



April Newsletter

Montessori Day Schools

Mountainside Campus

April 8, 2011

Ten Little Words

One of the 4 core areas of the Montessori curriculum is that of Practical Life, which Montessori teachers know to be foundational for all other areas of learning. (The 4 core areas are Practical Life, Sensorial, Language, and Math.) And one of the areas within Practical Life is called 'Grace and Courtesy' – an area whose lessons are perhaps more important now than in Dr. Montessori's lifetime. As a current researcher, Dr. JoAnn Deak put it, "Research indicates that *how we get along with others* pretty well determines our success in life."

Being savvy in the social graces is called emotional or social intelligence. Emotional awareness and interpersonal skills are seen as significant factors in successful relationships of all kinds. Knowing the right word to say at the right time to the right person--well, wouldn't that be fabulous?

Stephen Covey in *The 8th Habit* says that when he visits with children, he encourages them to learn ten words, or four phrases, that will help guarantee that, when these words are used in a desire to be of service to others, they'll get what they want from other people.

Covey's four phrases are **"please," "thank you," "I love you,"** and **"how may I help?"**

Ten amazing words. When we use these words, the rough edges of a situation seem to go smooth.

Next time you are in line at the grocery store or fast food restaurant, notice how many people say "please" and "thank you," "how can I help," and "I appreciate you" (which is a way to say I love you to those who need it but whom we might not know *that* well).

There are times we might be lucky enough to hear all four phrases at once. Who knows what could happen if, as an entire community, we practice these words consistently. Let's do.

Dr. Deak's website: www.deakgroup.com

Article mid-section from *Kids Talk News*.

Calendar Notes for April

LOOKING BACK!

Hope everyone had a fun and relaxing SPRING BREAK!

LOOKING AHEAD!

April 11th -21st --- (Two Weeks) **TESTING (AIMS, TerraNova etc.)**

April 22nd (Friday)—Spring Holiday---**SCHOOL CLOSED**—NO EXTENDED CARE

ATTENTION PARENTS!



MDS Spring Fling/Talent Show

is coming soon!

On the evening of **May 6th**, we will have an **ice cream social** beginning at 5:30pm.

The **Talent Show** will begin at 6pm.

There will be a **silent auction**.

Each classroom will collect items to fill two theme baskets.

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside of the office.

We are also looking for other items to add to our silent auction.

If you have anything to donate, please contact Ms. Keller.

We will need **volunteers** for this event.

You can find that sign-up sheet on the same bulletin board.

We hope to see you all there!!

Calling all parent volunteers!

Our next MDS Parent Committee meeting is April 25th (Monday) 6:00-7:00pm

Get involved in one of our Parent Committee "Support Teams"

-Garden Project: Katie @ kt61180@yahoo.com

-MDS Yearbook: Alina @ cabezas.alina@gmail.com

-Classroom parents: Michelle @ mjustin@aol.com

-Spring Auction: Eileen @ emkinaz@hotmail.com

-Book Fair: Jennifer @ jdowning@mdpssc.org

-Curricular Enhancement @ carriewotr@hotmail.com

-Newsletter: Tammy @ rhodewheel@cox.net

WE NEED YOU!

Teacher Corner

Ms. Dee is a happy new mother! The family is doing well and Ms. Dee has chosen to be a stay-at-home Mother for the time being. You are missed!
-----We are so happy for you!



*Lydia Lorraine was born on
Feb. 4th 2011 at 6:24 PM.*

She weighed 7 pounds and 15.2 ounces.



She was 19 1/2 inches long.

Student Corner

Students from SE II write about their studies of Egypt...



The Nile River

The Nile River is the longest river in Africa and the world. The length of the Nile is approximately 4,160 miles. The source of the Nile is Lake Victoria. Two rivers meet to make up the Nile River, they are the White Nile and the Blue Nile.

Every year heavy summer rains come in the Ethiopian highlands, sent an overflow of water that flooded the banks of the Nile. When the deluge went down it left compact rich mud (black silt) which was excellent soil to plant seeds in after it had been plowed.

There once was an Egyptian family that dwelled by the Nile River. The family had jobs to do every day. The father was a fisherman he caught fish for the whole family. The Mother gathered water to preserve it for the gloomier days. She also used the water for cooking, cleaning, and drinking. The kids also had a job they would either help their father fish or gather water with their mother or they would play with their friends. When the annual flood came the father and kids help the mother collect the black silt. They need the silt to grow the crops in rich soil. The Nile River is important in Egyptian life.

4th By Jocelyn Longo, S.E. II

Cleopatra the pharaoh 3/20/11

Cleopatra was the last pharaoh of Egypt. She is famous in Western culture because of her alleged affairs with Julius Caesar and Marc Antony, and these affairs tend to be the focal points of biographies featuring Cleopatra. However, she was also beautiful, smart, and passionately devoted to Egypt's wellbeing.

