



**I CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!**



**I AM A MONTESSORI STUDENT!**



**UPCOMING VIRTUES**

9/1 - UNITY  
9/8 - RESPECT

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# WAUSAU AREA MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

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## NEWSLETTER

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### Welcome to the 2015-16 School Year

Welcome everyone! We are all very excited to get the new year started. We enjoyed seeing those of you that came to our Open House and look forward to connecting with those who couldn't make it. This year promises to be an exciting year as we continue to complete objectives in our strategic plan. Some ways you can get involved are:

- Participating in Governance Council Meetings
- Supporting Parent Connect Events
- Renewal of our Strategic Plan
- Facility Needs / District Boundary Discussions
- And many more.

Additional information on these goals and others including our open house presentation can be found on our website:

[www.montessori.wausauschools.org/governance/2015-2016\\_Objectives](http://www.montessori.wausauschools.org/governance/2015-2016_Objectives).

We look forward to our many after school events sponsored by Parent Connect, studying the Virtues of Character with our students and families and creating the best environment for our kids to explore their learning and grow with no limits.

### Virtues Assembly

At the end of each month we hold our Virtues Assembly. We celebrate the virtues we learned over the month and honor those students who demonstrated these virtues. Each classroom is rotationally responsible for the activities we do to celebrate the virtues. Our first virtues assembly is on October

2nd at 8:30am. **All parents are welcomed to attend the virtues assemblies.** We hope you can join us if your schedule allows.

## Our New Classrooms

With our increase in enrollment came the logistical planning of how to fit our students. Collaborative and flexible discussions with Horace Mann provided us the ability to meet our needs, accept almost everyone, and begin a small waiting list. Pictures of our new rooms below show the results of a month of moving by our staff. The Montessori prepared environment is a vital component and our staff should be commended for their tireless effort in making our move a success.



KG-1



KG-1



2-3rd



4-6th

## Modeling Peace through Grace and Courtesy

"If we are to teach real peace in this world... we shall have to begin with the children." —Mahatma Gandhi

Montessori education has been referred to as "peace education"; Montessorian Sonnie McFarland calls peace education a "Montessori best practice" (Montessori Life, January 2005); and even Gandhi praised Montessori's approach to world peace. So, how is peace cultivated in a Montessori classroom?

### **The Quiet Hum of Peaceful Activity**

Visitors often marvel at how Montessori classrooms seem to have a "hum" to them. It is no wonder that children in a Montessori classroom seem joyful, relaxed, and happy. They are able to choose an activity and work at it. The children interact with their peers and move about the room freely. The teacher's main goals are to make sure children are engaged, to connect children with the prepared environment, and to protect their work once they are immersed in concentration. One can sense a spirit of purpose, satisfaction, and joy permeating the room. But this does not happen magically! It is the teacher who helps to protect children's work by showing other children in the classroom how to watch, how to walk around a work rug, or how to interrupt politely.

With ongoing Grace and Courtesy lessons and The Virtues Project, we are able to give children tools for resolving conflicts peacefully and ways to cultivate a peaceful and productive environment for learning. Although the process of engaging in purposeful work itself evokes a sense of calm, it is also due, in large part, to our Grace and Courtesy and Virtues presentations. Based on observed behavior, these related presentations contribute to what can become a harmonious state. It is also through the Grace and Courtesy and Virtues framework that we are able to teach in a proactive, rather than reactive, way

**A Framework for Peace**

Grace and Courtesy lessons are our framework for modeling peace. Participating in Grace and Courtesy skits gives children the confidence they need to function independently in the classroom, and since the classroom is a microcosm of the larger world, these rehearsed social scenarios are great tools for life. As Montessori teachers, we have a built-in foundation for peace education - all we have to do is provide the appropriate Grace and Courtesy and Virtue lessons to model.

A Sampling of Grace & Courtesy Lessons:

- How to walk around a rug
- How to blow your nose
- How to greet a visitor
- How/when to say "excuse me"
- How to ask for help from a teacher/friend
- What to say if someone says "you're not my friend"
- How to walk with scarcely making a sound
- How to tell someone you want to be alone
- How to watch someone do work
- How to clean up your snack
- What to do if you're really angry
- How to agree to disagree



**WSD Information**

Check out **E-Flyers** for the latest non-profit community and school-sponsored events. You can access E-Flyers [here](#) or by clicking on the E-Flyers button on the top bar of the WSD website.

For information on **Volunteering** click [here](#) or by clicking on Volunteer Info on the WSD website under the Parents tab.

Information on **WSD Board** Meetings can be found by clicking [here](#) or by clicking on Board Information under the District tab on the WSD website.

**Bi-Weekly Planner**

**Week of September 1st**

9/1: First Day of School

**Week of September 8th**

9/7: No School - Labor Day

9/11: Picture Day