385  
Tax ID # 26-0566135



# Table of Contents

## About Peppertree Montessori

Mission Statement, Montessori Program  
Goals

pg1-2  
pg 3

## Administrative

Enrollment Process  
Classroom placement, Separation, Observations

August  
September

## School Guidelines

Termination, Withdrawal policy, Department of Social Services  
Late Arrival & Appointments, Before & After School Care,  
Drop-Off and Pick-Up Policy, Late Pick-Up (After 6 pm)  
Health and Medications

October  
November  
November  
December

## Classroom Guidelines

Classroom Etiquette, Behavior Management, Student Evaluations  
Clothing & Possessions, Breakfast, Lunch & Snacks, Birthdays

January  
January  
February

## General Information

Holidays, Holiday schedule  
Parent/Teacher conferences & progress reports, Communication with Teachers,  
Parents Participation, Field Trips  
Brief answers to questions parents ask

March  
March  
April  
May & June

Peppertree Montessori reserves the right to amend this handbook as needed and will provide notice of such to parents. By acknowledging your receipt and review of the handbook you are also agreeing to abide by any terms and conditions stated in these amendments.

## Mission Statement

At Peppertree Montessori our mission is to :

Provide a peaceful & safe community made up of children, families, and teachers.

Inspire each child's passion for learning through the Montessori philosophy of education.

Assist each child in realizing their full potential;

Encourage each child to express themselves with purpose, passion and vision.

Provide an environment that enables each child to thrive as a life-long learner.

(10.A.01)

*We envision our school as a community of responsive, aware children & adults  
empowered to nurture and shape the world.*



### **MONTESSORI HISTORY & FUN FACTS**

The program is based on the philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori. Maria Montessori (1870-1952) was the first woman in Italy to qualify as a Doctor of Medicine. She became one of the leading educationalists of the twentieth century, with her acute observations of how children develop. Dr Montessori first put her ideas to the test in a Casa de Bambini (Children's House) for a group of deprived children in a social housing project in 1907. Enabling children to develop individually, at their own pace and in mixed age groups was a huge success. As this news spread, Montessori schools came into being - and continue to thrive - all over the world. Her method of "auto-education" within a prepared environment has continued to contribute to educational reform.

Maria Montessori's achievements in the fields of education and peace were officially recognized in her home country when her image was used on the Italian 1000 lire bank note.



Google honored Italian physician and educator Maria Montessori with a Homepage doodle celebrating her 142nd birth anniversary last year. The drawing features some of the tools that form the basis of Montessori's educational methods, which emphasize hands-on, individualized learning within mixed age groups in a child-friendly setting.

Visit our school website for more interesting about Montessori and famous people who support it like Google's co-founders, Sergey Brin and Larry Page, who both went through the Montessori education system and have credited it for their success!

## **What makes a Montessori education unique? (7.A.09)**

**The “whole child” approach.** The primary goal of a Montessori program is to help each child to reach his/her full potential in all areas of life. Activities promote the development of social skills, emotional growth, and physical coordination as well as cognitive preparation. The curriculum allows the child to experience the joy of learning and to develop self-esteem and independence.

**The Teacher.** Originally called a “Directress” or “Guide”, functions as a facilitator of learning. She is a role model, designer of the environment, resource person, demonstrator, record-keeper, and observer of each child’s growth and development. She encourages, respects, and loves each child as a special, unique individual she provides support for parents by joining them in a partnership that nurtures the development of the child.

**The “Prepared Environment”.** In order for self-directed learning to take place, the whole learning environment, materials and social climate must be supportive of the learner. The teacher provides necessary resources, including opportunities for children to function in a safe and positive climate. The teacher thus gains the children’s trust, which enables them to try new things and build self-confidence.

**The Montessori materials.** Dr. Montessori’s observations of the kinds of “toys” which children enjoy and return to play with repeatedly led her to design multi-sensory sequential and self-correcting materials which facilitate the learning of skills and concepts. Our teachers follow “Montessori principles” (which includes curriculum goals throughout the classroom) as they structure new activities for the classroom based on assessment of students needs and readiness for advancement. (2.A.05)

### **How does it work?**

Each Montessori class, from toddlers through Kindergarten, operates on the principle of freedom within limits. With the core Montessori belief: respect for each other and for the environment.

The objective of the program is to help the child achieve his fullest potential and mental ability by carefully preparing a learning environment to meet the child’s needs. Teacher led “lessons” usually take no more than a few minutes and are 1:1 or in a small group. Children are free to work at their own pace with materials they have chosen, either alone or with others. The teacher relies on his or her

observations of the children to determine which new activities materials should be introduced to each individual child or to a group. (2.A.06)

In a Montessori classroom it may be that all children are doing different work, with the teacher guiding as and when needed. Independent learning comes from guiding each child to make responsible choices about appropriate activities that help them learn new skills at a rate which is comfortable for them. This ensures depth of understanding and constant stimulation without the risk of failure.(7.A.09)





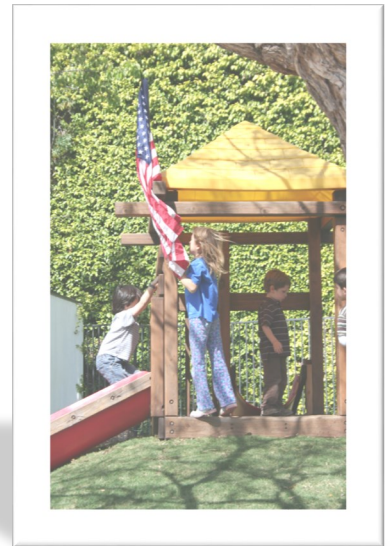
The aim is to encourage active, self-directed learning and to strike a balance of individual mastery with small group collaboration within the whole group community.

