



Discovery Montessori

September 2014 Newsletter



Welcome

We welcome all new and returning students. We hope that you had a great summer and that your children are happy to be back in school. We truly appreciate your beautiful and unique children. We thank you for all the care, sleepless nights and sacrifices you make for your children. It shows in their responsible, happy, and caring personalities.

Reminder

Any medication, over-the-counter or prescription, must be accompanied by a doctor's or Licensed Health Practitioner's (LHP) signature.

Medication forms are available in the office, which must be signed by your doctor or LHP and by you. These can be faxed to your doctor's office at your doctor's request. Any prescription medication will only be given if it also is in the original container that identifies the child by name, date of prescription, the date of expiration, and doctor. There must be legible instructions for administration.

Any medication given must be in the original container and the dose and frequency must be stated on the label. It must be age-appropriate for the child. All medications, internal and external (e.g. antihistamines, non-aspirin fever reducers/pain relievers, non-narcotic cough suppressants, cough drops, decongestants and **sunscreen**, ointments) will be stored in a locked container. **DO NOT put these medications in your child's lunch box.** If you wish to bring sunscreen we suggest one of the continuous spray types as they are both easier and faster to apply to children.

Lunches

For those children who eat lunch at Discovery Montessori, their lunches will be monitored for the daily nutritional requirements. Our daycare regulations state that children's lunches must contain:

- (1) a dairy product (such as milk, cheese, yogurt, or cottage cheese);
- (2) meat or meat alternative (such as beef, fish, poultry, legumes, tofu, or beans);
- (3) a grain product (such as bread, cereal, bagel, or rice cake);
- (4) fruits or vegetables (two fruits or two vegetables or one fruit and one vegetable to equal the total portion size required). When juice is sent in place of a fruit or vegetable it must be 100% fruit or vegetable juice.

Please provide an ice pack for potentially hazardous foods (such as meats, cooked potatoes, cooked legumes, cooked rice, sprouts, cut melons or cantaloupes, milk, or cheese)

For those who eat breakfast at Discovery Montessori, it must contain:

- (1) a fruit or vegetable or 100% fruit or vegetable juice;
- (2) a dairy product (such as milk, cheese, yogurt, or cottage cheese);
- (3) a grain product (such as bread, cereal, rice cake or bagel).

Snacks

Please check the monthly calendar on the last page. Due to scheduling changes your snack day may have been moved. Your child's name on the monthly calendar indicates your day to provide snack. We may not serve homemade snacks. **Fruits and cheeses will be cut and prepared by our staff.** If particular items on your list for the scheduled day are not available you may check another day for an appropriate item from that group. For those of you who have children in all day, on your snack day, you will be providing snack for both a.m. and p.m. sessions. Each class has about 20 AM students and 20 PM students.

Elementary students do not have a scheduled snack time. However, if you would like your child to have a morning snack please send extra food in their lunch box and label the extra food as "snack". Any snacks brought to school should be healthy. Please no candies or other "junk" foods.

Incidental Daycare

We've had several parents ask about having their child stay for daycare occasionally. We are happy to offer this service to our families. Due to state regulations we need to have a certain number of staff available for daycare. Therefore we are asking that you make arrangements in advance so we are adequately staffed. The fee for Incidental Daycare is \$7 per hour, per student. There is a minimum fee of \$7 per session.

Show 'n' Tell

For Show 'n' Tell on Friday, please have your child bring one item in a bag with his/her name on it. It should be placed in the show 'n' tell basket as soon as they come on Friday. Since we will be having the show 'n' tell relate to our area of study for the month, please check the calendar for the kind of item the child should bring. Encourage your child to tell you what the item is so that s/he will be able to tell about it in circle. This practice will help with their verbal speaking ability, their vocabulary, and their confidence.

Elementary students do not participate in Show 'n' Tell.

Friday Folders

In the Kindergarten-1st grade and preschool classes, the children's work for the week will be sent home on Friday in a large manila envelope. We encourage you to sit down with your child and go over his/her accomplishments. Please send the folders back on your child's next school day! If your child is young, please be relaxed if s/he has not done work which can be brought home as they do so many activities which do not have papers or products connected with them.