The well educated and savvy woman fought hard for Egypt during her lifetime, although she ultimately failed to secure freedom from Rome. These traits are sometimes forgotten when Cleopatra is discussed, but they provide vital clues into her life and ultimate death.

By Hazel Mendoza¹⁶ 5 grade
Senior elementary II

Students in SE I write about their Girl Scout event...

The Girl Scout troop went to Bethesda Gardens (Senior Adult Center). We went Sat. January 9th at 9:00 a.m. We drove there with our parents and all of us met there. Our Girl Scout troop 2526 went there. We met a nice lady Myrtle. Myrtle was in a troop called 4H. Myrtle's daughter was a Girl Scout. Myrtle's daughter was in troop 56. After talking to the residents, we went outside and picked up trash outside their community and picked up pieces of plastic bags and cups. We picked up pieces of old pipes and paper and cigarette butts. We also picked up milk cartons.

At the Bethesda Gardens we watched "The Golden Eaglet". This was a silent movie about the history of Girl Scouts. Juliet Gordon Lowe invented Girl Scouts. Girl Scouts was invented in 1912.

By:
Chloe, Megan, Jacky, Sarah & Brianna

Who's Who at Montessori Day School?

Pat Freeman

My hometown is London, England, where I was born and raised. I love London; it is a vibrant, diverse city full of history and culture, also known for its wonderful theater. Alas, also known for its not so wonderful weather, but then nothing is perfect. I saw London reduced to rubble by the bombing during the war years. My mother and I survived that together and she went on to live to be 103. I plan to follow in her footsteps. I went to school in London and worked in London for several years prior to coming to the States.

My first impression of the States was driving across the Texas border and seeing more open empty space than I knew existed in the world. I never knew that rabbits could have ears as big as pancakes either. I eventually got over the culture shock and grew to love America and Americans. Prior to coming to Phoenix, I lived in Texas, Washington State, California and Illinois.

In my life before Montessori Day Schools I worked for the Federal Government for 25 years. About two months after I had retired from that career I was introduced to Peg by a mutual friend. To put it mildly my life has never been the same since. Before long I found myself being launched into a whole new world while insisting that I had no interest in working full-time any more. Let me warn you that Peg never takes no for an answer, and as they say, the rest is history.

I love the outdoors and I do a lot of walking and hiking with my Irish Golden Doodle, Chelsea. I also like to travel. Over the years I have seen much of Europe and have visited China, Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Hawaii and a few more places. I have strong ties to Southern Ireland where my father came from and where my sister made her home. The majority of my family now lives there – probably because my sister had 10 children. Her children and their off spring have actually populated the whole town. So I visit there frequently.

I have a son, a daughter, four grandsons and one great grandson. They all live here in Phoenix. My four grandsons all attended Montessori Day Schools. After graduating from here they have gone on to enjoy academic success, and are skillfully negotiating their way in the world, much of which I believe can be attributed to the priceless foundation they received here. Having seen my now grown “boys” thrive in the MDS environment and beyond, I am always happy to talk to any parent who is not sure whether their child would benefit from continuing on through our program.

My 15 years at MDS have been a wonderful journey giving me an opportunity to learn so many new things and to acquire new skills. I love our parents, their children and each new day that brings such diversity to this job. As I said I plan to follow in my mother's footsteps so hopefully I will be around for just a little bit longer.

Ms. Bev

I was born and raised in Topeka, Kansas. I have been married almost 38 years and we have one daughter who is married and lives here in Phoenix. I have had many jobs over the years and my husband and I had our own Company for 20 years until we retired in 2000. Now I find myself here at Montessori Day School as an assistant in the office. I have learned so much working side by side with Pat and absolutely adore her British wit. It is a pleasure to come to work every day and enjoy the beautiful grounds here at MDS.

"Announcing the 2nd Annual MidFirst Bank coin collecting contest!

Please send in to your classroom all your **spare change**.

The classroom with the most collected wins a pizza party!

MidFirst Bank will match all funds up to \$1000!

This means a Grand Total of \$2000 for this fundraiser!

Winner announced at the **SPRING FLING SHOW: Friday, May ...6th!"**

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PARENTS, PLEASE RATE US!

The Department of Education wants all parents with children in charter schools to rank their child's school. They are collecting data to look at funding (**very** important this year), compare charters with district schools, submit ratings to public and private agencies on the local and national level, etc.

The Department's numbering system is as follows, on a 10 point scale:

Excellent = 10, 9

Good = 8, 7, 6

Fair = 5, 4, 3

Poor = 2, 1

Are you satisfied with your child's educational experience?
Why or why not?

Do you feel that you have open communication with your teacher(s) and administrators?
Why or why not?

Do you have concerns regarding the MDS campus?

Do you have suggestions about how to improve the learning experience of our students?

Do you receive monthly MDS newsletters? Is the information helpful?
If so, why?

What would you like to see in the newsletter?

Please, CIRCLE ONE NUMBER, PROVIDE COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK & RETURN to the office by April 29th, 2011.

Thank you from all of us at MDS!