

THE VINE

The Monthly Newsletter for Midtown Montessori Academy

TODAY'S EDITION

Upcoming Closures

OCT. 14 - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

NOV. 3 - EARLY RELEASE

NOV. 4 - FULL DAY CLOSURE

Important Dates

MONTESSORI MATH JOURNEY

9/29 @ 4:30 PM

DETAILS IN NEWSLETTER

FALL PICTURE DAY

10/3 & 10/4 & 10/5 SLOAN'S LAKE

10/6 MIDTOWN

WORLD FOOD FESTIVAL

MIDTOWN 10/10 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

SLOAN'S LAKE 10/12 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

MMA SPIRIT DAY: SPORTS DAY

10/13

OPEN HOUSE AND FALL FESTIVAL

10/22

OPEN HOUSE 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

FALL FESTIVAL 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

BRING YOUR PARENT TO WORK NIGHT

(ELEMENTARY ONLY)

10/27

4:30 - 6:00 PM

2022-2023 Calendars

SCHOOL CALENDAR - [CLICK HERE](#)

CATERING MENU - [CLICK HERE](#)



"Fall"ing in Love with Learning!

BY MIDTOWN MONTESSORI ACADEMY

Students here at Midtown Montessori Academy have been settling in beautifully to the new school year and have already begun diving into topics of interest, art and music projects, and making new friendships in their classrooms. It's incredible to see how quickly we have been able to re-normalize following the arrival of new friends and return of existing students from Summer Break!

We had a fantastic time at our Sloan's Lake International Peace Day ceremony. We thank everyone who took time out of their day to join us in the celebration. Peace education is the foundation of the Montessori pedagogy and we appreciate that your presence continues to model to our students that the bond between home and school is important!

MMA is heading into a busy season of events and activities for parents and families. We hope that you are able to join us for all of the upcoming fun!

As the weather begins to cool, we kindly ask that all children arrive to school each day prepared for time outdoors with a jacket and hat (if needed).

We kindly ask that parents and guardians read this newsletter in its entirety to best understand all updates and information.



HERO Kid Sports Camps and Clubs

AN INTRODUCTION TO TEAM SPORTS

Are you ready to kick off our early childhood extracurricular programs? We certainly are! What better way to celebrate the new season than to enroll in one of the HERO Kid Sports camps offered here at MMA?

This year, MMA is partnering with HERO to provide a variety of classes customized to meet both the needs of MMA students and their parents! From day camps to weekly classes, they have it covered. Details of these programs can be found below!

AFTER SCHOOL

1-DAY CAMPS

WEEKLY CAMPS

8-week seasons
 Thursdays @ Sloan's Lake
 Fall (9/29 - 11/17)
 Winter (1/12 - 3/2)
 Spring (3/16 - 5/11)

Ages 2 - 3 (30 minute class)
 \$144

Ages 4 - 6 (45 minute class)
 \$160

1-Day Camps on School Closures

10/14
 11/4
 1/16
 2/17 & 2/20
 3/10
 4/14
 5/25 & 5/26

Ages 2/3*: 9:00-11:30 (\$45)
 Ages 4-6 & 7-10: 9a-3p (\$95)
 Must be toilet independent

3 or 5 Day Camps
 for Weeklong School Closures

12/19/2022 - 12/23/2022

Ages 2/3*: 9:00a - 11:30a
 Ages 4-6 & 7-10: 9:00a -3:00p
 Must be toilet independent

Half Day | M-W: \$135 M-F: \$225
 Full Day | M-W: \$285 M-F \$475

Not sure HERO is for your child? Attend a POP-UP Class to try it out on October 8th!
 Ages 2-5 | 10:00a-10:45a | \$20
 Ages 6-10 | 11:00a-11:45a | \$20

Questions? Email CoachMcKinzie@HEROKidSports.com or call/text 720-316-8139

Register Today



EXTRA, EXTRA!



Montessori Math Journey

THE ACADEMIC JOURNEY PRIMARY - 6TH GRADE

MMA invites all MMA parents/guardians to join us for an evening of enlightenment as our Primary and Elementary Guides illustrate the journey of a Montessori student from Primary (3 years old) to 6th grade! This unique event is held once annually and will help parents understand how curriculum is presented and how gifted students have the opportunity to excel in these incredible classrooms. This event will be held Thursday, September 29th from 4:30-6:00 pm at our Sloan's Lake campus. All MMA parents curious about the future of their child's education at MMA are welcome to attend. Childcare will be provided at MMA-SL for those needing care.