The three-year-age span in each class provides a family-like grouping where learning can take place naturally. More experienced children share what they have learned while reinforcing their own learning. Because this peer group learning is intrinsic to Montessori, there are often more conversation-language experiences in the Montessori classroom than in conventional early education settings.

### **Goals** (7.A.09) (10.A.01)

The goal of Peppertree Montessori is to introduce your child to experiences which:

- ~ Provide a warm and loving environment in which each child feels secure, respected and loved.
- ~ Support and encourage the growth and development of the whole child.
- ~ Develop social skills, emotional growth, physical coordination, as well as cognitive preparation.
- ~ Build self-confidence, self-esteem and motivation.
- ~ Foster the natural desire to learn.
- ~ Develop freedom within limits.
- ~ Encourage the development of creativity.
- ~ Provide a framework of discipline through which each child can develop self-discipline and personal strength.
- ~ Provide an environment in which active exploring and learning occurs.
- ~ Provide opportunities for each child to develop social grace and courtesy.
- ~ Promote order, coordination, concentration and independence.
- ~ Develop respect for themselves, for others, and for their environment.



“Our aim is not only to make the child understand,  
and still less to force him to memorize,  
but so to touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his innermost core.

We do not want complacent pupils, but eager ones.”

*-Maria Montessori*

- As part of our NACEYC accreditation we conduct an annual survey to get feedback to improve our program. Results are shared either via monthly newsletters or parent meetings. (10.B.02) (10.B.07) (10.F.04) Please feel free to suggest ways that we can strengthen our partnership with you in providing a high quality learning environment for everyone in our school community. (7.B.01)

## **Administrative - Enrollment Process**

Ages of Children Accepted:

- Toddler Program: Is for children between the ages of 18 months and 3 years old.
- Children may not move to the primary classroom until they are fully toilet trained and are considered developmentally ready by their teacher (wearing pull-ups, even at nap, is not considered toilet trained).
- Primary Program: Accepts children between the ages of 2 ½ and 6, as long as they are toilet trained (no pull-ups) and are able to use the restroom independently (defined as: pulling clothes up and down and wiping successfully).

New Students are accepted throughout the year as spaces become available.

Peppertree Montessori accepts children in the following order:

Currently enrolled Students

Siblings

New Enrollees

### **All enrollment paperwork must be turned in before the students first day.**

New Students will not be accepted without the following items:

Completed enrollment application that has been signed and dated

Completed emergency contact/information form

Most current and up to date copy of immunization records (5.A.01.a)

Signed parent handbook agreement

Social services required emergency forms

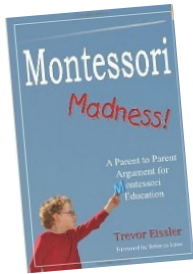
Any applicable fees

Completed physician's report—must be signed by child's physician  
(5.A.01.a)

### **Student File Confidentiality** (4.E.07.a-c) (10.D.05) (7.C.08)

All information provided is confidential. Student files are maintained in the office with limited access to persons outside PTMS administration. Parents hereby give permission for pertinent information to be shared with school administrator and teaching staff. Outside requests (specialists, therapists, etc.) to view files will only be granted with written consent by parents. The exception being The Department of Social Services, explained on page adjacent to the month of November.





**Peppertree  
Parents  
Library**

Peppertree has a variety of books on Montessori Parenting available for check out. Books are located in the cabinet in the front lobby, stop by the office to check one out.

**Reminders!!!**

Be sure to continue applying sunscreen each morning before drop off.

# August



Thrive...Dream...Explore...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 SCHOOL CLOSED Teacher In-Service	14 SCHOOL CLOSED Teacher In-Service	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

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*"...so that one day it's not called Montessori school; it's just called school."*

~Montessori Madmen, [www.montessorimadmen.com](http://www.montessorimadmen.com)



## **Classroom Placement**

Montessori staff determine placement for children depending upon:

- The welfare of the child i.e. the ability to have the appropriate experience for the child's developmental needs to be met.

- Maintaining the Montessori principle of multi-year placement with peers and teacher for a developmental 3 year cycle .

- Developing balanced classroom composition related to gender, age, developmental maturity, special needs and personality

Once an appropriate placement is determined, a change is made only if staff feels that the student's development merits the change. Parents who have information relating to this decision should put their request in writing and submit it to the Office.

Changes in classroom assignments will only be made if the well-being of the child is seriously affected. Multiage groupings are at the heart of the Montessori Method, and any change diminishes the benefit of being in the same environment for a developmental 3 year cycle. (10.B.14)

We make every effort for all children to be known by all adults in our school so they are comfortable with all staff members.

## **Separation**

Separation is a process we go through all of our lives. Though often challenging and exciting, this growth towards independence can be painful and scary, especially for young children. Parents and teachers working together, showing children that they can trust and believe in one another, offers a foundation of support when the world suddenly seems a new and different place.

Independence is one of our goals but if your child is having second thoughts about being away from you, then you are welcome to stay (outside the classroom). Remember that sometimes staying only makes it more difficult for your child as well as for yourself. Never leave without letting your child know that you are doing so. Feel free to phone any-time during the day to check on your child.

## **Observations** (7.A.11) (7.A.06)

All parents are encouraged and welcome to visit their child's classroom throughout the year. In order for your observations to be as beneficial as possible, we ask that you follow these helpful guidelines. Observations should not be scheduled until the sixth week of school. This gives the child the opportunity to adjust to the new environment.

When to come: You are always welcome at any time, but by arranging it ahead of time you are assured of having the day you request. Mornings between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. are best to observe the educational programs in progress.

