



Primary Montessori Newsletter

September 2015

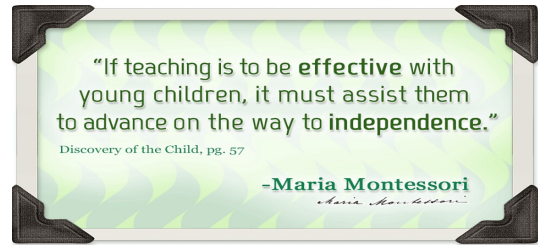
WELCOME to the 2015-2016 school year at Hoffman Boston Elementary School.

I am Noemi Carmack, the new primary Montessori teacher of the classroom in which your child has been placed. I graduated from Centro Escolar University, Manila, Philippines with a Bachelors Degree in Music Education. I attended the Washington Montessori Institute, Washington D.C., where I took both the Primary and Elementary Montessori Training Courses followed by a Masters Degree in Education from Loyola University, Md. My interest in developing my leadership skills prompted me to earn a Post Grad Certificate Degree in Administration and Supervision from Johns Hopkins University and Montessori Leadership Training from the Princeton Center for Teacher Education, Princeton, NJ. I have been a Montessori teacher both in the primary and lower elementary levels for more than 25 years.

I am looking forward to the great opportunity of working with all of you. I want to thank everyone in advance for your cooperation and support with the following requests that pertain to you child's needs during the academic year.

ARRIVAL

I appreciate your cooperation and support in reinforcing the importance of being on time for school. Our day begins promptly at 9:00 a.m., often with the teacher reading a book to the group. Arriving late often distracts the young members of our class as well as disrupts the ongoing activity being done by the entire group. If your child arrives after 9:10, he/she needs to obtain a tardy slip from the office before entering the classroom.



DISMISSAL

If you plan on picking up your child before dismissal time, I would appreciate getting a note, an email or a phone call in advance so I can adjust your child's afternoon routine. During the school year, if there is a change in your child's dismissal arrangement, it will be helpful to us to have a note with the following information: name of the person picking up your child and a phone number to call so we can eliminate confusion in the afternoon.

FYI: WE WILL NOT RELEASE YOUR CHILD TO SOMEONE WE HAVEN'T MET WITHOUT A PROPER ID.

CLOTHING

ALL children must have a complete set of weather appropriate change of clothing kept in a labeled bag. Accidents can and do happen during class or rest periods. Also, all personal items must be labeled before sending them to school.



SNACK

There is a \$5.00 snack/activity fee for each child. A light, healthy snack will be provided daily in the classroom. If you wish to write a check, please make it out to Hoffman-Boston Elementary School (you can either pay in one check, monthly or however works best for you). Please let me know if your child has food allergies.

REST/QUIET TIME

Three and four year olds have rest/quiet time in the afternoon. They need to bring a **small blanket or a towel** to be used during rest/quiet time. Comfortable mats are provided for each child.

SCHOOL-HOME COMMUNICATIONS

While I would like to talk to you during arrival and dismissal times, it is impossible to do justice to a conversation and to the children. As your child's teacher, I would like to know ASAP if you have a pressing concern or issue regarding school and/or feel there is a need for us to have an early conference after your child has been in my class for a month or so (I will do likewise). I can always be reached by sending in a note in your child's backpack (**letting your child know about it helps!**), emailing me at noemi.carmack@apsva.us before 8:00 a.m. and/or by leaving a message with the office. I will try to return your call and/or respond to your email as soon as possible. If we don't have an appointment set-up, please understand that I may not be available.

BACKPACKS

Please make sure your child carries his/her belongings to school in a labeled backpack. Also, make it a point to check your child's backpack regularly for notes and papers that need to be seen by you.

VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to share with the class something you enjoy doing as a hobby, a musical instrument and/or something unique to your culture, we would very much enjoy having you come in to the classroom. Just call me at school to arrange for a visit sometime during the year. Volunteers are also needed for field trips, holiday activities and room parents. If you think you may have any time to help us, please let me know.



BIRTHDAYS

One of the most exciting days of the year for your child is his/her birthday. Please let me know in advance (**a weeks notice is preferred**) if you plan on celebrating your child's birthday with the class. If you choose to send in a special snack, we would like to avoid heavily sugared treats.

LUNCH

If your child is bringing his/her lunch to school, please try to pack smaller portions of

lunch food in your child's lunch bag. (e.g. half a sandwich, cut-up fruits, or a couple of carrots to name a few.) Please try not to pack too many sweets and chips in your child's lunches.

RULES OF THE COMMUNITY



We have two simple rules in our class to remember:

No one may hurt another person's body and/or feelings.

No one may harm the materials in the environment.

PARENTS PEDAGOGICAL DISCOVERY ACTIVITIES (PPDA)

During the year, I will be offering "Parent Information Sessions." These sessions will be an opportunity for me to share much of the Montessori philosophy with you. General information and short Montessori articles will be shared at these meetings. Individual conferences are not to be held at these times. Schedule is forth coming.

Please do not have your child bring toys, stickers, bracelets, watches, necklaces and action figures to class. They distract children during work time and dismissal time. In addition, they tend to cause ownership problems among the young members of the class. If your child insists on having a small, cuddly buddy for rest time, it will be kept in his/her backpack during work period and can only be taken out during rest period.

Lastly, I greatly appreciate any information I need to know about your child so I am able to assist in any way I can with his/her developmental needs.

Thank you in advance for your support, cooperation and help.

Sincerely,
Noemi Carmack