



# Montessori Minutes -

Corpus Christi Montessori School

## August 2018

### CCMS LOVES THEIR STUDENTS

Dear CCMS Families,  
Welcome back! We are excited to have everyone here on our beautiful campus. The students, families and staff bring such vitality to our community. Today marks the end of our 2<sup>nd</sup> full week and the end of August. Thank you to all who joined us for our Annual Maria Montessori Social. It was lovely to watch our presentations, visit with one another and enjoy the delicious food. Please take some time to read through the Montessori articles and mark your calendar for upcoming events. We invite you to be active in your child's education by being an active part of our community. Being an active part of our community can bring many rewards: a voice in your child's education; greater contact with our teachers and administrators; and a window into the Montessori way.

There are many ways to support your child's school, even if you have little time to spare. Volunteers are an asset to any school. So are parents who stay informed and interested in the school community, as well as those who contribute financially.

One of the best ways to support your child's school is to learn about the Montessori approach and practice it at home. Bridging how your child learns at school and at home benefits your child, your family, and the entire school community.

Our vibrant community can always use extra hands on deck. Our staff welcomes parents into the classroom to help with activities or to share special skills. Our PTO organizes many school-wide functions, such as art shows, end of year events, and fund-raising events. If you can't volunteer on a regular basis, choose an event that works for you. If you're a working parent, ask about ways you can help from home.

We are always looking for people to:

- share cultural or ethnic celebrations with your child's class;
- plan or supervise excursions or service projects;
- help plant a Peace Garden or work in our school gardens;
- help maintain or update our school Web site;
- prepare and shelve books in the library;
- listen to children read.  
...and much more.

We look forward to seeing everyone and sharing more about the Montessori philosophy.

### Our Amazing Students

Many of our students are not only amazing on campus, but also excel in their extra curriculum activities. We want to celebrate their achievements. Congratulations to:

*8<sup>th</sup> Volleyball Girls for winning their game against Science & Technology*

### Upcoming Events

August 31	No School - Staff Development
September 3	No School - Labor Day
September 6	Picture Day
September 8	AP Volleyball Tourney
September 13	MAST Board Meeting 12:00 p.m.
September 15	Spruce Up CC- Montessori 8 am-12pm
September 17-21	Scholastic Book Fair Events – please check flier
September 18	PTO 5:30 p.m. <i>Evening in the Enchanted Forest</i> 6-8 p.m. Join us for dinner
September 21	<i>Once Upon A Family Picnic &amp; Market Days</i> food stands and craft/activities (organized by MS and Upper Elementary)

## Manners, Naturally

*By P. Donohue Shortridge*

"Being considerate of others will take your children further in life than any college degree." This quote, often attributed to children's rights activist Marian Wright Edelman, came to mind recently. Walking toward my local market, I could hear the jovial banter between a father and son, who were about ten steps behind me—something about a birthday later that day and their mission to get the cake. Listening to his vocabulary and articulation, I estimated the boy to be 4 years old. Just as I reached the front door, the boy rushed past me, yanked the door open, and was halfway into the store when Dad called him back. "Let's hold the door open for this lady, son." I looked at them both as I entered, said "thank you," and then we were all off, each into our separate worlds—they to the bakery department and I to the produce section. Dad managed the episode with grace because he didn't react as though his child should know better; he understood that the boy's rushing was due to 4-year-old exuberance (it would be different if the boy were 10). At the same time, the father did not let the opportunity pass to demonstrate to his son what to do. That is the secret. We teach our children manners in the million moments we have with them. The episodes often come up without warning and can catch us off guard. What should we keep in mind so that when an opportunity presents itself to show our child what to do, we too will handle it with grace?

**Our children adore us.** They love us with their entire being. Whatever we do, they want to do. They want to be close to us; they want to watch us, hear us, learn from us, and be loved by us. They want to be just like us. So instilling manners, aka "social competence," is simple and natural in these early years, from the age of 3 or 4 on.

**Now is the time.** Young children want to know—actually, crave knowing—the right thing to do. Their bodies and minds have grown beyond the toddler stage. Now that they are sturdy on their feet and language can be employed in meaningful communication, they are ready for the next phase of self-construction: socialization. They encounter the world as if asking, "What am I to do here? And would someone please show me how?"

**Correcting is not the same as modeling.** Like the rest of us, children are easily shamed. If the father at the market had said, "Watch out, son, you're in that lady's way," the boy would have felt judgment, rather than learning what he should have done. Thus, even if we are annoyed or embarrassed by our young child's behavior, our exasperation is not the lesson—there is another way.

Trust that the conduct is not malicious but likely stems from the child not knowing what to do. Then demonstrate what we want our child to learn. Dad didn't need to say anything further to his 4-year-old son; the boy absorbed the lesson. And if Dad does the same thing the next time and the next, the lesson will be reinforced.

**Parents are the most potent teachers of social norms.** What we show our children, they will do. Even so, for our lessons to adhere, we must be consistent and positive. And most important, we must model the behavior we want to instill in our children.

As Maria Montessori said, "What is social life if not the solving of social problems, behaving properly, and pursuing aims acceptable to all?"

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### SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> 8-12 A.M.

HELP US SPRUCE UP THE GROUNDS AND  
PREPARE OUR FALL GARDENS

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

CEDAR MULCH (40 BAGS)  
GARDEN SOIL (20 BAGS)  
LANDSCAPE TIMBERS (20) 8-10 FT LONG  
OUTDOOR PAINT ALL COLORS PINT SIZE  
GARDEN LINING FOR BEDS (1 ROLL)

BRING YOUR SHOVELS, RAKES AND  
GLOVES