How to Observe: An observation chair will be provided so you can view all the activities. We request that you remain seated so that the children are able to continue with their activities. When you arrive please check in at the front desk and an observation guideline sheet will be given to you.

How Long: The length of stay is up to you. However, most observers find that 20 to 30 minutes is quite fulfilling.





## September Curriculum

- ~ Peace/Conflict Resolution
- ~ Introductory Lessons
- ~ Grace & Courtesy



Montessori Grace & Courtesy activities teach children how to interact with people in a respectful way. Learning how to politely greet others, interrupt respectfully, open and close a door quietly, sit and stand up properly, and tuck in a chair will inspire children to spontaneously extend hospitality and respect to others.



# September



Thrive...Dream...Explore...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 School Closes @ 4pm Back to School Night	4	5
6	7 SCHOOL CLOSED LABOR DAY	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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"Establishing lasting peace is the work of education."

Maria Montessori

### **School Guidelines:** (10.B.06.a)

- \* Arrive on time. At this age, it is very important for each child to enter the community and begin his day with his peers. **Arrival times are from 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM.** Being late robs your child and their classmates of valuable learning time. We do understand that situations arise from time to time that are beyond your control, however keeping them to a minimum is beneficial to everyone.
- \* If you do arrive after the designated arrival time, please be respectful to the teacher and the students and say your goodbyes in the hall so as not to disturb the class.
- \* Encourage your child to walk into the school on their own. This increases their independence and self sufficiency.
- \* Allow your child to take responsibility for their belongings. (lunch box, cubby, hanging up of coat, etc.)
- \* Plan appointments for your child after school hours. If that is not possible, please schedule them as early or late as possible. Mid-day interruptions can be very distracting to other children's work cycles.
- \* Remember that primary classes begin at 8:30 AM and toddler classes begin at 9:00 AM. The teachers must direct all of their attention to the children.
- \* Visitors are asked not to enter the classrooms for any reason unless prearranged with the teacher.
- \* Model respect for the work of all of the students in the building by using a very quiet voice when speaking.
- \* Always move outside of the building and away from the front entrance to converse with other parents.

### **Termination of Agreement**

Peppertree Montessori reserves the right to terminate the enrollment agreement at any time for reasons including the following (but not limited to):

- Violation of Peppertree Montessori Policies and Procedures
- Non-payment of Tuition
- Absences longer than 2 weeks for which Peppertree Montessori was not notified.

### **Withdrawal Policy**

One month WRITTEN notice is required prior to the withdrawal of the child, or one-month tuition in lieu of notice.

### **Department of Social Services** (4.E.07)

The school is licensed under the Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division and abides by the Department's Licensing Laws. Therefore, parents should be aware that this department can come into the school for inspections at anytime. They might look at your child's files and possibly interview your child without asking for parental consent. (10.D.05.c)



Montessori Language



Movable Alphabet Activities



On October 15 at 10:15 a.m., millions of people , including the children and staff at Peppertree Montessori will participate in the 2014 Great California ShakeOut!

The Great California ShakeOut is the largest earthquake drill ever, organized to inspire Californians to get ready for big earthquakes, and to prevent disasters from becoming catastrophes.

Visit [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org) for more information!



## October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 <u>Great California Shake out: 10:15am Earthquake Drill</u>	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 <u>Harvest Party</u>	29	30	31

### October Curriculum

- ~ Fall
- ~ Universe & Space
- ~ Living & Non-living
- ~ Spiders, Bats & Pumpkins

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*"If teaching is to be effective with young children, it must assist them to advance on the way to independence. It must initiate them into those kinds of activities which they can perform themselves"~ Maria Montessori*

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### **Late Arrival**

Classes start between 8:30am and 9am. All children need to be dropped off by 9am at the latest. If you are scheduling an appointment (Dentist, Dr., etc) please schedule it in the afternoon or early morning and notify the office and your teacher of the late arrival.

**Peppertree Montessori has a no acceptance policy after 11:00 am.** The morning hours are the bulk of your child's work time and missing them highly defeats the purpose for attendance and has the potential to distract and disrupt children who are already working.

### **Before and After School Care**

We provide care for children at a maximum of 10 hours a day per the Department of Social Services standards.

**A \$10.00 per hour charge will be assessed for every day that a child exceeds 10 hours.**

**With Prior Notice-Extended Hour/Day Charge: Toddler \$15 day, Half Day Primary to Full Day \$12, School Day to Full Day \$10**

### **Drop Off and Pick Up Policy**

Parents are required to sign in & sign out using the computer everyday.

- In accordance with state regulations, children are released only to a custodial parent, guardian, or person authorized by the custodial parent. If a person other than the parent is delegated to pick up a child on a specific day, authorization must be in writing and presented to the office at the beginning of the day. Parents may only be excluded when a court order is on file in the school office.
- The person picking up the child MUST bring a drivers license & have a functional car seat in the vehicle.

### **Schedules**

All children must attend within the schedule declared at the time of enrollment, unless changed and approved through the office. If you need to drop off your child outside of your designated schedule, Please clear it through the office.

**Any children attending outside of their schedule will be charged \$10 per hour due to the need of additional staff.**

### **Late Pick-Up (After 6 PM)**

Our after-school care program ends at 6:00 PM. **A charge of \$1.00 per minute, for each child, will be assessed every minute after 6:00 PM.** Fees are due immediately & are to be paid to the staff member on duty.



## November

### Curriculum

- ~ Planet Earth
- ~ Weather
- ~ Land forms
- ~ Native Americans
- ~ Thanksgiving



# November



The Montessori Method of Education was developed by Dr. Maria Montessori. She was an Italian physician, educator, and innovator, acclaimed for her educational method that builds on the way children naturally learn.



