

Spring Seminar

Please plan to join us on April 23rd for our Spring Seminar, featuring Chick Moorman

President's Corner

"Spirit Whisperers know that communication is at the center of all they do to touch a child's spirit. That's why they speak from the heart giving explanations rather than orders." ~ Chick Moorman

Michigan Montessori Society is proud to present Chick Moorman author and educational speaker at this spring's seminar. We will be welcoming Chick for a half-day session on April 23rd. Chick has facilitated "Parent Talk" and "Teacher Talk" for many members and is affirming to Montessorians. I hope you will plan to attend. The way we speak to our children is an important part of our respect for children. Chick gives practical information on how to respectfully deal with challenging behavior.

The MMEAN committee continues to tirelessly advocate for Montessori in Michigan. The committee has encouraged us to get the word out about the amazing things we do. Please respond to the email to share how you celebrate Montessori Education Week in your classroom or at your school. Classroom activities are great to share with the rest of our community. Fellow Montessorians are our best and greatest resource. If you are looking for further inspiration. Check out the Montessori Education Week Facebook page. If you have not already, please checkout our Facebook page for great articles and inspirational ideas.

The board would like to thank those who attended our Fall 2015 Seminar it was a sunny fall day and those who attended came away with functional information not to mention a great water bottle. "The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn." Maria Montessori We look forward to seeing you in April. We continue to serve our community and look forward to hearing from you.

Heidi Gauger



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MLK Bags

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.
ML King, Jr.

There are many activities to introduce the concepts of Martin Luther King. There are many discussions about appropriateness and the use of editing etc. I hope you will find this activity works very well in the Pre-K environment.



On the Inside

Materials:

1. 5 gift bags of various colors, sizes, and themes.
2. 5 copies of attached pictures which represent thing inside all of us:

Physiological : Muscles, Brain, Heart
Senses: Hearing, Sight, Smell, Taste, Touch

Concepts we had been working in our environment of good nutrition, and having ideas (add pictures which relate to your classroom lessons)

3. Larger basket to hold all bags
4. Small basket to hold concept pictures

Presentation; For initial presentation the pictures will be in the bags.

What do you see on this rug?

How are they the same?

How are they different?

Ask what the children to identify each item as you take them out of the bags. Continue with each bag placing the pictures in a column below each bag.

What do you notice?

These bags are like people. They may look different on the outside but on the inside they are all very much the same and should be treated with the same respect. Dr. King stood up against the idea that people should be treated differently based on how they look. We are all people, just as these are all bags. We are the same on the inside just like the pictures in the bags! To honor Dr. King we will strive to support the rights of all people.

Books to support lesson;

A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr. By David A. Adler, illustrated by Robert Casilla

Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King By Jean Marzollo, illustrated by Brian Pinkney

Songs for Black History Month

February is Black History Month. As a music teacher, I found that the children in my classes retained more information about famous African Americans if they learned simple songs highlighting the accomplishments of these notable individuals. The songs I used were for the most part tunes familiar to the children and easy to sing. In addition, there are many songs about Martin Luther King available on line.

Black History Songs

Rose Parks – The Wheels on the Bus

The rules on the bus just were not right
Blacks in back, front for whites
Rosa Parks disagreed but did not fight
She just said, "NO!"

Montgomery Boycott then began
Folks shared rides, cars and vans
Martin and Rosa joined their hands
They just said, "NO!"

After a year the boycott's through
All can ride, every hue
They gained civil rights for me and you
They made it so

Harriet Tubman – Let My People Go

When slavery was in our land
Let my people go
Harriet Tubman took a stand

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Songs, continued

Let my people go
Slaves cried, Help us
We're tired of living in slavery
She said come follow, to freedom we must go

If Harriet were her today,
Help my people grow
If asked for help what would she say,
Help my people grow
We're all one family,
Love all humanity,
Encourage each other
Help my people grow

Mae Jemison – Twinkle Twinkle. Little Star

A lovely girl of honey hue
She loved math and science, too
She had a dream like you and me
A medical doctor she would be
She worked hard, her prize she won
Now she's Dr. Jemison

NASA called, said, "You've gone far"
"We'd like you to reach the stars."
More hard work, the prize she sought
First Black Woman Astronaut.
Set your goals, Work hard each day
You'll succeed like Dr. Mae

Charles Drew – Away in the Manger

The soldiers were dying in World War II
Charles Drew knew that something he quickly
must do
Their blood was important, he researched at

length
He discovered blood plasma helped soldiers
gain strength.

So now if to the hospital you must go,
Your doctors will use his discovery so.
That all of the people, black or white even
you.
If you need a transfusion, please thank Dr.
Drew

George Washington Carver - Found A Peanut

(While Carver did not technically "discover"
peanut butter, he did create and popularize it)

George Washington Carver found a peanut
one day
He discovered that the peanut could be used
in many ways
Peanut butter, peanut oil, peanut soap to
name a few
All these products he invented, Dr. Carver we
thank you.