Open House & Fall Festival

JOIN US FOR A MORNING OF FUN!

The MMA PTO is thrilled to be kicking off a fantastic year of Community Events. They will start the year with an Open House & Fall Festival for all perspective and currently enrolled families. This event will take place at our Sloan's Lake Campus SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22nd! The Open House will run from 9:30a-10:30a, and will provide an opportunity to tour our Sloan's Lake campus. Meanwhile the Fall Festival will run from 10:00a-1:00pm, boasting games, activities, and snacks for children and parents alike! This is a great opportunity to network with existing parents, as well as bring friends and family to see where your child attends school each day!



T-Shirt Orders

READY FOR A GREAT YEAR!

At the start of the school year, parents were invited to order MMA uniform T-shirts at our Meet the Teacher BBQ and Back to School Night! These T-shirts have been delivered to MMA and all parents have been invoiced (via ELV) for their orders, if payment was not provided at the time of the order. Please note that your ELV Ledgers for this month may reflect this charge. All shirts have been sorted and will be sent home in children's backpacks today! Please check your child's backpack for you family's shirts/sweatshirts, if applicable! If you missed this round of t-shirt orders, never fear! Additional opportunities to order will come available later this semester!

CHILDCARE CAMPS

HOLIDAY CHILDCARE CAMPS AT MMA

Midtown Montessori Academy follows a traditional school calendar, complete with the following school breaks: Fall Break, Winter Break, and Spring Break. While the school is closed for these weeks, Childcare Camps are offered for families needing care during these breaks from school at a cost of \$50/day.

Childcare camps offered here at MMA run from 8:00 am to 5:00* pm. No extended hours are offered. The cost and date of these camps vary according to the length of camp, as follows:

Fall Break (November 21, 22, 23): \$150
Winter Break (December 27, 28, 29, 30): \$200
Spring Break
Midtown Campus (March 20, 21, 22, 23, 24): \$250
Sloan's Lake Campus (March 27, 28, 29, 30, 31): \$250

Attendance is only available to those who register and are granted an enrollment spot. No drop-in days or prorated attendance days are considered. These camps are staffed by MMA Assistant Teachers and Community Floats.

Registration for these camps is available on a first-come, first-served basis. A non-refundable registration deposit of \$100 is due for each camp a child registers for. The remaining balance will be due with the invoice proceeding camp attendance.

Registration for Fall Break and Winter Break closes on 10/15/2022.

Registration for Spring Break closes on 12/31/2022.



FALL CAMP
11/21/22 - 11/23/22
sign up



WINTER CAMP
12/27/22 - 12/30/22
sign up



SPRING CAMP
MT: 3/20/23 - 3/24/23
SL&BP: 3/27/23 - 3/31/23
sign up





"The child
is both
a hope
and
a promise
for
mankind"

Maria Montessori
1870-1952

Weather Delays & Closing

WHERE TO GET THE INFORMATION!

With the anticipated winter weather ahead of us, we thought it would be beneficial to outline our Weather Delay and School Closing Policy. This information, along with other emergency closing information, can be found in our Parent Handbook .

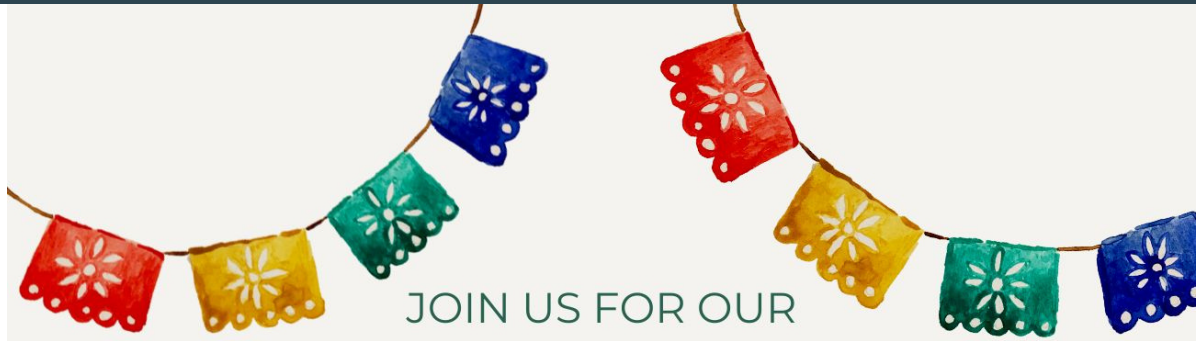
Each MMA campus aligns with their Public School District when it comes to changes in programming due to weather. This includes school closures, delayed starts, and early departures. To be sure of the school's status concerning closure, listen to KOA radio on AM 850, watch for updates on the School District's Facebook/Twitter/Websites, or check Channel 9 News. In the event of inclement weather, please refer to the guidelines below for MMA programming.