FUN  
FACT:

Dr. Montessori was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 3 times! Many believe she was passed over each time because she was too Controversial.

Thrive...Dream...Explore...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Fall Back Daylight Savings	2 Parent	3 Teacher	4 Conferences	5 Conferences	6 Conferences	7 Conferences
8	9	10	11 SCHOOL CLOSED Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 SCHOOL CLOSED Thanksgiving Break	27 SCHOOL CLOSED Thanksgiving Break	28
29	30					

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*"It is necessary, then, to give the child the possibility of developing according the laws of his nature so that he can become strong and having become strong, can do more than we dared hope for him." ~ Maria Montessori*

## When your child is sick.....

For everyone's benefit, sick children are sent home. If your child shows signs of any communicable diseases, such as chicken pox, pink eye, etc., or signs of fever, diarrhea, runny nose, or vomiting, you will be asked to pick up your child as soon as possible and return him or her to school only when he or she is no longer ill. Children sent home sick may not return the next day.

**Children must be symptom free for 24 hours, without medication, to be allowed to return to school after suffering from an illness.**

\*\*\* To be allowed to return the next day when sent home sick, a physician's note stating that the child is free from communicable disease is required.

\* If you feel your child is too sick to participate in outdoor play, he or she is probably too sick to be at school. \*

Immunizations and communicable diseases: If your child's immunizations are not up to date or if you have completed an Exemption from Immunization Affidavit you will be notified immediately if there is any vaccine preventable disease at the school. Children without proof of current /up to date immunizations will be excluded and you will be requested to pick up your child immediately. Your child may not return until: you provide proof of current immunization or the disease risk period has ended. (5.A.01.h)

## Guidelines for medications:



~ **Parents must submit a “Request to administer Medication” Form. This form must be filled out completely, signed by parent and received by our front office PRIOR to the child needing to have medication administered.**

**Medication will not be administered without this form.**

- All medication must be in the original bottle and include your child's name on the label.
- The first dose of an Antibiotic must be administered at home, prior to coming to school, in case there is an allergic reaction.

Arrangements must be made with the office for any specialized medical treatments. All allergies must be listed in the student's enrollment form. If your child develops any new allergies not listed on the form, please notify the office and the teacher immediately.



## December Curriculum

- ~ Antarctica & Arctic animals
- ~ Winter Holidays around the world
- ~ Winter Solstice



### The Birthday Walk

In the Toddler & Primary Classrooms  
Each child celebrates their Birthday with a Birthday walk.

We honor the Birthday child by telling a story of his/her life, sharing Milestone and special events. The children love the ceremony and getting to share about themselves with their friends.

Don't miss the  
Winter Program.  
Watch for details  
in your class newsletter.

# December



Thrive...Dream...Explore...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Winter Program	17	18	19
20 Winter Solstice	21	22	23	24 SCHOOL CLOSED Winter Break	25 SCHOOL CLOSED Winter Break	26
27	28 SCHOOL CLOSED Winter Break	29 SCHOOL CLOSED Winter Break	30 SCHOOL CLOSED Winter Break	31 SCHOOL CLOSED Winter Break		

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*"Respect all the reasonable forms of activity in which a child engages and try to understand them." ~ Maria Montessori*

## **Classroom Guidelines**

### **Disciplinary Procedures** (1.B.09, 1.B.10, 1.E.01)

In our Montessori classrooms, redirecting a child to a positive behavior is the form of discipline used. Based on each individual occurrence, the teacher will assess and follow natural consequences to resolve behavior issues. They will then help the child make a better choice so they can have a successful day with positive experiences.

Our primary goal is to provide a safe environment for all children in our care. Our classrooms are a mixed age group environment with a ratio of 1 teacher/assistant for up to 12 children in the preschool classrooms or a ratio of 1 teacher/assistant for up to 6 children in the toddler classrooms.

Occasionally a child may have a difficult time and become disruptive while at school. Unfortunately a disruptive child takes away from the supervision and safety of other children in that classroom. In the event that a child's behavior becomes disruptive enough that the teachers cannot safely supervise the whole class and "one on one" supervision is required, the disruptive child will be temporarily removed from the classroom and will be sent to the office until such time that they are calm and return to the classroom.

Because Peppertree cannot provide "one on one" supervision of a child on a recurring basis, we are only able to accommodate this behavior a maximum of 3 times before it becomes necessary to terminate enrollment. If a child establishes a pattern of behavior that requires more supervision than we are able to provide the following steps will occur:

- The first time a child has to be removed from the classroom the parent will be notified of the incident.
- The second time, a parent teacher conference will be scheduled to see if we can find a solution to the child's behavior in the classroom.
- The third time, the parent will be requested to pick their child up immediately and enrollment will be terminated.

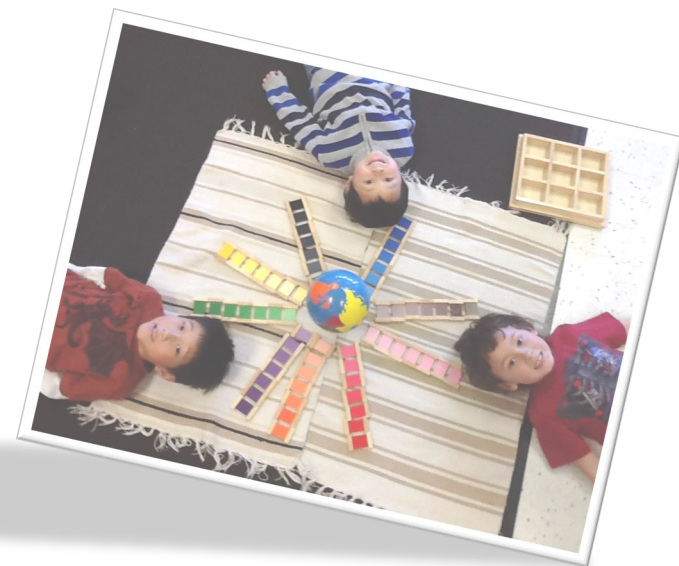
Hitting, kicking, biting, spitting, destruction of school materials or other such behavior toward other children or the teachers is considered unacceptable behavior and falls under our disciplinary policy.

