

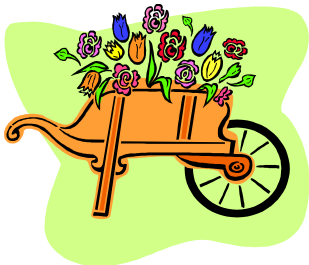
**Child's View
Montessori
School, Inc.**

Child's View News

Educating
for Peace

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Dove Room News	2
Crane Room News	2
Season for Peace	3
Calendar	4
Annual Plant Sale	4



**Happy
Birthday!**

12th - Seth
15th - Addison
25th - Charlie
29th - Addie

Parent Ed Night - March 31st

Mark your calendars to join us for a Parent Ed Night, 7-8:30 pm on Wednesday, March 31st. Please note this is a calendar change from the original date of March 2nd.

Looking for ways to more peacefully move your child through day to day life as well as transitions and challenges? We will be discussing Compassionate Discipline and

Emotional Development. When we discipline in a compassionate way, not only is it more effective, but we also help our children to develop an inner discipline, a strong sense of self and emotional intelligence.

Hope you'll join us!

Understanding Self-Discipline

Kids Talk™-An Award Winning Column
February 23, 2008

It has been said that the only true discipline is self-discipline. With self-discipline we take ownership of our own behavior. We take responsibility for our lives.

As we discipline our children we might consider that our goals should include these objectives of helping our children take ownership of their behavior and responsibility for their lives.

Too often discipline is delivered as punishment that creates feelings of intimidation, humiliation or embarrassment. If we want our children to learn to own their behavior and take responsibility we need to find a way to encourage our children, not discourage our children.

The word *discipline* has its roots in the word "disciple," meaning "pupil" in Latin. As parents we are the teachers, and our children are our students.

The relationship of teacher/student, parent/child and leader/disciple must be

based on respect and trust. Our children must know that they can learn from us in a safe, secure and consistent environment, free from intimidation, humiliation and embarrassment. When we react in a crisis-oriented manner trying to help our children learn to be responsible, respectful and resourceful, we often display the very behaviors that we wish to stop in our children.

If we are harsh in our reactions to situations, belittle our children or set arbitrary or inconsistent standards, our teaching can create an angry and frustrated response in our children, leading to distrust and disrespect.

Our challenge as leaders of our young disciples is to guide the whole child--body, mind, heart and spirit. We must model the self-discipline, the vision, the passion and the conscience we wish our children to develop.

Any worthy challenge requires mindfulness and compassion for a successful end. We need to be mindful of our thoughts and our actions. Do our ideas and deeds lead

(Continued on page 3)



Dove Room News

We sadly said goodbye to Jessica Garrett on February 19th. Each of us will miss her in our own ways, but we sent her off with well wishes. The children all contributed to Jessica's farewell gift. Tammy compiled a book of pages with the children's handprint, pictures, and goodbye messages. We presented this book to her with a pot of herbs and passed around a "happy rock." Our "happy rock" tradition entails a gathering where everyone gets to share happy thoughts, memories, and wishes as we pass a stone (or shell) around. The person leaving selects the stone, and keeps it, containing all our happy thoughts.

While we said goodbye to Jessica, we welcomed two new members to our school community. We're happy to have Nora and Annie join us. Nora is now our youngest classmate, and many children are joyfully volunteering their help as she learns her way around the classroom. Annie has taken Jessica's position and is pleased to be learning about how we do things, in addition to getting to know all the personalities in the classroom.



It is the season for peace, and we have been collecting pennies for peace. We have also been talking about how to practice peace each day. The children's ideas include, making cookies or muffins for others, offering flowers, making and giving a card, and helping someone clean up a mess. We have been practicing what to say if someone is in your way, how to put materials away so they are ready for the next person, how to sit safely in a gathering, how to stand in line without pushing others, calling each other by name, and what to do if someone is disturbing your work. These are things we do every day in the spirit of peace. We're also exploring positive conflict resolution and what to do when you need to find serenity from within (take a deep breath, find a quiet place to look at a book, do yoga, or trace the finger labyrinth).

May peace be with you!

Crane Room News

During February, the classroom has experienced many positive social interactions that reflect both the special time of year, which has included Valentine's Day, the Season for Non-Violence, and the Pennies for Peace Collection, as well as the ongoing presentation and practice of both old and new Grace and Courtesy Lessons.

During the days that led up to our Valentine's Day Celebration, we had an open-ended Valentine making activity out that integrated many of the expression activities that were already familiar to many of the children: collage, cutting, stenciling, bow/ribbon tying, etc. While I assumed that these particular products would be given to classmates and others, as one usually does with Valentine cards, the interest in gift giving spilled over into other expression activities. Many bracelets, pillows, and pictures were shared with classmates in early February. For the official exchange of Valentines cards, children were excited to take their turn choosing their special card and to show off the craftiness of their classmates.

To recognize the Season of Non-Violence, we have had casual conversations about topics related to peace

and kindness. The children have had representations of how to use the Peace Rug, the Thinking Corner for quiet contemplation and peaceful activities, and our Yoga Mat and Cards. We have also been remembering and practicing many Grace and Courtesy Lessons. It is always revealing to hear what Grace and Courtesy Lessons the children feel we need to add to our repertoire.

