

Miss Kelly's

NEWS

Hello Everybody!

August 2009

Directress' Message

Dear Parents,

I would like to introduce you to Miss Julie Aubrey, our new Montessori guide. Please read her introductory message below, and feel free to ask her any questions regarding your children. Suffice to say, since Miss Julie joined us she has already established a clear Montessori learning environment, and most importantly a peaceful atmosphere in which your children can work.

I would also like to welcome Justina Penner, who is starting with us the first week of August. Justina is 20 months old, and you will see her on Wednesdays and Thursdays of this month. Please say hello and introduce yourselves if you happen to meet.

September is around the corner. We will be expanding to a four or five-day operation, and possibly shifting schedules for a time, as newcomers join us. I will be in touch with each of you, as needs be, as we go through this new phase.

Thank you all for your continued support of Miss Kelly's.

Sincerely,

Miss Kelly
(Kelly Symons)

Guide's Message

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your warm welcome and support as we transition staff. I look forward to getting to know you and your children and building an enriching Montessori environment at Miss Kelly's.

A Montessori Education may be new to you...
Here are some easy reading books that I recommend:

Montessori From the Start – The Child at Home, from Birth to Age Three
Paula Polk Lillard and Lynn Lillard Jessen

Montessori – The Science Behind the Genius
Angeline Stoll Lillard

What is my child learning? You may be wondering...

In the natural progression of the day, the intangibles that we are focusing on are:

- Development of a work cycle – showing each child that there is preparation of an activity, the main activity and putting away/cleaning up when one is finished
- Respect – showing the children that we are to respect each child's completion of a cycle of activity. E.g. observing rather than disturbing another child's work
- Development of patience – we show the children to carry things one at a time; the child waits until the other child has finished an activity before they can take it to do
- Repetition of exercise - allowing each child to follow their needs and leading to perfect completion of an activity/ reaching a goal, as skills are gained.
- The children are in a process of adapting to new people, new children, a new environment, new guidelines.
- The children are encouraged to do things on their own when appropriate – for example – taking off their shoes and placing them on the shoe mat.

Every week we are adding more activities that will help the child to orient and adapt themselves to the Prepared Environment, as well as build independence and concentration. We hope to instill the foundations for community life, self-discipline through meaningful work, respect and dignity, intelligence, joy and security. We are establishing guidelines and building the environment thoughtfully and slowly to help the children (and parents!) through the adaptation process.

My hope is that together we can build a community for the children where they will flourish. I will do my part to share with you information about Montessori education. Consistency at home and school can be helpful to the child's learning and understanding.

With warm regards,

Miss Julie
(Julie Aubrey)

General Notes

Some great Montessori talks

Listen to Dr. Steve Hughes give some great talks about Montessori education here
<http://www.goodatdoingthings.com/>

About colds and related things

As a rule, if your child has a high fever, or is definitely unwell, please consider having your child stay at home for the day.

Popular Books this past month

Go Dog Go by PD Eastman

Big Dog, Little Dog by PD Eastman

Two songs to share

<i>Au Clair de La Lune</i> Au clair de la lune Mon ami Pierrot Prete –moi ta plume Pour ecrire un mot Ma chandelle est morte Je n'ai plus de feu Ouvre-moi ta porte pour l'amour de Dieu.	<i>Pearly Shells</i> Pearly Shells From the ocean Shining in the sun Wandering ashore When I see them My heart tells me that I love you More than all Those little Pearly shells
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If you have announcements you wish to make, please don't hesitate to contact us about putting them in the next letter.