### **Birthdays**

We understand the importance of celebrating your child's birthday. See your child's teacher for his or her birthday celebration plans. If you would like to provide a snack for your child to share on his or her birthday, we ask that the snack comply with state nutrition regulations. Store bought muffins (without icing), cookies (as long as the first ingredient is flour and not sugar), fruit cups or fruit kabobs, cheese and crackers are preferred.

Please note that birthday cakes, cupcakes with extensive amounts of icing, or party favors may not be brought to school.

If you plan to invite children from your child's class to a party outside of the school, please bring invitations to school to distribute only if every child is invited, otherwise please mail them individually to each child.



## January

### Curriculum

- ~ Australia/Oceania
- ~ Composers & Instruments
- ~ Vertebrates & Invertebrates
- ~ Time

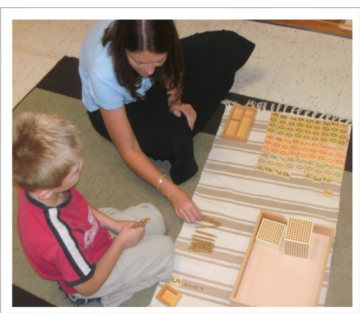


# January



Thrive...Dream...Explore...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 SCHOOL CLOSED	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 SCHOOL CLOSED M.L.K. Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Montessori Math  
The hands on approach allows the child to truly understand each concept.

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"Whoever touches the life of the child touches the most sensitive point of a whole which has roots in the most distant past and climbs toward the infinite future." ~ Maria Montessori



### **Clothing and Possessions**

A child's work is their play. Please let your child wear washable, comfortable clothing to school. Much of the child's work is done on the floor. The children work with water and paint, and even though they sometimes wear smocks, they can get wet or stained. We recommend layering your child's clothing for fall and winter. They can shed clothes as they get warm or add clothes as they get cold. (5.A.07.a)

- Comfortable shoes are recommended for physical activity and daily play. Shoes should only tie if the student can do so independently. Party shoes should be saved for special occasions and sandals and open toed shoes are not allowed.
- Clothing that depicts pictures of superheroes or cartoon characters that exhibit violent behavior should not be worn at school. Other than causing a distraction to other children, we have found that children act more aggressively on the playground when wearing such clothing.
- Pants or shorts should have stretchable or loose elastic waistbands.
- Belts, buckles, hard snaps, and overalls are discouraged for children less than four years old.
- An extra set of clothing is beneficial in case of spills or accidents and for days when water play is included in the schedule. Each child has a "cubby" to store personal items.
- Please note: All clothing and personal belonging should be labeled with your child's name.

Frequently small pieces from the Montessori materials make it home in children's pockets and bags. Many of our Montessori material parts are small and we need to replace them often. If you find any unrecognized small objects, please bring them to school. We appreciate it very much.

### **Snacks, Lunch and Breakfast**

The school provides mid-morning and afternoon snack ONLY. Children must bring their own lunch in a labeled lunch-box and may bring breakfast if arriving before 8am. Any child that is dropped off at 8am or later must eat breakfast before arriving. Low sugar, nutritional foods only.

### **Student evaluation** (1.E.01) (4.C.01) (4.E.06)(10.B.10)

When a child first enters a classroom as a student, he or she, is evaluated to determine the child's academic progress and social maturity. When a child appears to be falling behind academically and/or socially, we work with the child to see if we can overcome the difficulty. If we discover problems beyond our capabilities, we ask the parents to consult with their pediatrician or their school district to have their child tested for learning, hearing, and sight disabilities.

**Media Influence** Please be sensitive to your child's exposure to any form of violence, whether it is on the playground, TV, video games, or any other source. Some students act out the violence they see on their classmates at school. Others come to school traumatized by the violence they see on TV shows that their parents watch. Violence is, at the least, disturbing to the child and can be destructive to a child's social values and academic achievement.



# February



Thrive...Dream...Explore...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 <u>SCHOOL CLOSED</u> Lincolns Birthday	13
14	15 <u>SCHOOL CLOSED</u> Presidents Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

## February

### Curriculum

- Asia
- ~ Feelings/conflict resolution
- ~ Measurement
- ~ Amphibians & Birds

### Holidays

Chinese New Year

Valentines Day

Mardi Gras

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*"The first aim of the prepared environment is, as far as possible, to render the growing child independent of the adult." ~ Maria Montessori*

## **General Information**

### **Holidays**

Our school is fortunate to be in an area with children of diverse racial, religious and cultural backgrounds. The rituals and special foods associated with each group's celebration of holidays provide valuable learning experiences for the children. You are encouraged to arrange a holiday celebration with your child's teacher. If you would like to inquire about school events or schedule a day to come in to share information about a special day with our students, please make arrangements with your child's teacher in advance.

### **Holiday Schedule**

Peppertree Montessori is closed on the following days:

- Fall Teacher in-Service (2 days)
- Labor Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Break (2 days)
- Winter Break (Dec. 24th—Jan 1st)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Presidents' Day weekend (2 days)
- Spring Teacher In-service (2 day)
- Memorial Day
- Summer Teacher In-Service (2 days)
- Independence Day

**Please see the school calendar for more specific dates**





## March Curriculum

- ~ Europe
- ~ Mammals
- ~ My Body/5 senses
- ~ Artists
- ~ St. Patrick's Day
- ~ Dr. Seuss' Birthday



Casa Dei Bambini,  
San Lorenzo, Rome -1907  
 In 1907, Maria Montessori  
 opened the first “Children's  
 House” in the San Lorenzo slum  
 of Rome. What she learned while  
 observing in the Casa became  
 much of the basis for the  
 Montessori Method of education.



