

Welcome to Sunnyside Montessori!

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SUNNYSIDE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

2006-2007 School Calendar

August 30	Open House
Sept. 6	New Student Orientation
Sept. 7	School Begins
Sept. 20	Parent Night
Oct. 12	Parent Potluck
Nov. 10	Veteran's Day
Nov. 23-24	Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 18- Jan. 1	Winter Break
Jan. 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 23	Montessori Math and Language Curriculum Night
Jan. 29 and Feb. 2	School Closed for Conferences
Feb. 19-23	Mid Winter Break
April 9-13	Spring Break
May 28	Memorial Day
June 18	School Picnic
June 20	Last Day

ADMISSION AND NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Admission in Sunnyside Montessori is open to all students regardless of race, color, national or ethnic origin, gender, religion or handicapping condition. No child shall be discriminated against or denied access to any aspect of Sunnyside Montessori's pre-school activities or services. Sunnyside Montessori has a policy to make reasonable accommodation to physical or mental limitations of disabled children in care or seeking care using the resources available as well as community resources available. If Sunnyside resources and reasonable accommodations do not meet a child's needs, then special consultants will be used to meet these needs, develop resources and train staff. If the child still needs additional assistance that Sunnyside is unable to accommodate reasonably then community resources and special consultants will be used to refer the child to a suitable facility that will meet these needs. Parents with special questions or concerns can make an appointment to meet with the Director to discuss these concerns or needs.

ACCIDENT OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY

In case of minor injury or accident, the staff will administer basic first aid. All injuries or illnesses not requiring immediate parent notification will be reported to the parent when the child is picked up for the day. In case of a major medical injury or illness the following steps will be taken:

- 1. If a life threatening situation exists staff will contact 911. The location and nature of the emergency will be given. As appropriate, staff will administer CPR and/or first aid.**
- 2. Parents will be notified immediately at home or at work.**
- 3. If parents are unavailable the emergency numbers on the child's registration will be contacted.**
- 4. If parents and emergency numbers cannot be reached we will call the child's physician for advice. Efforts to reach the parents would continue.**
- 5. Children will be transported to the nearest emergency hospital or to the choice indicated on the consent form.**

All staff at Sunnyside Montessori are required to take annual infant and child CPR/First Aid classes. In addition, each staff member has

completed the American Red Cross HIV/AIDS Education class.

PARENT MEETINGS-FAMILY EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE

On Wednesday, August 30th, Sunnyside will have an Open House. The whole family is invited! It's a great chance to meet the staff and check out the classrooms before we officially begin the school year. The school will be open from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please remember to park on So. Americus, Angeline or 42nd Ave. So. that evening. DO NOT PARK IN OUR NEIGHBOR'S SPOTS IN THE ALLEY!

PARENT NIGHT-MONTESSORI INFORMATION NIGHT

The fall parent meeting will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 20th, at 7:00. The meeting will be in our classroom, and should last about an hour and a half. It's a chance we provide for those parents who want more information about the basics of a Montessori classroom and some of the theory behind the method. We'll supply a little background information on Maria Montessori herself, as well. If you don't know much about the Montessori method PLEASE try to attend this meeting. We feel it's important for parents to understand how our classroom works and the rationale behind our materials and lessons. If there is something specific that you, as a parent, would like to see addressed at this meeting, please feel free to mention it to us.

PARENT "GET ACQUAINTED" POTLUCK

This fun event will take place on Wednesday, October 20th. Christa Vida, Karley's mom, has graciously offered to host this get-together. This is an enjoyable, social evening for everyone. You'll see old friends and meet new ones. Trade some stories with the parents of the friend your child is always talking about! Everyone brings a dish to share. The food is great! We begin at 7:00. Remember, this is an ADULTS ONLY evening!

MONTESSORI MATH AND LANGUAGE CURRICULUM NIGHT

On Tuesday, January 23rd, we will offer an evening devoted to the Montessori math and language curriculum. It's your chance to find out, once and for all, just how (and why) some of those strange materials are used! Just what is the "pink tower", the "binomial cube", the "short bead stair", the "sandpaper letters" or the "geometric triangles" anyway?? Some of you have been seeing these mysterious booklets at home for months. Now is your chance to have their meaning revealed! We will present and demonstrate, where necessary, the sequence of materials that your child will follow in math and language. The meeting will take place at school at 7:00 p.m. It usually lasts about an hour and a half.

END OF YEAR SCHOOL POTLUCK PICNIC

This is a grand annual event that you will not want to miss. The food is great, the company even better and the award ceremony for each child is a MUST SEE! We meet for several hours at the covered picnic area (shelter # 3) in Seward Park. It will take place this year on Monday, June 18th.

OBSERVATIONS

Parents should feel free to come into the classroom and observe. We prefer not to schedule too many observers the first two months of the year, as the class will be settling in and all efforts will be made to assist the children towards that goal! If possible, let us know one day in advance, so we don't over schedule observers. We have visitors from outside the class, as well.

