

MONTESSORI RADMOOR SCHOOL
2745 East Mount Hope
Okemos, Mi 48864

Dear Parents,

August 2010

I hope that all of you have been enjoying the summer. I have been busy gardening, dancing, playing with Catherine and Brady, and acquiring another orphaned kitten! I look forward to an exciting new year of school here at Montessori Radmoor and am doubly excited to be working with our new teacher Priya Bhojak. I know there are many questions that arise at the beginning of the school year; the following information will hopefully answer a few of them!

First Day of School:

The first day of school is **Monday, August 30th** for all students in elementary. Dismissal will be at 12:00 and school will resume Tuesday-Thursday as full days. We will have Friday and Monday off for the Labor Day weekend.

Children at the beginning of a new year:

For any child, whether they be returning or are brand new to the classroom, will need time to adjust to their new schedule, friends and experiences. Over the summer there always seems to be a lot of changes, physical and psychological within each child. In turn, these changes reflect upon new experiences that happen in the classroom. We need to trust that the child will be able to find their way and to give them time to do this. Children may complain of being tired, have stomachaches, and sometimes tears that can be contributed to anxiety at the start of the new year. The best way to help your child is to give them your undivided attention and to listen to them. Help them to take ownership of their feelings by asking questions to help them solve problems that might arise at this time. There is a lot of excitement for all the children, which means high emotions. I always welcome children coming to me with their concerns as well. If they are new and have difficulty talking to me, they can write a letter or send me an e-mail. This process of normalization takes on average, four to six weeks as the classroom itself begins to normalize. Please remember that all children are different and internalize their emotions differently, so we must all have lots of patience and understanding.

Dropping off:

In elementary, many of the children are ready for a new adventure in independence. It gives them a lot of self-confidence to walk into the school alone to their coat hook (like a rite of passage). If your child is a bit anxious about this, we as a staff can help them out. At this age, children begin to explore relationships and trust with others outside of their family. This is one way we can allow them to do this in a safe environment.

This also allows me to start the day giving my full attention to the children, to begin lessons with those that might arrive a bit early, and allow them to adjust to the classroom in the morning and get excited about their work.

Snack:

E1 and E2 will be sharing the responsibilities for snack. We are asking for \$25.00 for a snack fee. This allows the students to shop for snack for both classrooms for a week. You will be receiving a permission slip for this exciting going-out experience. By shopping for snack, this allows the children to work with a budget and shop for an estimated amount of food with guidance from an adult. Practical Life experiences also ensue in the preparation of food, serving and clean up. Please make the check out to Montessori Radmoor.

Lunch:

The hot lunch program begins **September 7, 2010**.

Supplies:

Our classroom shares all general classroom materials like colored pencils, art supplies, tissues, etc. We are asking for a \$50.00 supply fee to cover the cost of these items. The fee is also used for personal art projects that the children want to do for a presentation of research. **Please make out the check to Montessori Radmoor.**

Fieldtrips:

Throughout the school year, both elementary classrooms will have opportunities to explore the diversity of our greater community through larger group "Going-Out" excursions. Fieldtrip scheduling and fee details will be discussed at our opening parent meeting in September.

This and That:

Please send a backpack with your child to carry belongings back and forth from school. Please also send an extra full set of labeled clothing that will remain at school.

Please make sure your child has indoor shoes for the classroom. They can be another pair of shoes, hard-soled slippers or any shoe that your child finds comfortable. Also, especially for the winter months when we are unable to have physical education outside, please bring a pair of athletic shoes. The children love to play tag games and it is much safer for them to have appropriate footwear for the gym.

For those students that are in their 6th year of elementary school, they may bring a laptop for research and presentation purposes. They may also have a calculator for checking their work.

First Fridays:

I am excited to announce something new for the elementary community. Starting in October, children will be able to share their work with you on the first Friday of every month between 8:45 and 9:15 a.m. Since so much of what your child does in the classroom is done with materials, I think it is a great way for them to share with you something that they are practicing toward mastery.

Parent Meetings:

Please reserve: **Monday, August 30th at 7:00 p.m.** for a very special meeting with Dr. Steven Hughes at **Edgewood United Church**. It will be a wonderful evening you don't want to miss.

Also, Thursday evening, **September 9th at 7:00 p.m., for Parent Information Night.**

Wishing you all a wonderful end to summer break,

Christine