Sojourner Truth – Rabbit Run of the Frozen Ground (tune can be found on line)

Blacks were held in slavery, Sojourner Truth
She said no we must be free. Sojourner Truth
She led the fight for freedom
And equal rights for women
She helped freed slaves find new jobs
To enjoy their liberty

Now she is with us no more, Sojourner Truth
We have much to thank her for, Sojourner
Truth

She could have helped my grandma
She could have helped my grandpa
She is a real life hero
She opened freedom's door.

Jackie Robinson – Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Jackie Robinson played ball
He was one of the best
He could hit homers and catch fly balls
Run the bases, Yes he did it all
And he was the first man of color
To play a major league game
He proved color makes no difference at all
And he earned his fame!

Mary McLeod Bethune – John Henry

Black children needed a teacher
Someone to help them shoot for the moon
And they found exactly what they needed
In Mary McLeod Bethune
Miss Mary McLeod Bethune

Now her school is called Bethune Cookman
It is known throughout the land
And the students that graduate from her
school

They are in great demand
'Cause Miss Mary gave them a hand

Paper Casting

Paper casting is an easy and fun activity for children. While many of the steps can be done independently, it is not an activity that can be put on the shelf from start to finish. The use of the blender and removing the paper casting from the mold require adult supervision. We are using paper casting to create decorations for the children's Valentine cards. While releasing spray or oil was recommended to ease the castings from the mold, we found that they came out more easily from our wood molds without oil. (The releasing spray had some questionable ingredients, so we didn't consider using it)



Step one – Purchase cotton linter paper sheets (available online) Tear off a 6" by 6" portion and have the children tear it up in to smaller pieces (no larger than 1"X1")



Step 2 – Put the pieces in a blender and add 3 cups of water. At this point, you may wish to add other items into the blender. (Example: dried flower petals, glitter, small bits of colored paper, etc) Blend on high for about one minute.

Step 3 – Pour mixture through a strainer into a bowl. (water can be reused).

Step 4 – Remove pulp from strainer and place it in a bowl.

Step 5 – Gently place the pulp in the mold to desired thickness.



Step 6 – Use a dry sponge to remove excess water. Press evenly. Squeeze the water out of the sponge and repeat several times.

Step 7 – Using a cloth hand towel, try again to remove remaining excess water.

Step 8 – Press the paper casting in the mold on a paper towel face down to make the back surface flat.



Step 9 – At this point you are ready to remove the casting. Using your fingers, gently pull up the outside edges, going around the casting until it is released. If the mold is too deep for your fingers, you can use a toothpick to help release the casting.



Step 10 – Put the casting face up on the counter (or rack) to dry. It takes about a day to dry completely.

If the casting is not to your liking, it can be tossed back in the blender for the next attempt.

Castings may be left as they are or decorated. However, be cautious. The paper will absorb the ink, so use sparingly, if at all. We found that no additional coloring rendered the most attractive castings.



Note: Do not put more than one 6 X 6 piece of paper in the blender as more bulk will be too hard on the motor.

Montessori Education Week is Celebrated at Maple Tree Montessori

On Feb 27, in celebration of Montessori week (Feb 28 – March 5), Maple Tree Montessori will present a workshop at the school located at 2944 South Old US 23 in Brighton MI. The workshop's general meeting topic is Meeting Preschool Outcomes with Montessori Methods: A Brain Based Approach/ Neuroscience behind the Method presented by Sue Cherry and Julie Harrison of Maple Tree Montessori Academy. In addition, two break out sessions are offered in the afternoon. Attendees will be able to choose from three offerings, Grace, Courtesy and Exercises of Everyday Life presented by Sue Cherry, Rhythm Movement and Montessori Music presented by Joy Pomerville, and The Senses...Opening the Way to Knowledge presented by Julie Harrison. The cost of the day (including continental breakfast) is \$50. This workshop offers 6 hours of continuing education credits through Child Connect for Family Success. Registration for the workshop may be completed on line at www.childconnectmi.org. The following descriptions are provided by the presenters.

Meeting Preschool Outcomes with Montessori Methods: A Brain Based Approach/ Neuroscience behind the Method
Join our presenters as they share neuroscience behind the Montessori methods that produces desired preschool out-comes. Utilizing the structure, freedom and hands on experience of a Montessori environment, they explain and show the methods, practices, and philosophy,

which are utilized to meet the young child's developmental needs through movement, exploration of materials and an internalization of flow, concentration and a sense of order.

Grace, Courtesy and Exercises of Everyday Life *Presented by Sue Cherry*

Sue will be exploring the interwoven curriculum of Practical Life. She will be working with the direct and indirect aims of the activities, the lessons of Grace and Courtesy, Art and creativity all leading to Language development, Cultural awareness... Peace through education

Rhythm, Movement and Montessori Music *Presented by Joy Pomerville, Maple Tree Montessori*

This workshop will be full of musical fun, and will focus on beat, tempo, pitch, dynamics, creative movement, musical games, and musical instruments

The Senses...Opening the Way to Knowledge *Presented by Julie Harrison*

Julie will show how the hands on manipulatives in the Early Childhood classroom lead the young child to the refinement of senses, facilitate the development of the mathematical mind, paving the way for later abstraction of Geometry and Math.

