



**I CAN CHANGE THE  
WORLD!**



**I AM A MONTESSORI  
STUDENT!**



**UPCOMING VIRTUES**

**2/1 - HELPFULNESS  
2/8 - FORGIVENESS**

## WAUSAU AREA MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

## The Montessori approach to Praise

New research in the book *Nurture Shock: New Thinking about Children* by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman shows what Maria Montessori saw years ago – that we don't need to praise our children for everything they do. We don't need to continually reward our children or tell them how smart and talented they are. As a matter of fact, telling our children how smart and talented they are can create the opposite of what we want. It can make our children afraid to attempt new things, afraid of failure, afraid they won't meet everyone's expectations. What does the research suggest? When we praise, it's best for the praise to be related to the effort our children made. For praise to be effective, it also needs to be specific and sincere. So, how exactly does the research fit with Montessori philosophy?

**1. In Montessori education, there aren't rewards and punishments.** Maria Montessori believed in the child's inner need to do productive work. Sensitive periods provide an internal urge and stronger reinforcement than any rewards or praise could do.



*“The essence of independence is to be able to do something for one's self. Adults work to finish a task, but the child works in order to grow, and is working to create the adult, the person that is to be.” -Maria Montessori*

**2. Montessorians don't give children lavish praise.** The child's work is highly valued in Montessori education, and praise that is given is typically specific praise emphasizing effort. “You really worked hard at that.” “You did that activity four times in a row!” In an article at Maria Montessori, Bobby and June George give the idea of saying simply, “You did it!”

**3. Montessorians try to give encouragement rather than praise or descriptive rather than evaluative praise.** Instead of saying, “You're a good boy,” a Montessorian might say, “It really helped when you put away all the dishes.”

#### 4. Montessorians try to help children do things themselves and gain self-confidence.

Many of the Montessori materials have a control of error so that the child can tell immediately if an activity is done correctly. An external source of approval isn't necessary.

5. Through Montessori **practical life activities**, children develop order, concentration, coordination, and independence. Those are all qualities that make children self-confident and capable of listening to their own inner voice.

## Open Enrollment & Open Houses

The **Open Enrollment** Application timeline for the 2016-17 school year has been set by DPI.



The public school open enrollment application period:

- Begins at midnight on Monday, February 1, 2016, and
- ends at Saturday, April 30, 2016 at 4:00 PM.

More information may be obtained at the DPI website - <http://oe.dpi.wi.gov/>. If you have questions please contact Sheryl Kazda at 715-261-0570.

Every year we also hold **Open Houses** for those parents and students who have interest in attending our school. These are held monthly. Please let families who have interest in Montessori aware of these dates.

#### **Open House Dates: All times are 4:30-6:30pm**

-January 28, February 25, March 17, & April 14

## Snow Reminders & Safety Precautions

Now that snow has finally come it is important to remember important information and safety precautions as follows:

- If the Wausau School District cancels school due to weather, we are closed. We follow all district policies relative to school closings. Announcements for these closing are made through school messenger and on local television and radio stations.
- **Have Kids Prepared to be Outside:** Please send kids with appropriate winter gear as they will be outside for recess. If they want to play in the snow they must have gloves, snow pants, boots, winter jackets and hats. We do have some spare hats and gloves in our lost and found if needed.
- There is not set policy on how cold it must be before we stay inside for recess. However, we do use zero degrees (temperature and "feels like" which takes into consideration the wind chill).
- When snow arrives there are several things we discuss with the kids to ensure safety during recess. Please be sure to review these with your children.
  - No throwing snow in any way.



- We cannot allow kids to climb snow hills created from plowing. They are too high and could cause injury from falling, slipping, tripping, etc.
- Winter gear must be worn to play in the snow & go sledding on the hill at Horace Mann.
- If winter gear is not worn, students still have the opportunity to play on the playground

## Picture Gallery



## 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 February 1st

2/2: Boundary Discussion - 2nd Meeting

2/5: Valentines Dance - 5:30 to 7pm

2/6: Family Fun Day @ the School Forest

### Week of February 8th

2/9: Parent Connect Mtg, 3:30-4:30pm

2/9: Governance Council Mtg. 4:30-5:30pm