

Montessori Tenets: 3 Year Cycle

We have had an amazing first week of school! Each class has a new energy and tone, as the "Olders" from last year have moved to be the "Youngers" in the next.

Montessori programs are designed to be 2 and 3 year cycles that have children going from "Olders" to "Youngers" and then transition to the next program as "Youngers" again. This cycle seems to be especially obvious this year.

Toddler Program

We have many returning students this year. What a change from last year, the first year of the program, when everyone was new! We now have "older" toddlers feeling at home, and younger ones getting settled in smoothly.

Children's House

With the Olders from last year having moved-up, we have new leaders stepping into their shoes with an impressive sense of seriousness and responsibility. One mother shared her son's enthusiasm for starting his year as an Older by saying "This year I am going to be a good role model". It is going to be a great year!

Lower Elementary

The new Youngers have moved from being the "king of the hill" in the Children's House, to seeing a whole new world of expectations and growth ahead of them. Our Olders are learning teaching skills and patience in working with students who now seem much younger in comparison with their new older status. Youngers show intense curiosity and inspiration about what they will be learning as they observe older students. Add to this the new interest in working together in groups, sharing discovery and knowledge, one can understand and expect a busy hum of excitement in this new group!

Upper Elementary

This year's group has a nice distribution of ages, and boys to girls. With our Olders stepping into their new leadership roles, this year's class is settling in to a new dynamic with many students finding room for their voice as they step further out into the world.

Middle School

The class dynamic is off to a great start. The group of 7th graders, although big in numbers, size, energy, and personality, are stepping up to the increased expectations for community and academics as they cross the driveway. The new 8th graders are

leading the way through example and guidance. The stage is set for the work of the adolescent, a time of tremendous growth and boundless energy.

There is a reason we go from Olders back to Youngers in each cycle transition. Children grow in confidence spending three years in a program, feeling at home and in control. Then, they take that confidence to a new arena and use it to grow at the next level. In their new environment they have new leaders who teach, model and inspire new growth.

We have seen that this week in every program!

For more information on the multi-age progression and other Montessori principles please take a look at "Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius" by Angeline Stoll Lillard. This and other Montessori books are available from the school. Let me know if you'd like to borrow one!

September 4, 2015