Casa Dei Bambini - San Lorenzo, Rome - 2014

# March



Thrive...Dream...Explore...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Dr. Seuss' Birthday Mar. 2, 1904	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Spring Forward Daylight Savings	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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*“As soon as children find something that interests them they lose their instability  
 and learn to concentrate.” ~ Maria Montessori*

### **Parent teacher conferences/Progress Reports for primary classes** (4.E.02) (7.A.06) (7.B.11) (7.B.01)

In November and May Parent teacher conferences are held. Report cards are given out for pre-school students. If you wish to have a Parent-Teacher conference at that time, look for the sign-up sheet by your child's classroom door. If you require a conference or any verbal interaction in a language other than English, please let the staff know ahead of time and we will do our best to accommodate you. These accommodations may include the presence of a bilingual staff member or someone the family has brought to translate.

If you wish to schedule an additional conference please feel free to contact us via phone or note to the teacher.

### **Communication with Teachers** (7.A.06) (7.B.11)

Morning drop offs and afternoon pick-ups provide a nice opportunity for parents and teachers to have a brief, polite exchange. Please be mindful that teachers have to keep conversations concise in order to ensure proper supervision and safety of their students.

if you have something you want to ask and/or share with the teacher which may take up a little more than one to two minutes please feel free to write the teacher a note stating such and they can make arrangements to call or meet with you.

You may also call the teachers between 2:30PM and 3:30PM M-F if you need to speak to them.

### **Parents Participation** (7.A.03.b) (7.A.06) (7.A.09)

Parents are always welcome. If you would like to participate in the classroom, please see your child's teacher, in advance, to make arrangements.

### **Field Trips** (7.A.06)

Parents participation is required to make our field trips a success. Throughout the year, field trips may be scheduled to special places of educational interest. A notice would be sent home in advance of the excursion, informing you of the destination, time, costs and date. It also includes a permission slip for your child, which must be signed and returned to ensure that your child can participate. You are always welcome to accompany us.



## April Curriculum

### Africa

- ~ Botany
- ~ Planting
- ~ Recycling
- ~ Reptiles
- ~ Earth Day



# April



Thrive...Dream...Explore...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Easter	4	5	6	7 <u>SCHOOL CLOSED</u> Teacher In-Service	8 <u>SCHOOL CLOSED</u> Teacher In-Service	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



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*"The training of the teacher, who is to help life, is something far more than the learning of ideas. It includes the training of character; it is a preparation of the spirit." ~ Maria Montessori*



## 20 Reasons to Keep Your Child in Montessori through the Kindergarten Year

Every year thousands of Montessori parents whose children are about to move up to kindergarten face a common dilemma. Do they allow their child to remain in a Montessori environment or do they transfer their children to a more traditional kindergarten program. Although there are plenty of issues that factor into this important decision, most Montessori administrators, educators, and parents will agree that perhaps the most compelling factor for most parents has to do with basic economics. Simply put, their child can attend a local public school kindergarten program free.

Although each family must make this decision on their own, we offer a number of thoughts which should be considered before transferring a child in the kindergarten year.

- 1) Does your child love school and can't wait to go every day? If so, consider yourself lucky. Why tinker with a winning school situation when so many families are frustrated & disappointed?
- 2) Your child has waited for two years to be one of the five year old leaders of her class. The kindergartners are looked up to as role models for the younger students, and most children eagerly await their opportunity to play this role.
- 3) The third year, the kindergarten year, is the time when many of the earlier lessons come together & become permanent part of the young child's understanding. An excellent example is the early introduction to addition with large numbers through the Bank Game. When children leave Montessori at age five, many of the still forming concepts evaporate, just as a child living overseas will learn to speak two languages, but may quickly lose the second language if his family moves back home.
- 4) As a five year old, your child has many opportunities to teach the younger children lessons that he learned when he was their age. Research proves that this experience has powerful benefits for both tutor and tutee.
- 5) The Primary Montessori curriculum is much more sophisticated than that found in most kindergartens.
- 6) Having spent two years together, your child's teachers know her very well. They know her strengths and areas that are presenting challenges.
- 7) Your child already knows most of her classmates. She has grown up in a safe, supportive classroom setting.
- 8) Montessori math is based on the European tradition of unified mathematics. Montessori introduces young children to basic geometry and other sophisticated concepts as early as kindergarten.

9) In many Montessori schools, five year olds are reading; kindergartners in other schools may be recognizing letters and numbers.

10) Students have a real sense of running their classroom community.

11) In Montessori, your child can continue to progress at her own pace. In traditional kindergarten, she will have to wait while the other children begin to catch up.

12) Even in kindergarten, Montessori children are studying cultural geography & beginning to grow into global citizens.

13) In Montessori, your child has been treated with a deep respect as a unique individual. The school has been equally concerned for his intellectual, social, and emotional development. Unfortunately, despite lip service to the contrary, this is often not the case in traditional classrooms.

14) Montessori schools are warm and supportive communities of students, teachers, and parents. Children can't easily slip through the cracks!

15) Montessori consciously teaches children to be kind and peaceful.

16) In Montessori schools, learning is not focused on rote drill and memorization. Our goal is to develop students who really understand their school-work.

17) Montessori students learn through hands-on experience, investigation, and research. They become actively engaged in their studies, rather than passively waiting to be spoon-fed.

