



**I CAN CHANGE THE
WORLD!**



**I AM A MONTESSORI
STUDENT!**



UPCOMING VIRTUES

**2/15 - HONESTY
2/22 - TRUST**

WAUSAU AREA MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

Montessori Defined

Montessori guides use many terms with students and parents that have been handed down through Maria Montessori's research. In the next several newsletters we will share with you key terms and their definitions in the hopes of assisting you in your understanding right along with your students.

Absorbent mind: A mind able to absorb knowledge quickly and effortlessly. Montessori said the child from birth to six years has an "absorbent mind."

Adaptation: Related to the idea of an absorbent mind (Haines, 1993) is a special power of the young child that can be called the power of adaptation. This power is a process whereby the young child absorbs the culture of her time and place, taking in all the spirit, the customs, the ambitions and attitudes of a society by simply living in that society.

Analysis of movement: A technique used by Montessori teachers. The adult, when showing a complex action to a child, breaks it down into its parts and shows one step at a time, executing each movement slowly and exactly. The action thus becomes a sequence of simple movements and the child has a greater chance of success when "given the liberty to make use of them." (Montessori, 1996, p 108)



Children's House: The English name for Montessori's Casa dei Bambini [Italian]. A place for children from 3-6 years to live and grow. Everything necessary for optimal human development is included in a safe and secure environment.

Classification: Sorting. Allocating or distributing according to common characteristics. The young child engages in classification activities because the process is essential for the construction of the intellect. The Montessori classroom offers many opportunities for classification.

Concentration: The act of concentrating. The young child focuses his or her attention on aspects of the environment essential for development. From a Montessori perspective, concentration is "a consistent activity concentrated on a single work—an exercise on some external object, where the movements of the hands are guided by the mind." (1983, p.149) Deep engagement.

Concrete to abstract: A progression both logical and developmentally appropriate. The child is introduced first to a concrete material that embodies an abstract idea such as size or color. Given hands-on experience, the child's mind grasps the idea inherent in the material and forms an abstraction. Only as the child develops, is she gradually able to comprehend the same idea in symbolic form.



Control of error: A way of providing instant feedback. Every Montessori activity provides the child with some way of assessing his own progress. This puts the control in the hands of the learner and protects the young child's self-esteem and self-motivation. Control of error is an essential aspect of auto-education.

Coordination of movement: One of the major accomplishments of early childhood. Through the child's own activity, she refines her muscular coordination and consequently acquires increasingly higher levels of independent functioning. Because of this developmental need, children are drawn to activities which involve movement and especially to pastimes which demand a certain level of exactitude and precision.

Creativity/imagination: Imagination involves the forming of a mental concept of what is not actually present to the senses. Creativity is a product of the imagination and results from the mental recombining of imagined ideas in new and inventive ways. Both are dependent mental imaginary formed on through sensorial experience.

Cycle of activity: Little children, when engaged in an activity which interests them, will repeat it many times and for no apparent reason, stopping suddenly only when the inner need which compelled the child to activity has been satisfied. To allow for the possibility of long concentrated work cycles, Montessori advocates a 3-hour uninterrupted work period.

Development of the will: The ability to will, or choose to do something with conscious intent, develops gradually during the first phase of life and is strengthened through practice. The Montessori environment offers many opportunities for the child to choose. Willpower, or self-control, results from the many little choices of daily life in a Montessori school.

Picture Galleries

Going forward we will be creating picture galleries for your viewing pleasure. These galleries will be added to our website under Parent Connect. The galleries will also provide you the ability to add photos you may have from our events and download photos to perhaps print and hang. Our first album can be found on our website at the link below. They are pictures from our Valentine's festivities. Enjoy!

Valentine's Picture Album Link:

http://montessori.wausauschools.org/for_families/parent_connect/picture_galleries

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



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 15th

2/18: Book Bowl

2/19: Hooty Hoo !! 12:15pm

Week of February 22nd

2/25: Open House, 4:30-6:30pm

2/26: Virtues Assembly, 8:30am

2/26: Peace Concert, 2:00pm