Midtown Campus | Mapleton Public Schools
Sloan's Lake & Berkeley Park Campus | Denver Public Schools

- **DELAYED START:** If the School District calls a "delayed start" of any time, MMA classes will start at 9:30 AM. School doors will open at 9:15 AM for drop-off. Car Line may be used during this 15-minute window. No Before School Care will be provided.
- **EARLY RELEASE:** If the School District calls an "early release" of any time, MMA will end classes at 2:30 PM. Children must be picked up before 2:45 PM.
- **NO AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING:** If the School District cancels after school programs, MMA will cancel After School Programming. All children must be picked up at the end of the school day (3:30 PM). Car Line will run as usual from 3:30 PM - 3:45 PM.
- **CLOSURE/INCLEMENT WEATHER DAY:** If the MMA campus' respective school district calls a snow day or close school buildings for the day - that MMA campus will close as well. No remote learning days will be utilized.

As we head into the colder months, please make sure you send your child to school with proper water-proof outside gear, including: gloves, a hat, snow-pants, a jacket, and boots!





JOIN US FOR OUR

World Food Festival



Midtown Montessori Academy will be hosting our third annual World Food Festival. There will not be a presentation at this event, but instead, we will spend time getting to know each family a little bit better through introductions and learning about all of the cultures that make MMA so amazing!

We would like to encourage families to choose a dish that represents their child's heritage or family! This event is a wonderful way to spend time with your child talking about where they came from, while choosing decorations and a picture to go with your dish. Please see examples on the backside of this flyer!

Please RSVP via the QR CODE below!

Midtown

OCTOBER 10th 2022

4:30pm - 6:00pm

**@ THE MT SHED
1675 W 67th Ave.
Denver, CO 80221**

Sloan's Lake

OCTOBER 12th 2022

4:30pm - 6:00pm

**@ THE SL GYM
3480 Ames Street
Wheat Ridge CO 80212**



RSVP HERE

CHILDCARE IS NOT PROVIDED FOR THIS EVENT.

QUESTIONS? Please email: hello@midtownmontessori.org

IN THE KNOW!



Fall Picture Day

MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME

MMA is thrilled to be hosting Fall Picture Day across all of our campuses. Photographer Jenny Folman has been secured for these portrait sessions. Children have been asked to wear their "uniform best," for fall photos, as MMA will be issuing the first annual MMA yearbook this spring. Student's fall photos will be used for this publication. Spring photos will provide students an opportunity to wear a more personalized outfit. We appreciate your help in ensuring all students are prepared for their fall pictures!

Sloan's Lake Picture Days: October 3, 4, and 5
Midtown Picture Day: October 6

Individual and class schedules will be sent the week prior.

Parent Directory

GET CONNECTED

MMA encourages parents to get involved in their child's education. Volunteering at school events, chatting with your child about their day, joining the MMA PTO, or stopping by and saying a quick hello to admin are just a few ways to "jump in!" Parents can also get involved and show your child you value their education by facilitating social events with school friends outside of school! Contacting other MMA parents is easy through Transparent Classroom! Simply navigate to the www.transparentclassroom.com on ad desktop/laptop computer and log in! From there, you will be able to access your child's class directory and any information parents have elected to share!



Parent-Teacher Conferences

A TIME TO SET GOALS AND TOUCH BASE!

Each year, MMA faculty facilitate two Parent-Teacher Conference sessions. These brief meetings are incredibly important for students, educators, and parents! These meetings provide an opportunity for progress and classroom happenings to be discussed, as well as a dedicated time for parents to ask questions about the school and classroom. Conferences are hosted in your child's classroom.