18) Montessori is consciously designed to recognize and address different learning styles, helping students learn to study most effectively.

19) Montessori challenges and set high expectations for all students not only a special few.

20) Montessori students develop self-discipline and an internal sense of purpose and motivation.

If you still have any doubt, spend a morning observing in your child's class and compare it with a morning in a typical kindergarten class.

The differences may be subtle, but most likely they will be significant. Then project your child into the future and ask yourself how the positive differences you observed in the Montessori classroom might help shape your child to become the teenager, and later the adult, you envisioned for your child's future.

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## May Curriculum

- ~ South America
- ~ Oceans
- ~ Science
- ~ Fish
- ~ Nutrition
- ~ Mothers Day



Teacher Appreciation  
Week is  
May 4 - May 8

Make sure to tell your  
teachers how much you  
appreciate them.

# May



Thrive...Dream...Explore...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Mother's Day Breakfast	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Mothers Day	Parent Teacher Conferences				20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 SCHOOL CLOSED	31				

## Mothers Day Breakfast

(7.A.06)

**Friday, May 6**

**7:30 am - 8:45 am**

If mom is unavailable  
please feel free to  
choose a 'stand in'  
family member, dad,  
grandma, aunt, uncle,  
anyone special.

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*"It is well to cultivate a friendly feeling toward error, to treat it as a companion,  
inseparable from our lives, as something having a purpose which it truly has."  
~ Maria Montessori*

April 5, 2011, 10:57 AM ET

## The Montessori Mafia

● By Peter Sims

It may seem like a laughable “only in New York” story that Manhattan mother, Nicole Imprescia, is suing her 4-year-old daughter’s untraditional private preschool for failing to prepare her for a private school admissions exam.

But her daughter’s future and ours might be much brighter with a little less conditioning to perform well on tests and more encouragement to discover as they teach in Montessori schools. Ironically, the



Montessori educational approach might be the surest route to joining the creative elite, which are so overrepresented by the school’s alumni that one might suspect a Montessori Mafia: Google’s founders Larry Page and Sergei Brin, Amazon’s Jeff Bezos, videogame pioneer Will Wright, and Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales, not to mention Julia Child and rapper Sean “P.Diddy” Combs.

Is there something going on here? Is there something about the Montessori approach that nurtures creativity and inventiveness that we can all learn from?

After all, Henry Ford and Thomas Edison were famous life-long tinkerers, who discovered new ways of doing things by constantly improvising, experimenting, failing, and retesting. Above all they were voraciously inquisitive learners.

The Montessori learning method, founded by Maria Montessori, emphasizes a collaborative environment without grades or tests, multi-aged classrooms, as well as self-directed learning and discovery for long blocks of time, primarily for young children ages 2 1/2 to 7.

The Montessori Mafia showed up in an extensive, six-year study about the way creative business executives think. Professors Jeffrey Dyer of Brigham Young University and Hal Gregersen of globe-spanning business school INSEAD surveyed over 3,000 executives and interviewed 500 people who had either started innovative companies or invented new products. “A number of the innovative entrepreneurs also went to Montessori schools, where they learned to follow their curiosity,” Mr. Gregersen said. “To paraphrase the famous Apple ad campaign, innovators not only learned early on to think different, they act different (and even talk different).”

When Barbara Walters, who interviewed Google founders Messrs. Page and Brin in 2004, asked if having parents who were college professors was a major factor behind their success, they instead credited their early Montessori education. “We both went to Montessori school,” Mr. Page said, “and I think it was part of that training of not following rules and orders, and being self-motivated, questioning what’s going on in the world, doing things a little bit

differently.”

Today at 3 E.T., Peter Sims will field questions from WSJ readers about the Montessori approach. [Ask your questions, here.](#)

Will Wright, inventor of bestselling “The Sims” videogame series, heaps similar praise. “Montessori taught me the joy of discovery,” Mr. Wright said, “It’s all about learning on your terms, rather than a teacher explaining stuff to you. SimCity comes right out of Montessori...”

Meanwhile, according to Jeff Bezos’s mother, young Jeff would get so engrossed in his activities as a Montessori preschooler that his teachers would literally have to pick him up out of his chair to go to the next task. “I’ve always felt that there’s a certain kind of important pioneering that goes on from an inventor like Thomas Edison,” Mr. Bezos has said, and that discovery mentality is precisely the environment that Montessori seeks to create.

Neuroscience author Jonah Lehrer cites a 2006 study published in Science that compared the educational achievement performance of low-income Milwaukee children who attended Montessori schools versus children who attended a variety of other preschools, as determined by a lottery.

By the end of kindergarten, among 5-year-olds, “Montessori students proved to be significantly better prepared for elementary school in reading and math skills than the non-Montessori children,” according to the researchers. “They also tested better on “executive function,” the ability to adapt to changing and more complex problems, an indicator of future school and life success.”

Of course, Montessori methods go against the grain of traditional educational methods. We are given very little opportunity, for instance, to perform our own, original experiments, and there is also little or no margin for failure or mistakes. We are judged primarily on getting answers right. There is much less emphasis on developing our creative thinking abilities, our abilities to let our minds run imaginatively and to discover things on our own.

But most highly creative achievers don’t begin with brilliant ideas, they discover them.

Google, for instance, didn’t begin as a brilliant vision, but as a [project to improve library searches](#), followed by a series of small discoveries that unlocked a revolutionary business model. Larry Page and Sergei Brin didn’t begin with an ingenious idea. But they certainly discovered one.

Similarly, Amazon’s culture breathes experimentation and discovery. Mr. Bezos often compares Amazon’s strategy of developing ideas in new markets to “planting seeds” or “going down blind alleys.” Amazon’s executives learn and uncover opportunities as they go. Many efforts turn out to be dead ends, Mr. Bezos has said, “But every once in a while, you go down an alley and it opens up into this huge, broad avenue.”

