



# Child's View News

Educating for Peace

February 2010

## Wine Tasting Event



Wednesday is last day to sign up!

The 2nd annual Wine Tasting Event is coming up soon! It's scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 6th, from 5-8pm. Emily-Jane boutique, 1428 NE Broadway St., will be hosting again this year, donating 20% of all sales for the evening back to Child's View.

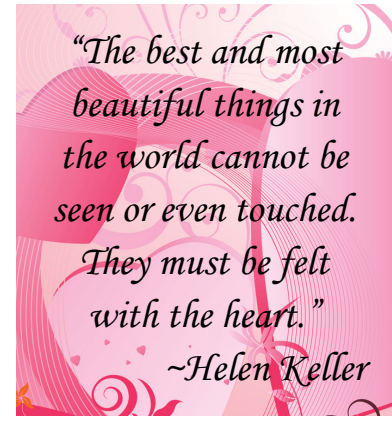
Emily Jane is a locally owned custom design jewelry shop with all of their creations hand crafted. Special orders are

welcome, and will be completed by Valentine's Day. Check out their website at [emily-jane.com](http://emily-jane.com).

The wines will be poured by Alissa from Korkage, a locally owned wine shop in Hillsdale. The fee is \$20 per person, and includes tasting 5 different wines, and appetizers to compliment the wines.

There is a sign up board located near the attendance clipboards in the hallway. Sign up, get a sitter, and enjoy a night out!

Questions? Contact Maria Stange (Jasmine's mom) at [mtstange@comcast.net](mailto:mtstange@comcast.net)



*"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."*

*~Helen Keller*

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## SW Hope: Feed the Hungry

We are participating in SW Hope: Feed the Hungry to benefit Neighborhood House's Emergency Food Box program. Beginning February 11th we will have a barrel by the office for non-perishable foods. Please have your child help with selecting items for the barrel to benefit children and families in need in our community. We will be collecting food until March 28th.

Another way to support Feed the Hungry is by eating! Local restaurants will donate a portion of their proceeds February 14th through March 28th. Just take a coupon to a participating restaurant. You will receive some coupons along with information on Feed the Hungry in your Parent File.

## Happy Birthday!

3rd - Frances

9th - Megan

20th - Charlotte

23rd - Elsa

26th - Margy

27th - Janice



# Season of Nonviolence and Pennies for Peace

**“Nonviolence is not a garment to put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart, and it must be an inseparable part of our being.”**

**~Mahtama Gandhi**



***“Occasionally in life there are those moments of unutterable fulfillment which cannot be completely explained by those symbols called words. Their meanings can only be articulated by the inaudible language of the heart.”***

***~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.***

The Season is upon us! January 30th marked the first day of the **Season for Nonviolence**, which will run through April 4th. Throughout the season we will be discussing what peace is, ways to achieve and maintain peace in different areas of life, the benefits of doing so, and also look at some great examples of peaceful exchanges.

A **Season for Nonviolence** is a global grassroots campaign dedicated to raising awareness about the healing and transforming power of nonviolence.

This 64-day event began in 1997 for the occasion of the 50th and 30th memorial anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It has grown into an important educational and media opportunity to bring communities together, empowering them to envision and help create a nonviolent world, one heart and one day at a time.

Throughout the 64-day campaign, events and activities for peace and nonviolence take place all around the world, highlighting existing peace-building initiatives and inspiring new year-round activities for a more peaceful, nonviolent, just and sustainable world.

If you would like more information and ways you can celebrate the season at home, you can go to [www.64-days.org](http://www.64-days.org). If you click on the link for “64 Days” you will be taken to a page that has a daily message/challenge for each

day of the season for nonviolence. There are different versions of the daily practices for adults, teens, and children. We encourage you to take a look at these and share them with family and friends alike!

## **Pennies for Peace**

As a part of our **Season for Nonviolence** we will again this year be participating in a program called **Pennies for Peace**. There will be a jar in each classroom for the duration of the season (January 30 - April 4) to collect pennies.

Maria Montessori wished to instill in her students the sense that every child has the power to effect positive change at every level of his or her community, whether it be in the classroom community or the global community. By collecting pennies to help build schools and provide other educational opportunities in Pakistan and Afghanistan, our children will bring to life two of the core values emphasized by Maria Montessori; peace through education and the importance of each child in the global community. This is a powerful message and will forever help our children look at the penny in the parking lot with a new sense of value.