Book Orders

We'll be sending book orders with your monthly newsletters. You are not obligated to buy these books but the school does receive free gifts with bonus points we earn from the book orders. With our bonus points we have earned our microwave ovens, our toaster oven and many free books. We try to send the appropriate form for your child's age. We have chosen the Scholastic Book Orders because they generally have good quality books at reasonable prices. You may order online at scholastic.com. Our class activation code is H3X9Z, and is under Karen Nelson's name.

Payment

Tuition is due the fifth day of class for the month. We appreciate your promptness as it enables us to devote more time to the growth and education of your child. Payments received after the 5th school day of the month will be subject to a \$10.00 late charge unless other arrangements have been made. Please put the student(s) name on your check on the "For" line. This will help us to credit your account accurately.

Pictures

We have planned to have a photographer come to take individual and class pictures on Friday, October 3rd. We will send an envelope for picture choices and payment with the October newsletter. We have chosen Hudson photography again to take the pictures. They are from Bremerton and we have been happy with their quality and prices.

Study of the Month

This month we will be concentrating on many of the grace and courtesy exercises such as tucking chairs under the table when finished, walking in the classroom, rolling and putting mats away nicely, putting work away, keeping quiet voices, remembering to say please and thank you, waiting turns, walking behind the children when leaving the circle, entering the classroom quietly if arriving late, etc.

In the **Preschool and Kindergarten classes** the September curriculum emphasis will be grace and courtesy, manners, rules and routines. Beginning introductions of Montessori materials in practical life, sensorial, language, and math. Beginning introduction to a year long concentration on geometric shapes. Cultural: Introduction to the universe, stars, galaxies, constellations, and the sun. Study of the seasons. Art: Sponge paint or rubber stamp art, solar leaf prints, spiral galaxies, outer space crayon resist and swirly landscapes. Art appreciation: Vincent van Gogh – *Starry Night*. Music and Movement: "Mr. Sun," "One Light One Sun," "It's a small world," "Estrallita Brillaras." Cooking: Sunshine salad, Solar Toast, Cinnamon Applesauce. Show 'n' Tell: Star item, sun item, an item representing fall and a circle item.

In the **Elementary class** the children will be learning: Beginning introductions or reintroducing of Montessori materials in practical life, sensorial, language, and math. Grace and courtesy, manners, rules and routines. Cultural: History: World History beginning with ancient civilizations. Science: Introduction to the universe, stars, galaxies, constellations and the sun. Study of the seasons. Art: Sponge paint or rubber stamp art, solar leaf prints, spiral galaxies, outer space crayon resist and swirly landscapes. Art appreciation: Vincent van Gogh - *Starry Night*. We also will be studying music, movement, cooking and computer skills.

Pick Up and Drop Off Procedure

We are in the process of changing over to electronic sign in. They are working furiously to get this finished with the hope of making signing in and out an efficient and easy procedure. Please have patience with us as we work out the kinks it may take some time to make it all run smoothly.

Please sign your child in upon arrival and out upon departure using the classroom sign-in/sign-out sheets located by the doors with your full legal signature. Be sure to put the time you dropped them off and picked them up. Students are not allowed to sign themselves in or out. Please do not leave siblings or other children in your care unsupervised in your vehicle, outside or in the classroom while you are picking up/dropping off your student. If you come through the gate by the playground, please make sure you close it behind you. If you pick up your child at recess, you **must tell the playground teachers.** We will be separating the preschool and kindergarten children from the 1st-8th grade children from 3:30-4:30. For the first hour preschool and kindergarten children will generally be on the

playground and the older children will be in one of the larger rooms in the building or on the playfield. We are waiting to see when the regular pick-up times are for the children so we can make it convenient for you to retrieve your children in a timely manner. Thank you for your cooperation in these matters as it helps ensure the safety of all the children. Children not scheduled for daycare are to be picked up later than 10 minutes after class. If they are not picked up within the 10 minutes your account will be charged an incidental daycare fee of \$7 for the first 10-60 minutes and \$7 for each additional hour.