CHILD ABUSE DETECTION AND REPORTING

School personnel are required by Washington State Law to report suspected incidents of abuse and neglect (RCW 26.44.030 (1)). In doing so they have civil immunity under the law for good faith reporting. Failure to report can result in a gross misdemeanor charge. The staff at Sunnyside Montessori has received information and training regarding the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect, the reporting process and the resulting intervention by Child Protective Services (CPS).

CONFERENCES

For years I attempted to keep normal school hours while conducting conferences. It became too difficult to continue that way, so three years ago, we proposed a new schedule. We felt it met with success. The first conferences will occur on Monday, January 29th, and Friday, February 2nd. We will hold some evening conferences, as well. If your child is at school all day, you will conference with all three teachers. If your child is involved in only the morning or afternoon program then the appropriate two teachers will meet with you. During this first conference, the staff will refer to written notes taken during their daily observations of the child. The conferences will run about 30 minutes. PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED WHILE DAY CONFERENCES ARE CONDUCTED. For the spring conference, we will prepare a one to two page written report, addressing your child's progress during the year. We try to cover the major areas of your child's growth: social, physical, emotional and academic. We will not meet in person for this conference, but will be happy to arrange a meeting time if there are specific concerns. We will post a sign-up sheet several weeks before conferences begin to determine time and day. We can meet mornings, afternoons or evenings. If you, at any time, feel you'd like a conference earlier, please give us a call and we'll arrange a time.

PARENT LENDING LIBRARY

Downstairs on the bookshelf to your left as you enter the school is our "parent lending library". I encourage all of you to take a minute and browse through the books and pamphlets. Many of Maria Montessori's books are available, as well as several interesting videos. We have a wide variety of pamphlets ranging from discipline, sibling relationships, and creativity to kindergarten readiness and choices. It's exciting and inspiring to read about some of the visions Maria Montessori had for children and their education! Feel free to check out any for as long as you like. Just write your name and phone number on the sign-out sheet in case I need to recall an article quickly.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We are eager for parent involvement in activities at Sunnyside Montessori. There are lots of different ways to do this. Parents could sign up for an hour, every couple of months to read with a child. The children love to have a "special listener". We have art projects, as well, that require adult supervision. If you like to garden, you could help us in the fall or spring when we get our vegetable plot ready to plant. We need someone willing to make fresh play dough each month, as well as help prepare tracing and cutting materials for the classroom. If you're handy with a hammer, there are always small fix-it projects that we need done around the school. We know some of you have skills that you could share with us during circle time. Perhaps we could arrange a field trip around a special interest or career choice. The possibilities are unlimited!! We welcome all parent suggestions for field trips, special topics of study, art ideas, etc. We may not be able to act on all of them, but we appreciate the input. Just let us know!

LUNCH

We have lunch downstairs from 12:10 to 1:00. (This is an optional hour that parents may sign up for depending on availability.) Please send in a lunch that is scaled to your child's usual lunch time appetite. Three or four small items seem to be the most successful way to ensure that food is not wasted. Please LABEL all lunch boxes! It's hard for us to memorize them all! Also, please include two napkins each day, one for the table and one for the child's lap. We have a microwave oven if you send in something that needs heating. The refrigerator downstairs is available for items that need to be kept cold. Drop-in lunch fee is \$8.00.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are special days for all children and we have a unique ceremony at Sunnyside for the occasion. We encourage parents to join us for this. Our birthday celebration includes a song sung by the whole class, a brief "life history" of the birthday child is read or told in circle and a small snack is shared by all. If a parent cannot make it in for the birthday circle please prepare a brief summary for your child's teachers. It need not be long- just one or two memorable events for each year. Parents may bring photos to share, if they wish. Due to an increasing number of children with allergies, we ask that parents NOT bring in a snack to share. We'll provide a small treat instead. If your child has a summer birthday, we can still celebrate their day, either in the spring or the fall. On this day we ask that the child make a gift of a book or other special object/activity for our classroom. This enables us to develop the idea of giving instead of always receiving on our birthday. A special note regarding birthday invitations- please do not place birthday invitations for private parties in the school cubbies. Children notice these things and we have had HURT FEELINGS around this issue at school. It's hard for the staff to explain to someone why their friends were invited to some one's party but they were not! We appreciate your cooperation in this delicate matter!

CREATIVE DRAMATICS

I'm happy to offer another year of creative dramatics for the morning and afternoon programs. Karen Klobucher will be teaching this class again, as she has for the past thirteen years. I'm thrilled Karen is willing to wear two "teaching hats", as I would not want to tell the children there will be no more drama! She's ready to go and has a year's supply of good ideas to play with!

CLOTHES- WHAT TO WEAR AT SCHOOL

Be sure to send your child to school in clothes that are appropriate for the weather and for comfort. We encourage you to dress your child in clothes that he/she can take off themselves when going to the bathroom. We go outside everyday that it is not raining- so dress your child warmly! Do not send your child to school in clothes that are too "good" to get dirt or paint on them. We have plenty of both at school! Please bring in a change of clothing for your child and leave it in their cubby. We appreciate it if you check and replenish this supply periodically. Children usually prefer to put on their OWN clothing if they've had an accident. We have a lot of water activities and spills are frequent. Please bring in a pair of slippers for your child, as well, as we take our shoes off to go up to the classroom. Please LABEL all coats and sweaters!