Go to <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/01152010/watch2.html> to see a really good interview with Greg Mortenson who started the Pennies for Peace. Long but very informative.

## ***Montessori Kindergarten at Child's View***

*Our Annual Kindergarten Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2nd @ 6:30 pm.*

*Join us to learn about and experience the Montessori Kindergarten classroom!*

*For those families with children who will be moving into the kindergarten year, we will be having a meeting on February 2nd where you'll have a chance to find out more about Montessori kindergarten, see the materials firsthand and have a lesson or two yourself.*

*You may also be interested in a short video from the Montessori Foundation,*

*[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67zbYX\\_gVLA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67zbYX_gVLA).*

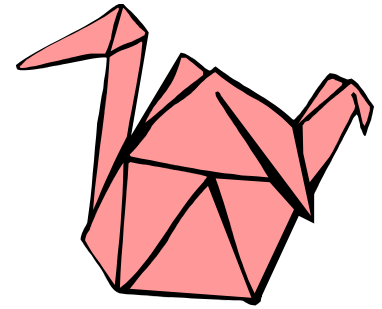
## Crane Room News

Since returning from Winter break, the classroom community has continued to grow in positive and amazing ways. We have had 2 new children join our class since the beginning of the New Year. It has been wonderful to watch them discover the environment with great enthusiasm and to see how welcoming the other students can be.

The Number Memory Game has been incredibly popular over the last several weeks. To play, each child is given a small slip of paper with a number between zero and ten printed on it. After slyly looking at their number, they are each invited to gather that number of anything in the classroom (10 beads, 3 pencils, 7 shells, 4 books, etc.), and then share what they have gathered with their classmates. We are all very excited to find out who received the zero. This game is enjoyed by all ages of children.

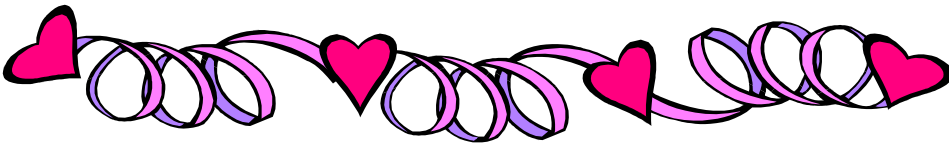
Even with all their raingear on, children have been getting pretty wet and dirty while out on the playground. Please make sure that your child always has a spare set of seasonally appropriate clothes at school. When checking that they have their extra clothes, please also make sure all of their belongings fit in their bin, especially if they nap or rest with a blanket, pillow, or stuffed animal.

A great way to enjoy part of your child's day at school is to come have lunch with them. This gives them the opportunity to share important people with friends and to give you lessons on the many steps of our mid-day meal. We also love having classroom observers. Children will jump at the chance to serve you a beverage and to show you their most recent lessons. This can be arranged through the office.



*"This is our cry.  
This is our prayer.  
Peace in the world."*

—From the plaque at the foot of the statue in memory of Sadako Sasaki in Hiroshima. Read the book Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes



## Pertinent Information

- The next **Parent Link Meeting** is Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am. We will be discussing upcoming events and a special topic. Something in particular you'd like discussed? Let us know.
- **Spring Parent Conferences**, Feb. 25-26. Watch your parent file for the questionnaire. You'll need to fill it out and return it in order to make a conference appointment. Shannon will have the conference sign-up sheets available in the office.
- **NEW DATE: Parent Ed Night**, March 31st, 7-8:30 pm. Mark your calendar! The topic is "**Emotional Development and Compassionate Discipline.**"
- Please remember that if your child is not enrolled in **Early Arrival**, please do not bring them into the classroom until after 8:15. The teachers are busy with preparations and want to be sure to have everything ready, then to be there to greet your child as they come in. Also, please be sure to write the correct time on the sign-in sheet.
- Please make sure your children leave their toys at home. We are seeing small toys being hidden in pockets and lunch boxes, even hats. Toys can be disruptive, as well as taking a chance that something will be lost or broken. Thanks for your help.

**Spring Break  
Interim Care  
Registration  
Forms are due  
by Feb. 12th.  
Please let us  
know even if  
you don't need  
care. Look for  
the form at the  
end of this  
newsletter.**



## Used Items Needed

Soon we are going to be gathering used items for the "Just Between Friends" consignment sale where we can earn 65-70% from the sale of these items. They accept all sizes of baby & children's clothing, any toys & books, baby equipment & children's furniture (and some household furniture), as well as maternity clothes. The items must be in very good condition as they have a high standard we must meet. The sale is April 30-May 2, 2010 at the Expo Center and is attended by more than 5000 shoppers. Check their website at [www.portland.jbfsale.com](http://www.portland.jbfsale.com) to see what items will be accepted and what condition they must meet. Watch for info this spring.