Perhaps it’s just a coincidence that Montessori alumni lead two of the world’s most innovative companies. Or perhaps the Montessori Mafia of can provide lessons for us all even though it’s too late for most of us to attend Montessori.

We can change the way we’ve been trained to think. That begins in small, achievable ways, with increased experimentation and inquisitiveness. Those who work with Mr. Bezos, for example, find his ability to ask “why not?” or “what if?” as much as “why?” to be one of his most advantageous qualities. Questions are the new answers.



## June

### Curriculum

- ~ North America/ USA
- ~ My state & My city
- ~ Insects
- ~ People in my Community
- ~ Fathers Day

## Fathers Day Breakfast

**Friday, June 17**

**7:30am-8:45am**

If Dad is unavailable please feel free to choose a 'stand in' family member, mom, grandpa, aunt, uncle, anyone special. See you there!



Peppertree Montessori's

End of Year Potluck

**Thursday, June 9th**

Help celebrate another great year.

**Parent Planners & Volunteers needed!**



# June



Thrive...Dream...Explore...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 END OF YEAR POTLUCK Last day of the academic school year	10 SCHOOL CLOSED Teacher In Service	11
12	13 SUMMER SESSION BEGINS	14	15	16	17 FATHERS DAY BREAKFAST	18
19 Fathers Day	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

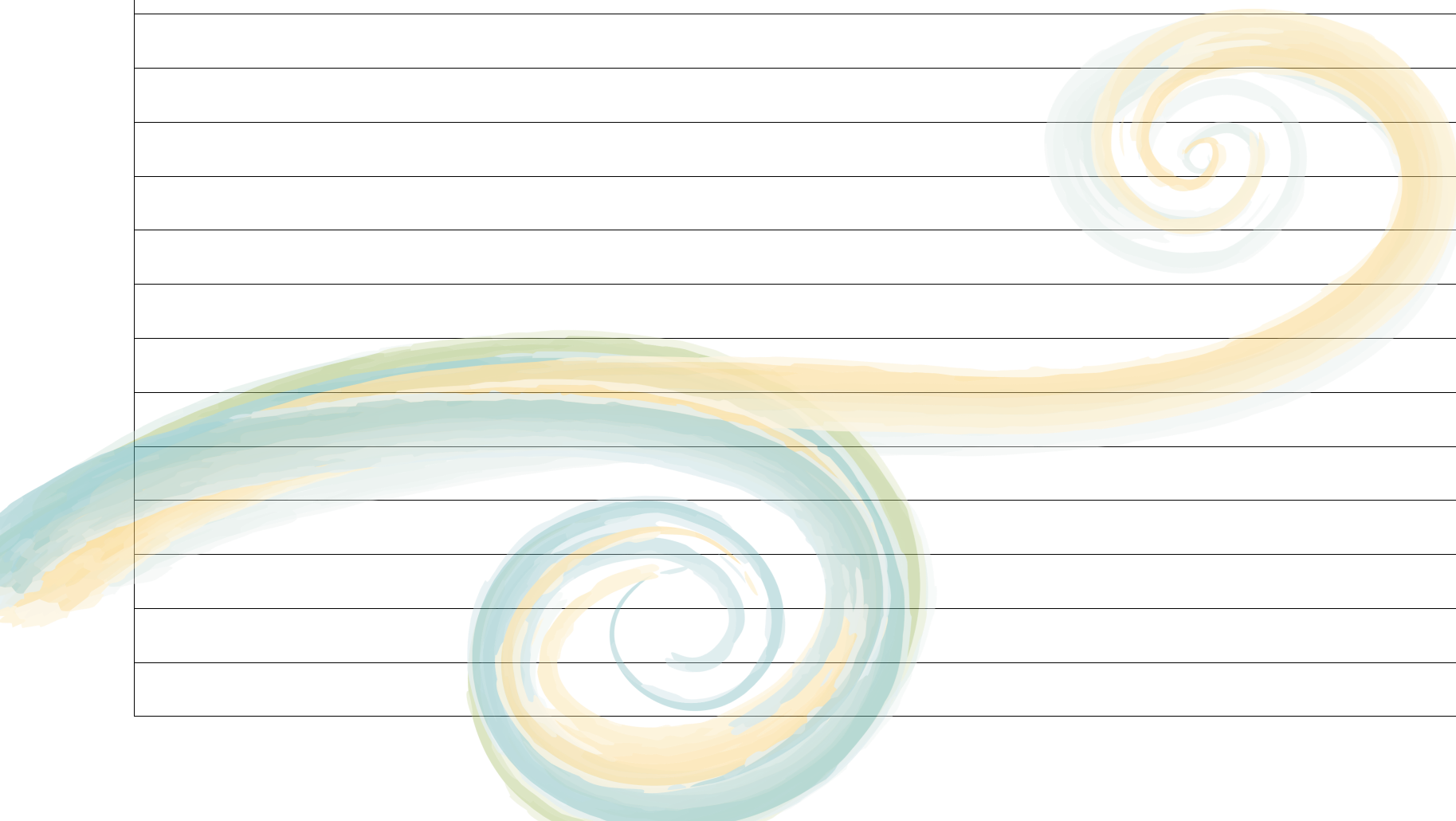
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*"The land is where our roots are. The children must be taught to feel and live in harmony with the Earth."~ Maria Montessori*



# NOTES





# July



Thrive...Dream...Explore...

Summer  
Curriculum  
~ To Be Announced

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 <u>SCHOOL CLOSED</u> Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30



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*All we need is Love*

*"The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind" ~ Maria Montessori*