Fall 2022 Parent-Teacher Conferences

11/3 - EARLY RELEASE

Classes end @ 2:30p | Pick-Up/Car-Line 2:30p - 3:00p

Conferences 4:00p - 6:00p

11/4 - SCHOOL CLOSED

Conferences 8:00a - 5:00p

A 5-YEAR PLAN

BUILDING A LEGACY

As the pandemic has come to a close, we have seen many shifts in our school culture.

Parents are eager (yet hesitant) to rejoin busy social schedules, students are reacclimating to age-appropriate activities, school faculty have been able to shift focus from constantly changing guidelines and requirements back to our students/parent/faculty community, and it seems we are all able to breathe a little easier. While this season has been a delight,

MMA administration, in line with the Montessori pedagogy, has been working tirelessly to take this time to be self-reflective and evaluate all aspects of the school. We have done so with the goal of making necessary changes to ensure our school's continued success for years to come. We have looked at each relationship, parents/school - student/school - faculty/school, and identified areas of strength, as well as areas for growth. We kicked off this season of reflection by evaluating our processes. From HR to Student Enrollment, the MMA admin team has been spending time ensuring that our policies, publications, and practices are up-to-date and meet the rigorous standards we have set for ourselves. We have increased our communication, have adjusted some of our software usage, and have taken a look at our internal workings when it comes to planning, identifying work overlap, and productivity. It's been an incredibly valuable time for us and we hope that all MMA families will benefit from our tweaks and adjustments.

Meanwhile, The MMA PTO has been created to strengthen the bond of our parents, while supporting the teachers in their cosmic task of educating children. This organization will provide parents with opportunities to build meaningful relationship and community. Social events, volunteer opportunities, and classroom support are all things an MMA parents can expect from the PTO.

In reflecting on the student/school relationship, we have finally found ourselves with the time needed to meet with our faculty on a regular (and predictable) bases. This allows meeting participants to come prepared for a fruitful discussion and yields more productive outcomes during these meeting times. We have identified moments to celebrate, as well as times in the day that needed more support to ensure each child's needs are met. One of the largest celebrations we have all witnessed this year has been the incredibly rapid "normalization" of our transitioning students. It has been amazing to see these little communities thriving so early in the year. Our teacher planning week in August was an incredibly beneficial time to our faculty, as they were able to take much needed time to inventory their classroom materials. Orders placed during that week are starting to arrive and materials will begin to make their way onto the MMA shelves over the next several weeks. We know time away from school can be difficult to manage, but we want to thank you for your partnership in ensuring our teachers have adequate time to create the "Prepared Environment" required in an authentic Montessori community.

During these meetings, we have also discussed in inner school workings that impact both students and educators. While the pandemic provided staffing challenges for all schools, we are finally seeing the "light at the end of the tunnel." With staff and student attendance becoming more regular, we gave the Montessori Guides an opportunity to share their thoughts on our faculty roster, as it impacts their roles and the students. Unanimously, our faculty of Montessori educators voiced a desire for more "Montessori Trained" educators in our school. They expressed that a collaborative relationship with multiple leads would be their "dream job," rather than pods of Leads and Assistants. At our Sloan's Lake campus, a request was made that teams of 4 be brought down to teams of 3, while teams of 3 be brought down to teams of 2, with more community floats to support. They discussed that smaller teams will create more cohesive educating units and ensuring every member is trained equally so that knowledge is more evenly disbursed. This would also provide an opportunity for additional compensation for our Assistant Teachers, who are vital to the success of our school.

As we evaluated the feasibility of this dream and impact of this drastic change, teachers worked together to create a 5-year goal for our school. The entire MMA faculty has come together to begin the long process of becoming the only complete Montessori certified school in the area. In 5 years time, MMA is aspiring to have 100% Montessori Trained (or in training) faculty. This goal will require dedication, tenacity, and teamwork. All things our faculty reminded each other as they wrote out "We can do hard things!" While this is a huge financial undertaking for the school, we feel the benefits to students and staff overwhelmingly tip the scales in favor of this change. MMA is THRILLED to announce that our first cohort of Montessori trainees are set to begin their 18-month certifications in October!



