

2020-2021  
Spring  
May 18

# Dayton Montessori Society News

*"Praise, help, or even a look, may be enough to interrupt him, or destroy the activity.... The great principle which brings success to the teacher is this: as soon as concentration has begun, act as if the child does not exist." — Dr. Montessori, The Absorbent Mind*

## Contact Us

Send a message through the website at [www.DaytonMontessori.org](http://www.DaytonMontessori.org) or leave a message at 937-435-4572

## Office Hours

Tours are by appointment only. If you have payments, paperwork, or donations to drop off, you may use the drop box, shelves in the breezeway, or ring the bell.

Masks are required for anyone entering our shared space, inside and out. Thank you!

## Calendar Reminders

- May 31 -- Memorial Day -- No School
- June 1 -- Final Music Class
- June 3 -- Elementary In-person Parent Observation Drum Class (see below)
- June 8 -- Interest Fair via Zoom 4:00-5:00PM
- June 9 -- Last Day of School

## Music Class

The final virtual music class with Ms. Erin is Tuesday, June 1 at the normal times (4:00, 4:30, and 5:00). Thank you, Ms. Erin, for offering this option all year!

## Parent Observation Drum Class

Elementary parents may have heard about our drumming this year. We invite elementary in-person parents to observe our final drum class on Thursday, June 3, 2:30-3:00. Class will be outside, and properly masked parents may observe from a safe distance. FYI This is not a concert, just our last class. We missed having opportunities to show you our work this year!

## Interest Fair

The Interest Fair will be presented on Tuesday, June 8, 4:00-5:00 PM via Zoom. Any friends and family of DMS are welcome to view the presentations.

Younger elementary students who are not doing Interest Fair projects will record their Country Fair presentations which will be shown on the same afternoon. Further details will be sent to parents of Interest Fair participants later.

## Last Day of School

Our last day of school is Wednesday, June 9. Half-day students are welcome to attend the full school day on June 9. We will dismiss as usual 3:13-3:30. There will be no PM daycare available that day.

## Classroom Happenings

**In Virtual Elementary** we have been studying the leaves and the flowers of plants. We have been observing a tree for the whole year and have especially enjoyed comparing notes about our trees this spring. In geography we have just finished our study of the USA. We had a great time taking virtual field trips to some national parks. We tied our study of flowers in with a study of the American artist Georgia O'Keefe.

**In Virtual 3-6** we have been studying invertebrates and the life cycle of the butterfly and the cicada. We are excited to see the cicadas soon.

**In-person 3-6** we have been learning a lot about cicadas, and our class is ready to meet them. We have been learning the parts of the human skeleton and studying animal x-rays.

**In-person 6-9** we are patiently waiting for the cicadas to emerge. We learned about plant defense mechanisms and how they protect themselves from cicadas. We are observing major changes to the oak tree by the driveway. Students are learning about synonyms, antonyms, homophones and are enjoying thinking of examples. Our classroom is a flurry of productivity.

**9-12** is working on Interest Fair projects and completing as many works as we can before we go to summer. Reading groups are wrapping up for the year. We've been focusing on word problems, apostrophe rules, and Article-a-Day work which has been recently about Asian American contributions. We were proud of our color study books that went home this week.

## Montessori Parent FAQ

### **Say it like a Montessorian**

We, the teachers of DMS and Montessori teachers in general, often use the same phrases over and over to communicate with our students in a kind of shorthand. We would like to share some of these oft-used phrases with you as you head into the summer so that you can use them and understand them.

**Do you have a question?** Often used in 3-6 when students initiate a hug to teach them that we ask permission to touch others. Also used when students try not to use questions but point or use statements ("I'm thirsty.") to achieve their goals. We aren't being sarcastic. We are encouraging successful communication.

**How does that make you feel?** When a child is upset about something or "telling" on someone else, we often ask them how they feel, acknowledge the feeling ("I see that you are frustrated"), and ask if they need to deal with it further ("Do you want to talk to your friend about that?"). Often, all they need is to be heard and hugged.

**Does that make your love light shine brightly?** An acknowledgement of feelings like love, pride, joy. Similarly, we speak of love lights being "dim" (but never entirely dark) when feeling sad, scared, or angry. We talk about what we can do to help our love lights shine brighter again. "Love light" is a synonym for spirit, soul, or inner self.

**You may...** Probably the most frequently used phrase in the Montessori teacher vocabulary, we use this when a child is not doing the right thing to indicate what their choices are, instead of telling them what not to do. For example, "You may walk in the classroom," instead of "No running." "You may play alone or play with anyone who wants to join the game. What will you choose?" instead of "Don't leave people out of the game."

**Would you like to ... or ...?** We offer choices when there are actual choices. If we do not want the child to choose, we do not ask a question (see "You may walk," above). We do not ask "Can you pick up your jacket?" unless "No" is an acceptable answer.

**Show me that your body is ready. ... or Make your body peaceful.** Indicates that what the student is doing isn't appropriate and that we are willing to wait patiently for appropriate calm bodies before we will move on.

**That sounds like your negative mind speaking.** If a student is being very negative, this is a reminder of a part of our peace curriculum that teaches that the positive mind will tell you the truth (I can do it) and your negative mind tells lies (I am not good at this, I can't do it, It's too hard).

**How do you like your ...?** When a student asks if we like their art, work, shirt, etc., we rarely express a personal opinion because we are trying to teach them to be proud of their own work instead of working for the acknowledgement of others. We will either note something significant ("I can see how much time you spent on those details! You worked hard.") or turn it around ("Do You like it?").

## Summer Reading

The Dayton Metro Library's Summer Reading Challenge begins June 1. Click the link below to find out more information and sign up your children (even pre-readers can participate).

[Summer Reading Challenge 2021](#)

## 2021-2022 Covid Protocol

We will be in touch this summer regarding what our Covid Protocols will be for the 2021-2022 school year. We will of course follow the requirements and guidance of the CDC and ODE. We will also assess the situation within our own community.

DMS requires vaccination records for all incoming students, and we hope to add the Covid vaccine to the list of required vaccinations as soon as it is possible for our age groups. All of our staff will be vaccinated for the 2021-2022 school year to offer as much protection as we can for our students.

We are looking forward to getting back to "normal" as soon as we can and will continue to offer the safest educational environment possible. Thank you for all you've done to help us with our goals this year.

## Updated Fee Schedule

Attached is the updated Fee Schedule as of today 5/21/2021. We are adjusting our discount policies to be more aligned with other Montessori schools in the area. Those of you who already submitted your Tuition Contract to DMS indicating you would take advantage of the discounts as they were on the previous Fee Schedule may still do so.

## Future Newsletters

This is the last newsletter of the 2020-2021 school year. Please let us know if you would like to be removed from the newsletter list or if you have family members who would like to be added. Paperwork and updates for the next school year will be sent in June.