



# Monthly NEWS

## *The Lynd and Loveless Lowdown: October Edition*

### *A Montessori Classroom!*

You may walk into a Montessori classroom and can tell that somethings look like any school room but also notice some distinct differences. In our St. Agatha Montessori Preschool classrooms, we strive to use the Montessori materials that work so well across the curriculum, and the philosophy developed by Maria Montessori to teach our children to their fullest potential.

### *Observe our differences!*

When you visit the classroom, take a few minutes and observe the students. See if you can spot the differences in work choices, skills, vocabulary and look for students helping each other in their daily tasks. It is fun to observe imitation as a big part of learning.

### *What is different about our classroom versus a traditional classroom?*

One thing you might notice right away is there are mixed ages of children in the classroom. Multi-age groupings allow us to teach each child where they are, and shift focus from age-based comparisons to individual growth in our teaching. Having a student for 2 or 3 years allows us to develop long term relationships with the students and their families. A student may be an early reader but still needs lots of work with fine motor to help get their writing skills ready. Having a time frame of 2 or 3 years allows us to meet the needs of each child. The older students act as mentors in leading by example how the classroom operates. They also become leaders and teach social skills like patience and empathy that the younger students have not mastered yet. Although the environment is carefully set up by the teacher, students care for the classroom and help clean each day. Older students may give lessons on how to roll work rugs, where to put materials back on the correct shelf, how to push in chairs, and how to come quietly to circle...this one sometimes takes a long time to master.