

# APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



## EARTH DAY AND MONTESSORI

How the Montessori method teaches children to care for the earth

It is a well-known fact that Montessori is aligned with taking care of the earth. This idea starts in the earliest of years as children are encouraged to be outside, taking walks and notice each detail. The young children want to know the names of everything including the bugs, flowers, and types of plants. Maria Montessori says "There is no description, no image in any book that is capable of replacing the sight of real trees, and all the life to be found around them, in a real forest." This idea draws the students into nature, and brings nature into the classroom. In the classroom, Montessori children are taught to take care of nature. This might be watering the class plants and washing the leaves, or feeding the class pet.

As students continue in the Montessori elementary, they learn about the Supra Nova, which is how all nature is interconnected. The sun give energy to everything, even heating the water creating the water cycle which then gives needed hydration to all living beings. Remaking on this Interconnection of everything, Maria Montessori said best. "We must study the correlation between life and its environment. In nature everything correlates. This is the method of nature. Nature is not concerned with the conservation of individual life: it is a harmony, a plan of construction. Everything fits into the plan: winds, rocks, earth, water, plants, man, etc." Citizen of the World, p. 22

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Grand Rapids Montessori has been a part of the Grand Rapids Public Schools for fifty-four years. Grand Rapids Montessori School serves children from 3 year old through high school. The school serves over 300 students. Grand Rapids Montessori School is one of three Montessori schools which are a part of the Grand Rapids Public School system. GRM is located on the north east side of Grand Rapids and serves the downtown area.



## MMS Spring Gathering 2026

Saturday May 2, 2026

8:30-12:30

Registration is open for the **MMS Spring Gathering!**

Three attendance opportunities.

- Main Gathering - Ann Arbor Children's House,
- Remote option - Grand Rapids Montessori
- Zoom option is also available

**Keynote - Prof. Carol Williams** will share her study of the history of Montessori's influence in the US.

Four discussion options:

- A Q & A with Prof. Williams
- Attention – What Promotes - What Prevents
- Building Bridges Between Home & School
- Music in the Classroom...Without a Piano.

Information about what each site will include is on the registration form.

Also this year...

- **Virtual Vendors** - We've set up order forms from three vendors online. **NEW**
- A free "**Treasure Table**" (where you might find something you can use)
- "**Take & Make**" work offering
- **Bulletin Boards** displaying various Montessori topics of interest
- Opportunity to tour **Ann Arbor Children's House**
- A **Refreshment Table** with beverages and tasty treats
- **PLUS 4 hours** of PD on MiRegistry

All this plus an opportunity to mingle and network with your Montessori colleagues make this year's Spring Gathering a **MUST!** Register today...space is limited!

**MMS IS DEVELOPING NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

**WE NEED YOUR INPUT!**  
*This is your chance to tell MMS what programs you would like to see next year!*

Use this QR code to fill out the survey today!



WATCH FOR A NEW BENEFIT FOR MEMBERS!