



# HAMPTON ROADS INTERNATIONAL MONTESSORI SCHOOL

*February 2022*

## February 2022 Dates to Remember

- **2/3—Parent Conferences**  
11:45 dismissal for AM and 3:00 students. Full day students in session
- **2/4—Parents Conferences -**  
No school for students
- **2/21—President’s Day—No school**
- **2/25—Half Day for all students and International Potluck at 5:30 PM**



# Toddler Community

## The Uninterrupted Work Cycle

*“When the children had completed an absorbing bit of work, they appeared rested and deeply pleased”. — Maria Montessori*

Children, after several months in a Montessori classroom, are able to choose their own work and focus on and finish their tasks.

This for toddlers can be anywhere from 1 ½ to 2 hours in length. In the Toddler Community, the work cycle starts at 8:30 am and can last until 9:45 am or 10:00 am. Many things happen during this time. Teachers are greeting children as they walk into the classroom. We are helping them with putting their lunchboxes away, taking jackets off, changing from shoes into slippers, toileting, and then choosing work. During this time, guides are instructing, giving one-on-one lessons, introducing new work, and doing observations. This is the most important part of your child’s day! During the work cycle, each child has the freedom to choose the work that is the most appealing or exciting for

them. This requires the room to be set up in the morning, looking clean, organized, and everything in its place. We take careful consideration into what would look pleasing to the child’s eye.



When a child is having difficulty, the guides are there to guide them towards a lesson or work that the guide feels is appropriate for the age and/or child’s ability. After choosing their work, they are to take it to the floor or table with a table mat or work rug. This is called their “Work Space”. This is to inform the other children that this particular work is being worked on by another student. They are to be

respectful of the work, walk around it, and not touch it. This teaches grace and courtesy, patience, and respect towards the materials and others. They may do all this on their own, unless they are having trouble balancing a tray or carrying too many things at one time. A guide may step in at this time to help or give verbal cues. There are times when the children are first learning that we exercise the “hand over hand” technique to help. During this time we also have “Circle Time”, where we sit together on the rug, sing songs, read books, and introduce new work by giving a group lesson.



All of this works beautifully and with ease and is where your child learns the most. This is the part of the day when the children know when to expect their friends and the guides can plan their small group lessons with confidence that they will have full participation without a distraction or an interruption. However, on the occasion when there is an interruption, the children can lose focus or concentration. For example, if the phone rings, a student is late, or if a guide is called away from the classroom. We try to minimize these distractions as much as possible to encourage success and develop the skills of concentration and focus. In the Montessori environment being at school for the work cycle is a critical component to providing the children with the best opportunity for learning.



## Children's House

It's been a busy new year . I hope everyone has begun the New Year happy and healthy. The month of December was so much fun. We enjoyed making a variety of decorations and crafts, as well as gifts for parents. The children really enjoyed using glitter, fake snow and of course lots of paint was involved. We learned about different holidays celebrated around the world and read



lots of books focusing on different cultures. The children love learning about others and their celebrations and traditions. All of the children were excited to jump right into their routine and eager to get to work when they. Returned from break. They enjoyed the snow day on the first week back and seemed to have big plans for it.



It feels like they all grew over the break, both in maturity and height! We were excited to start the new year off with lots of fun and new learning experiences. The classrooms are running smoothly and the children are working very hard. They have become focused and engaged in Language, Sensorial, Math and Practical Life lessons. Our older friends are eager to be the leaders and are helping younger children during the morning work cycle. In the afternoons, the older friends are engaged in much larger works. It is truly wonderful to see the older children lend a hand to the younger children and guide them.



Winter is here, and we are excited to explore all it has to offer. We will use this time to observe the bare trees and speak about the differences between fall and winter. We will talk about animals who are hibernating, migrating, and adapting. We will talk about how to properly dress to make sure every friend is as warm as possible during recess time. As we continue our learning and continue to do our best as a community to keep everyone happy, healthy and safe.

# Elementary

## Welcome Back!

January has been a busy month. We began the New Year with the Solar System, which led into the second great lesson, "Coming Of Life." The great lessons are a series of stories to spark the fire of curiosity surrounding science, history, communications, numbers, geography and more. These stories, along with key lessons, create a framework for further exploration throughout the year.

We began with the story "From Lava To Life." The timeline art work is stunning and great for discussions.

Children were introduced to the time line and were able to lay out prehistoric reptiles, amphibians, plant life, etc. that were present in the different time periods. This is a way for them to understand how things evolved through the years. We studied the Paleozoic Period, which means "old life". We then dove into the Cambrian Era , and children were able to explore this era in further detail.



The students are preparing beautiful presentations that they will give to their peers on what they have discovered in their research. These presentations allow them to practice their organizational skills, communication and speaking, as well as their writing skills. They also use their creative side to express themselves through the art involved in their presentation materials.



The second great lesson leads to the black strip, which introduces the children to how our planet and human life has evolved through methods surrounding architecture, transportation, etc . The clock of eras will continue to show the children the time line, incorporating the clock as an analogy of the timeline. We will continue to explore activities such as the history of days of the week, and months and the concept of time. Children will have opportunities to explore their curiosity through books and presentations.



I would like to express my appreciation for having such a lovely, diverse community of children in our elementary classroom. Our morning community time has matured into a wonderful ritual where we are all allowed to contribute with discussions and theories about topics that are being discussed. All of our children feel comfortable and confident to contribute towards the discussions. They enjoy problem-solving on issues as they arise. They understand that this is their classroom, and it is important for them to respect each others' thoughts, as well as their environment.