## Dove Room News

Since returning after winter break, the children have been intensely social. We have been telling lots of stories in large and small groups, and inviting a friend to have a conversation has been a frequently chosen activity. Other popular activities have been table washing and chair scrubbing.

The children have demonstrated lots of responsibility in the care of the classroom environment. They are quick to contribute, not only during clean-up time, but also as the need arises. When part of a material is misplaced, someone puts it away. When activities are not returned to the correct place on the shelf, someone puts it in order. It is affirming to see that they have ownership of their environment.

Please be sure your child is here between 8:15 and 8:30 am for arrival. This time is so important to start the day off right. Morning arrival is a chance for all of us to not only say "good morning," but to connect and get on the same page. This is the time for daily announcements and the children are more connected when they all start together in the classroom. Adequate time for greeting and then time to

choose activities for the first time during the morning work cycle is essential for strong social cohesion. I find that the children are more centered when they get to experience this time with their peers in the morning. If you are arriving before 8:15 am, it is important that the sign-in form reflects this.

*"Society does not depend entirely on organization, but also on cohesion, and of these two the second is basic and serves as foundation for the first. Good laws and a good government cannot hold the mass of men together and make them act in harmony, unless the individuals themselves are orientated toward something that gives them solidarity and makes them into a group. The masses, in their turn, are more or less strong and active according to the level of development, and of inner stability, of the personalities composing them."*

—Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*, p. 236-237.

I'm looking forward to parent conferences at the end of the month. Please return your questionnaires before signing up for a conference time. This ensures that I can address all your questions and concerns.



## The Sensorial Area: A Tool for Intellectual Growth

By Rochelle Holmberg

*"The training and sharpening of the senses has the obvious advantage of enlarging the field of perception and of offering an ever more solid foundation for intellectual growth."*<sup>1</sup>

Before the child ever enters the Children's House she has already been confronted by a multitude of stimuli. The world is filled with images, objects,

tastes, smells, and sounds. These are presented to the young child without order or filters. To adapt to her environment, the child must develop the capacity to process these stimuli. The materials of the Sensorial Area serve to give the child the ability to make order out of what can seem like chaos that surrounds her. Children, whose senses have been exercised, are able to react to and identify the objects of the environment through their perceived

qualities and to classify those objects. Their minds are thus able to respond to the entirety of their surroundings.<sup>2</sup>

The five senses of human beings are constantly taking in information from the environment, acting as avenues to the world. The Sensorial Area is organized into sub-sections that are distinguished by the five senses. When possible, within each of the sub-sections, the area is further arranged by the qualities that are perceived through that particular sense.

The visual sense connects humans to the world through our eyes. It is perhaps the sense that humans are most dependent upon. Through the visual sense, humans perceive the qualities of dimension, color, and shape. The Sensorial Area isolates the quality of dimension through the Cylinder Blocks, which present changes in one, two, and three dimensions, the Pink Tower, which demonstrates three-dimensional change, the Brown Stair, which demonstrates change in two dimensions, and the Red Rods, which demonstrate a change in a single dimension. (For a video explanation of the Pink Tower, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZn3Vp9y3T0>) The Cylinder Blocks give the child the opportunity to explore dimensional changes through the process of matching, while the other three materials assist the child through grading. Color is isolated by the work done with the Color Tablets, while the Geometry Cabinet isolates shape.

The sense of touch is essential to survival. Touch is experienced through our skin of the entire body, although it is quite concentrated in the hands and face. Through this sense, we perceive texture, weight, and temperature. The Rough and Smooth Boards (also called the Touch Boards), the Touch Tablets, and the Fabric Boxes isolate the quality

of texture. The Rough and Smooth Boards demonstrate two extremes, while the Touch Tablets offer a range of texture. The Fabric Boxes present a medley of textures while allowing the child to learn about different fabrics.



The Thermic Bottles, as well as Thermic Tablets offer different temperatures to the child. The Bottles contain the same substance at different temperatures. The Tablets are made of different materials that are all at room temperature, but exhibit unique apparent temperatures. The perception of weight is given to the child through the Baric Tablets.

