

2021-2022
Fall
December 15

Dayton Montessori Society News

*"Imitation is the first
instinct of the
awakening mind."*

~ Dr. Maria Montessori

Contact Us

Email
Mary@DaytonMontessori.org
or leave a message at
937-435-4572.

Office Hours

Tours by appointment.

Masks are required for all
unvaccinated visitors
inside the building and
encouraged for all others.

Happy Holiday Season!

The staff at Dayton Montessori Society and I wish you a safe holiday season filled with love and joy. Thank you all for your understanding, patience, and generosity this year.

We greatly appreciate all of you being so careful and communicative about any symptoms and illnesses your children or people of your household have had. It has helped us stay healthier and feel safer as we move through this year.

Calendar Reminders

- December 17 -- Last day of school before break
- December 20 - 31 -- Winter Break
- January 3 -- Teacher Work Day - No school for students
- January 4 -- Students return to school

- Bookmobile Dates for Jan-March: Feb. 8, Mar. 1, Mar. 22, Apr. 12, May 3, May 24.

Contact Us and Information

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The current calendar, Parent Handbook, and other documents are posted on the DaytonMontessori.org website. You can always look at the website for current information and also closures and delays when weather gets bad.

Winter Weather

Attendance -- If your child will be absent, tardy, or leaving early for any reason, please call the school number 937-435-4572 and leave a brief message with times and reasons. Thank you.

Winter Wear -- Please make sure your child has winter boots, water-proof gloves, and a hat to keep at school for the duration of the winter. Make sure your child wears a winter coat every day (we do not make them wear it if it is not necessary). Wearing several layers is the best course of action since we regularly crack the windows to promote ventilation, even on very cold days.

Gear Washing -- Students will bring home their winter gear Friday to wash. Please remember to send it back when we return to school in January.

Delays & Closures -- In the event that the weather is bad, please watch the local news for Huber Heights City Schools delays and closures. We will follow them in matters of road and weather-related closures. We will always send an email to the mailing list and post on the website as well, time permitting.

If we delay, the schedule is typically that AM daycare is cancelled and arrival is delayed 2 hours, starting at 10:30. Students who only attend in the morning do not have school.

If school is cancelled due to weather, the first day is an off day. Enjoy the snow!

If school is cancelled for more than one day in a week, we will have virtual work days for the second and following days off. Teachers will email with information regarding Seesaw and/or Zoom in that case.

Again, we will always send emails as early as we can with as much information as we can. Please make sure you check your emails on bad weather days. Thank you for your patience.

Symptom Assessment Reminder

This is a friendly reminder that our current policy at DMS is that no student or staff member may attend in-person with any symptoms (see list below). Please assess your child daily for any symptoms. If your child has symptoms, please call and let us know they will be absent for the day (or longer). They may be asked by their teacher to work on Seesaw or attend Zoom lessons if they are feeling up to it.

Students may return to school when they have been cleared by a doctor, or when a doctor has declined to see them **and** they have been free of symptoms without the aid of medication for 24 hours (not including allergy meds).

We appreciate your patience and participation in following these guidelines that are in line with the CDC's recommendations and designed to keep our community as healthy as possible.

Symptoms to stay home with: fever, chills, cough, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, difficulty breathing, fatigue, body aches, loss of taste or smell.

Classroom Happenings

Upper Elementary: The Upper Elementary class has been learning about the Circulatory system. They are reading and writing poetry. They are also looking forward to moving into our new classroom in the next month or so.

Lower Elementary: Lower elementary has been a busy group! We have begun our in-depth study of different phyla of invertebrates and of Europe. Students have especially enjoyed the pin maps to learn the countries, capitals cities, and flags of Europe. During our peace lessons we have been learning ways to calm our bodies including deep breathing and muscle relaxation. Students should have an extra indoor layer such as a sweatshirt every day. We keep our windows cracked for ventilation. Please also make sure to have a winter coat everyday.

3-6 students: We have been learning how to wrap a gift. The students are enjoying wrapping an empty box, then showing us how they unwrap it when they receive a gift. They've also been enjoying tracing Winter shapes from our art shelf. We have been learning about good kind deeds and watching for when we see people do good kind deeds throughout our days. Ask your child about what we do in our classroom when we see someone do a good kind deed.

FAQ What can I do to support their learning?

Originally shared in last year's newsletter.

Let them be bored. We seem as a society to have moved away from this concept, allowing our children to be bored. Boredom is not bad. Boredom leads to creativity. Boredom makes requisite the use of imagination. Boredom teaches us to be satisfied with ourselves as company. Do you remember the last time you left your kids with a few empty boxes? Only a child's imagination and creativity can conjure up the many ways those boxes can come to life. If a child's every minute at home is filled with structured plans, adult interactions, or screen time, they will not have to be bored, and then will not learn how to break out of their own boredom.

Let them research and explore. Yes, they can still research and study and learn. But they should be diving into the subjects that make them curious and happy. Let them become dinosaur experts, solar system fanatics, master chefs, yarn artists, or excavation experts. Whatever brings them joy, engage that on a deep, studious level with loads of library books, amateur tools, and ample time to investigate.

Read, read, read. Of course, we all know that the bedtime story from infancy is a part of parenting. But don't stop reading aloud to your child when they learn to read. Read aloud to them every day until they just won't

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listen (usually in Upper Elementary). And then have them read aloud with or to you. Buy them books (the paper kind) or take them to the library regularly. I guarantee you, every one of our students loves to look at books, especially when they have an ample and varied supply to choose from.

Expect them to do chores. Show them the proper way to take care of themselves and their environment and then expect them to do it on a regular basis. Teach them new skills every now and then as they become more mature and more capable. Give them long tasks to do and short ones, daily and weekly tasks, and the kinds of jobs they can do without asking you for help.

Let them play. Outside and inside, alone and together, with you and without you. Play teaches them so much of what we truly want them to learn through the decision-making, problem-solving, and creativity required. Their social, physical, and emotional well-being is nurtured through the playful interactions they have with friends, family, and imaginary playmates.

Here are a few resource links for further reading on this topic:

[Summertime, Playtime](#)

[Give Your Child the Gift of Boredom](#)