PTO CORNER

A monthly update from the MMA PTO

Recently, MMA PTO President, Kristin Garrett, sent a school-wide email to parents and faculty, updating all on the work accomplished by the PTO over the summer. Meeting minutes were sent, along side the presentation that was presented during their recent meeting. We hope you enjoyed reading her updates!

The goal of the PTO is to create a stronger community among for students, parents, and faculty! They hope to accomplish this goal by:

- Providing social opportunities for families to get connected through events community gatherings
- Showing their appreciation for teachers by providing volunteers to support classroom needs, showering teachers with "thank you" tokens, and facilitating classroom/parent relationships through meaningful classroom events.
- Identifying areas of student life or experiences that could be enhanced

The PTO has many exciting events on the horizon for the entire MMA community, but they need your help to make their dreams a reality. The first goal of the MMA PTO is to host a successful fundraising event with the Fall Festival! While they are asking for donations from different organizations to make the event a success, the start up cost of hosting a quality event are first on the agenda.

The PTO is thrilled to report that they received their Non-Profit status from the State earlier this semester. While they can gladly accept donations via "Donor Box," they have also identified a few easy fundraising opportunities that can be easily integrated into every families "work flow" with little to no monetary cost to MMA families through a partnership with Mabels Labels and AmazonSmiles. Please find information on these programs below!

Donor Box
AN EASY WAY TO GIVE



WE HAVE A "KICK-OFF" CAMPAIGN WHERE ANYONE CAN DONATE NOW TO THE PTO. WE ARE ABLE TO ACCEPT CARD, ACH, PAYPAL AND VENMO.

HOW DOES AMAZONSMILE WORK?

WHEN FIRST VISITING AMAZONSMILE, CUSTOMERS ARE PROMPTED TO SELECT A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION FROM OVER ONE MILLION ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS. IN ORDER TO BROWSE OR SHOP AT AMAZONSMILE, CUSTOMERS MUST FIRST SELECT A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION. FOR ELIGIBLE PURCHASES AT AMAZONSMILE, THE AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION WILL DONATE 0.5% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE TO THE CUSTOMER'S SELECTED CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.

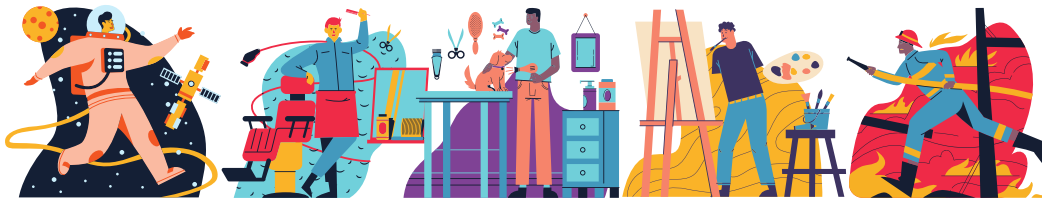
amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



HOW DO I SUPPORT THE MMA PTO THROUGH MABELS LABELS?

WHEN PURCHASING LABELS FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S ITEMS, YOU CAN LINK IT TO THE MMA PTO (WHEAT RIDGE) ORGANIZATION. WE WILL GET A KICK BACK ON ANY PURCHASES TO HELP US RAISE PTO FUNDS.





Around the Community

The who, what, where around Denver!

SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



THE RADIATOR

Just 10 minutes from MMA both campuses, this kid friendly patio-bar, owned by an MMA family, is just the spot to kickback and unwind while your children enjoy some playtime on the playground. A new kid's menu has just been launched!

2139 W 44th Ave, Denver CO 80221



1



HOPPER HOLLOW PARK
6351 W 44TH AVE
WHEAT RIDGE, CO 80033

2



WESTMINSTER STATION
NATURE PLAY PARK
R0100012
DENVER, CO 80221

3



PACO SANCHEZ PARK
3240 W 14TH AVE
DENVER, CO 80204

Weekend Vibes

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY
STORY TIME & LITTLE UNIVERSITY
SATURDAYS

DENVER BOTANICAL GARDENS
OPEN-ENDED CRAFTING CLASS
SUNDAYS 1:00 PM

CORN MAZE @ CHATFIELD FARMS
FRI/SAT/SUN
SEPT. 16 - OCT. 30