The sounds that we hear are characterized by volume, pitch, and timbre. The Sensorial Area develops this sense through the Sound Boxes, which offer a gradation of volume, from soft to loud, and the Bells, which present pitch to the child, and offer the opportunity for grading as well as pairing of pitches. Timbre, which is the quality of a sound often referred to as the color of a tone, instrument, or voice independent of volume and pitch (i.e. the timbre of a piano is different from that of a tuba) is not isolated in the area, but is offered to the child through exposure to various music listening experiences.

The sense of taste is isolated in the Tasting Bottles. The Bottles present, to the child, the four fundamental aspects of taste, experienced through the taste buds of the tongue: salt, sweet, bitter, and sour. Flavors are a combination of these qualities.

The sense of smell, experienced through the nose, has no isolated aspects like those of the sense of taste. The categories of smell are often culturally or emotionally based. The Smelling Bottles, however, refine the sense by offering familiar scents to be paired.

Since her first day of school, the child has absorbed the external order that is used to organize the area as well as the order necessary to complete any of the exercises of the area, be that the order necessary to build the Pink Tower so it does not fall over, the necessary order to match all of the scents in the Smelling Jars, or even the order necessary to grade the range of Color Tablets in Box 3. “The material does not, in the first place, teach the children factual knowledge. Instead it makes it possible for them to reorganize their knowledge according to new principles. This increases their capacity for learning.”<sup>3</sup> The capacity for order amassed in the Sensorial Area will serve the child throughout her life. To possess the ability to absorb the external stimuli of the world and bring order to it internally is invaluable. “It is not the accumulation of a direct knowledge of things which forms the man of letters, the scientist, and the connoisseur; it is the prepared order established in the mind which is to receive such knowledge.”<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Maria Montessori, *Discovery of the Child*. (1948; New York: Ballantine, 1967) 99.

<sup>2</sup> Maria Montessori, *Advanced Montessori Method – I*. (1918; Oxford: ABC-Clio, 1991) 160.



<sup>3</sup> Mario Montessori Jr., *Education for Human Development*. (1976; Oxford: ABC-Clio, 1992) 20.

<sup>4</sup> *Advanced Montessori Method – I* 159.





# February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <b>In Service Day</b> School Closed	2 Kindergarten Meeting 6:30 pm	3 <i>Frances's Birthday</i>	4	5	6 <b>Wine Tasting Event</b> 5-8 pm 
7	8	9 Parent Link Meeting 8:30 am <i>Megan's Birthday</i>	10	11	12 Spring Break Interim Care forms are due	13
14 	15 <b>Presidents' Day</b> School Closed	16	17	18	19	20 <i>Charlotte's Birthday</i>
21	22	23 <i>Elsa's Birthday</i>	24	25 Parent Conferences	26 Parent Conferences <i>Margy's Birthday</i>	27 <i>Janice's Birthday</i>
28						

## February

- ♥ 1<sup>st</sup> — In Service Day, School Closed.
- ♥ 2<sup>nd</sup> — Kindergarten Meeting, 6:30 pm.
- ♥ 6<sup>th</sup> — Wine Tasting Event, 5-8 pm.
- ♥ 9<sup>th</sup> — Parent Link Meeting, 8:30 am.
- ♥ 12<sup>th</sup> — Spring Break Interim Care Registration Forms Due.
- ♥ 15<sup>th</sup> — Presidents' Day, School Closed.
- ♥ 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> — Parent Conferences

## March

- ♥ 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> — Spring Break.
- ♥ 29<sup>th</sup>-April 7<sup>th</sup> — Spring Plant Fundraiser.
- ♥ 31<sup>st</sup> — Parent Ed Night, 7-8:30 pm.



# Spring Break

## Interim Care Registration

The Montessori Program is closed during Spring Break. Interim care is available. Interim care is separate from the annually-based Montessori tuition. Please fill out the form below to indicate your needs for care during this time.

**SPRING BREAK: March 22nd-26th**

**Registration Deadline for Spring Break: February 12th**

### Interim Care Daily Rate

8:30 - 1:00      \$30.00

8:30 - 3:00      \$35.00

7:30 - 6:00      \$40.00

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ My child will NOT require Interim Care.

\_\_\_\_ Please register my child for Interim Care.

Spring Break dates requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Schedule requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Due: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I will pay the full amount in one payment before the break deadline.

\_\_\_\_ I will make payments on the total amount due with full payment before break deadline.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_