FIELD TRIPS

We go on field trips throughout the year. Parents are asked to help with transportation. To insure the safety of all passengers when children are transported to and from school for field trips, we're asking that the following requirements are observed:

- 1. Vehicles used in field trips must be in safe operating condition. The driver must have a current driver's license.**
- 2. Seat belts or other appropriate safety devices shall be provided for all passengers.**
- 3. All drivers shall carry appropriate auto liability and medical insurance.**
- 4. You have signed and returned the Authorization for Use of Private Automobile form to Sunnyside along with a copy of your insurance card.**

SHARING AT CIRCLE

We welcome things from nature, cultural objects, picture books, or items relating to specific topics we might be studying. We have a special tradition regarding the alphabet and circle that creates a lot of excitement and anticipation, as well as being educational. At some point in September, children are invited to bring in objects that begin with "a". We gather them each day in our "abc basket" and talk about their initial sound. We have a lovely CD that goes with this activity called the "Alphabet Operetta". It is really cute and the kids just love it! Week two brings "b" and so on. We are actively trying to discourage children from bringing toys from home unless they relate to the sound of the week or our topic of current study. If your child insists on bringing in toys, please have them keep them in their cubby. It causes concern, otherwise, for the children and staff as special items tend to get lost or broken or argued over. PLEASE, no play weapons of any kind, candy, gum, money, etc. Periodically the staff will be using a "showing tray" during circle. Once or twice a week, the children can decide if there is a special project, drawing, booklet, etc. that they want to share with the whole group. This provides children the chance to speak in front of the group and fosters pride in their personal accomplishments.

DISCIPLINE

The goal of the classroom at Sunnyside is to function as a caring community with each child respectful of the needs and rights of the others. There are some basic ground rules that all children are asked to observe. No child may hurt another in any way and no child is to interfere with the work of another. We help the children choose activities, guide them in the handling of the materials, and ask them to return their projects to the shelf upon completion. If a child cannot work within these limits, or if a child's behavior disturbs others, we will ask the child to resume their project separate from the children being disturbed. If necessary, the child will be asked to sit alone or near one of the teachers for a period of time, until the staff feels the child has their behavior under control. When the child feels able to cooperate, they are welcomed back to the group.

At no time will any of the staff at Sunnyside Montessori use corporal punishment. We constantly strive to help the child in his/her growth towards self-mastery. We encourage children to work out conflicts using appropriate verbal skills. When necessary, the staff will act as mediator. We hope, should discipline problems arise, to work closely with the child's parents. Your child's healthy development depends on a positive partnership between school and home.

COOKED PLAY DOUGH RECIPE

One of the children's favorite activities at school is the play dough! So I thought I'd share the recipe with you so your child can enjoy it at home, too.

- 2 c. flour**
- 3 T. cream of tartar**
- 2 c. water**
- 20 drops of food coloring**
- 1/2 c. salt**
- 2 T. oil**

Cook in pan until thick. Knead while hot. Keep covered. Have fun!

ILLNESS

If you think your child will be out longer than one day please call and let us know. If your child becomes ill during school hours, we'll contact you at home or work. Children will need to be picked up immediately by parents or someone designated by the parents. Please keep you child home if there are symptoms to warrant it. Your child should not go to school unless he/she is able to participate fully (indoors and outdoors) in all school activities. Children are considered contagious if they have a fever, have vomited, or had diarrhea within a 24 hour period or show other active symptoms of illness. Please consider keeping your child home the first day or two of a cold, as well. We'll thank you and all the other children thank you for your consideration. We'll be happier and healthier as a result! If your child requires medication during school hours, be sure to bring the medicine in its original container with the prescription number and child's name on it. A note from the parent should be included, giving complete directions. You'll need to fill out and sign a Medicine Authorization Form as well, which you can get from the staff. On top of the refrigerator downstairs is a safety locking box where medicine should be stored and placed in the refrigerator. Please contact one of the staff regarding this.

PARKING

Parking at Sunnyside can be a problem. To help ease the situation, we ask that all of you enter the alley from 42nd street ONLY. This prevents any head-on traffic in the alley. There is parking on either side of the garage. It is critical that you park DIAGONALLY, so others can fit in, as well. Please do NOT park in our neighbor's driveways- no matter how briefly. If there are no spaces available, please park on South Americus St. or 42nd Ave. S. It is only a short distance in to our school from either street. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES park in the middle of the alley. It is dangerous and illegal!

SNOW

During the winter, when the weather gets bad (snow, ice) please listen to the radio or television. We'll be closed when the public schools are closed. I know several years ago, when we had those days of snow and ice, both approaches to our school were impossible to navigate. In the event that public schools institute delayed hours due to weather conditions, Sunnyside will operate under normal working hours. Just proceed cautiously!

QUESTION AND CONCERNS

Please feel free, at any time, to call us at school (725-5756) or Linda at home (723-1257) with questions or concerns. Linda's e-mail is: linda_r_baldwin@hotmail.com. We are interested and eager to hear from you. We're all very much looking forward to the 2006-2007 school year at Sunnyside!