We have started to collect pennies in the Pennies for Peace jar. We have discussed what the pennies will be used for and where they will go. Many children have spent time counting the pennies. As the quantity continues to increase, the counting becomes ever more exciting. To prepare the pennies, we will be rolling them into fifty-cent cylinders, which has been an extremely popular work choice, combining the peace and mathematics curriculums.



(Continued from page 1)

our children to take ownership of their behavior and responsibility for their lives?

Can we bring our passion and our love to every aspect of this essential work of guiding our children?

Take a few minutes to think of the strengths of character you wish to instill in your children. How can you lead to those ends with self-discipline, vision, passion and conscience?

Positive psychologists have identified six types of core virtues that appear in all cultures--wisdom and knowledge, courage, humanity, justice, temperance and transcendence--comprised of twenty-four character strengths:

1. **Wisdom and Knowledge:** creativity, curiosity, open-mindedness, love of learning and perspective.
2. **Courage:** bravery, persistence, integrity and vitality.
3. **Humanity:** love, kindness and social intelligence.
4. **Justice:** citizenship, fairness and leadership.

5. **Temperance:** forgiveness and mercy, humility and modesty, prudence and self-regulation.
6. **Transcendence:** appreciation of beauty and excellence, gratitude, hope, humor and spirituality.

I encourage you to make a list of these twenty-four character strengths and brainstorm how you can help your children use these strengths to become responsible for their own behavior and their own lives using body, mind, heart and spirit. That is the nature of true self-discipline.

***Kids Talk™** is a column dealing with early childhood development issues written by Maren Stark Schmidt. Mrs. Schmidt founded a Montessori school and holds a Masters of Education from Loyola College in Maryland.*

She has over 25 years experience working with young children and holds teaching credentials from the Association Montessori Internationale. She is also Creative Director for a video-based reading series for children ages three to six, The Shining Light Reading Series. Contact her via e-mail at maren@shininglightreading.com.

Complete Collection of the Shining Light Reading Series Now Available on DVD. Visit www.shininglightreading.com for more information.

Season for Peace

The Season for Nonviolence continues and we are collecting pennies for Pennies for Peace. The pennies go toward the building of schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan making an incredible difference. "By participating in Pennies for Peace you make a positive impact on a global scale, one penny at a time. While a penny is virtually worthless, in impoverished countries a penny buys a pencil and opens the door to literacy. Join Pennies for Peace and give lasting hope to children half a world away!" Greg Mortenson founded the Central Asia Institute and has already built many schools. By understanding the culture and working with the people and tribal leaders, he has been successful in creating schools that remain safe from Taliban. With a primary focus on education for girls, literacy is spread to others in the family, better health is established and knowledge leading to more peaceful conditions is created. Go to: <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/01152010/watch2.html> for a very informative video which not only explains why Pennies for Peace is so successful, but also for an understanding of the people and culture of Afghanistan.

"Please have your child help to select non-perishable foods to bring for our food barrel. We will be collecting through March 18th ..."

Multnomah Village. Over the last 2 years, Neighborhood House Emergency Food Box program has increased 40% due to increased unemployment and economic downturn. We can help our neighbors in need through this program. Please have your child help to select non-perishable foods to bring for our food barrel. We will be collecting through March 18th and will deliver the barrel on the 19th. You can also help just by going out to eat! Visit local restaurants such as Baja Fresh, Pizza Schmizza, Salvador Molly's and others. By presenting a coupon a portion of the proceeds from your meal will be donated to Neighborhood House. Coupons are available at the Neighborhood House website: <http://www.nhpdx.org/SWHope/RestaurantCoupons.pdf>.

In the classroom the children are talking about ways to be peaceful and how to help others. They practice becoming peaceful inside through activities such as yoga and silence activities. They will be learning about Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Maria Montessori and how they helped work towards a peaceful world. And we are singing songs and continuing to learn how to solve problems through peaceful conflict resolution.

At the local level, we are participating in **NW Hope Feed the Hungry** through the Neighborhood House in

March & April Events

- March 22-26 — Spring Break.
- March 29 — Spring Plant Fundraiser begins.
- March 31 — Parent Ed Night, 7-8:30 pm.
- April 1 — Returning Student Enrollment Form due.
- April 6 — Parent Link, 8:30 am.
- April 9 — In Service Day — School Closed.
- April 15 — Summer Enrollment Form due.
- April 24 — Garden Party, 10 am - 2 pm

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Seth's Birthday</i>	13
14	15 <i>Addison's Birthday</i>	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 <i>Charlie's Birthday</i>	26	27
Spring Break - Montessori Program Closed Interim Care Only						
28	29 Plant Sale Begins <i>Addie's Birthday</i>	30	31 Parent Ed Night 7-8:30			

Annual Plant Sale

Our annual Spring Plant Sale begins the end of the month. Great plants to get your garden started or spruce up your landscaping.

Also wonderful planter boxes and hanging plants - just in time for Mother's Day. The sale will begin on March 29th. Orders are due by April 7th. Plants will be available for pick up after 1pm on May 6th.