Box Tops & Campbell Labels

Our Back to School Contest ends September 22nd. All Back to School Collection Sheets (or 50 Box Tops/Campbell Labels) handed in by September 22nd, will be entered into a drawing for a \$15 Toys R Us gift card. Please see Mrs. Valerie in the office if you have any questions. You can visit www.boxtops4education.com to print out collections sheets and enter special on-line only contests. You can also register your Fred Meyers, Safeway, or QFC Cards at www.elabelsforeducation.com to earn bonus Campbell labels! We are also looking for a parent volunteer to head up the Box Tops and Labels for Education programs please see Mrs. Valerie in the office if you are interested.

Puyallup Fair Tickets

Your child has received a free Puyallup Fair Ticket. Most went home in their Friday Folder the first weeks of school. The rest will be attached to this news letter.

Web site

Our web address is www.discoverymontessori.org. At this site you will find information about the school, including this newsletter. There is also a section for the children to visit where they can print coloring pages. You can also order mugs, mouse pads and T-shirts and many other items. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of these items returns to the school. We are in the process of updating our website, it should be done soon so be sure to check it out.

After School Classes

We are working on setting up after school classes that will begin the first week of October. Some of the classes that may be available include Drama and Science Club. Look for the registration forms to come home soon in your child's Friday Folder with more information.

Ongoing Fundraisers

We have a couple of fundraisers that are ongoing the first is Friday Lunches and the second is Kids Night Out/Date Night. They help with lowering costs especially on field trips.

Friday Lunches:

Every Friday we offer a hot lunch provided by Subway, A&W and Dominos. The cost is \$5.00 per lunch. (Subway offers a bigger sandwich, 6in for \$6.00 instead of the 4in for \$5.00 please write on the order if you would like your child to have a bigger sandwich.) The money goes into a separate account so please do not pay for this with your tuition payment. Checks are still made to Discovery Montessori.

Kids Night Out/Date Night:

About once a month we have a kid's night out. We have it at the school on the weekend from 6-10pm. The cost is \$20.00 for a single child, \$30.00 for up to 3 children and \$40.00 for 4 or more children. It is run by Mrs. Valerie Nelson. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Mrs. Valerie in the office.

Accreditation

Our school is now accredited through Montessori Educational Programs International. Montessori Educational Programs International (MEPI) was founded in 1995 by a group of 8 representatives of teacher education programs interested in promoting peace through authentic Montessori education and practice. MEPI was a sponsor of the 2013 Montessori Congress in Portland, Oregon. If you would like to know more about MEPI you can visit their website at <http://www.mepiforum.org/index.html>

We are the first American Montessori program to receive international accreditation through MEPI. As well as the first in the west sound to be recognized and affiliated with AMI (Association Montessori International) which means we meet the guidelines they require to become a recognized/affiliated school. If you would like to know more about AMI you can visit their website at <http://www.amiusa.org>

Of Note

We at Discovery Montessori feel that it every child matters. We strive to help any child reach their full potential. If you have any problems, questions, concerns or anything you feel you need for your child please feel free to voice this to us. We will work with you to make your child's journey through school the best possible for them.

As you have probably noticed there is a new office administrator. Ms Natalie left us in the middle of June. I Valerie Nelson have replaced her. There is a lot that this job requires and I am still learning the ropes. So please bear with me as I learn. If I do make a mistake please come talk to me and I will do what I can to fix it. Thank you for your patience.

Emergency Kit/Rain Pancho

Those students who would like to purchase a rain poncho to add to their emergency kits, please fill out and return this form with the appropriate amount. You may also add it to your October tuition payment. The cost is \$2.00 each. We encourage you to do this, as it will aid in the child's safety in case of an emergency.

Name _____

I would like to purchase _____ poncho(s) at \$2.00 each

_____ Parent signature