

# E.C. MONTESSORI & GRADE SCHOOL

SPRING 2011

*Every Child a Masterpiece*



## **E.C. MONTESSORI & GRADE SCHOOL**

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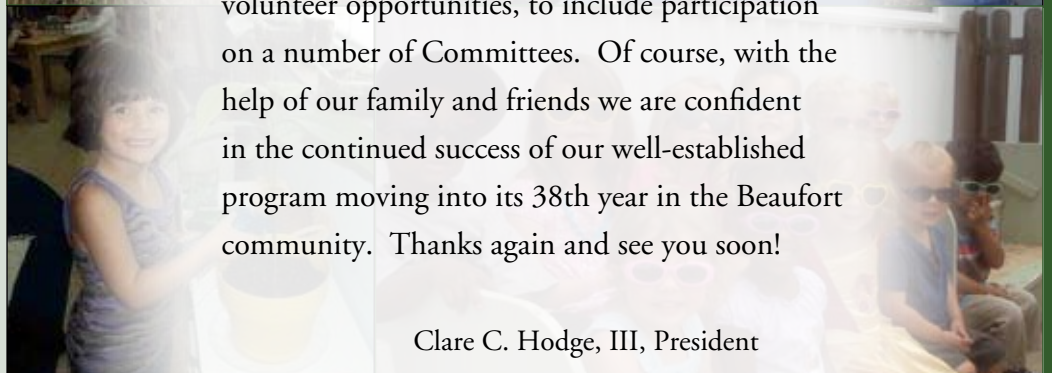
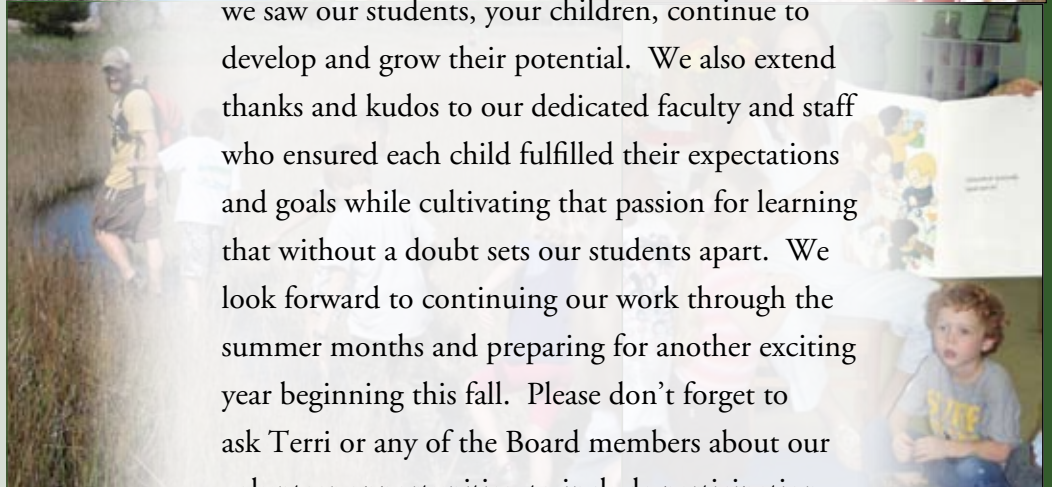
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On behalf of our Board members, please accept our thanks to all E.C. Montessori family and friends! We had another outstanding year in which we saw our students, your children, continue to develop and grow their potential. We also extend thanks and kudos to our dedicated faculty and staff who ensured each child fulfilled their expectations and goals while cultivating that passion for learning that without a doubt sets our students apart. We look forward to continuing our work through the summer months and preparing for another exciting year beginning this fall. Please don't forget to ask Terri or any of the Board members about our volunteer opportunities, to include participation on a number of Committees. Of course, with the help of our family and friends we are confident in the continued success of our well-established program moving into its 38th year in the Beaufort community. Thanks again and see you soon!

Clare C. Hodge, III, President

# NOTES FROM MRS. GRANNY

by Anne Pollizter

When both of my granddaughters entered Ms. Olive's class, I felt that I might need to become involved by volunteering in the classroom—teaching is my strong suit. Of course, the fact that I had originally hired Ms. Olive in the fall of 1991 contributed to this decision as well. I had felt a little like her American mom, helped her buy her first car, and get a driver's license, etc. Ms. Olive invited me to join in and when occasional visits didn't work out, I said, "give me a schedule."



So began every-other-Thursday visits for half an hour...we do sometimes run over in time now. We began with singing songs they all knew, like "Twinkle, twinkle" and "A, B, C, D ....". We (the children and I) like funny songs, and our repertoire includes "The Skunk Song," the two frog songs—"Gank, Goonk" and "Hankypank"—Seasonal favorites and others. I also began looking around my house and yard for things that might interest 3-5 year olds, like a rhinoceros beetle, a large sea shell, or a wood carving from Nepal. I also enjoy reading stories to them and like to choose books with great illustrations.

Two years ago, one of the four-year-olds began calling me Mrs. Granny. I liked it very much and that moniker has stuck with me. It gives me a new persona around the school and makes me feel at home again after my long absence. Needless to say, I often feel as though I get more out of our fun lessons than the children do and of course, I get to be with my granddaughters and Ms. Olive too.

# FROM THE "SPANISH CORNER"

## Desde la "Esquina Castellana"

by Isabel Goldvarg

With the end of the school year at hand, we have had lots of fun in Spanish class. We have danced, we have sung and clapped, and we have laughed. We learned tons of things in the process.

**Our toddlers:** They know the names of some members of the family, clothes and numbers up to 12! They love to count the Periquitos! They know their colors and how to say ¡Buenos días! ¡Buenas tardes! and ¡Buenas Noches! If you ask them ¿Cómo estás? They could answer that!

**Our primary kids and first graders:** Besides knowing the names of several family members, they know the difference between male and female figures in the family (i.e. El tío, la tía = the uncle, the aunt) and also how they would be called together (i.e. los abuelos= the grandparents). They can answer questions like ¿Cómo estás?(How are you?), ¿Cuántos años tienes? (How old are you?) and ¿Cómo te llamas? (What is your name?). They also know the colors of their clothing and the names of their clothes. They can answer: ¿De qué color es tu camisa or zapatos? (What color is your shirt or your shoes?). They count to 100 too! The children know the parts of our body and face. We are learning parts of the house and what to do with them (like open and close the door). They know many other things too!

**Our second graders:** Besides knowing all the things that first graders know, they also know how to use articles and nouns to make them male or female and plural or singular with the many forms of articles that "the" and "a/an" take in Spanish.

**Our Third – Sixth graders:** On top of tons of vocabulary from different units and knowing how to change articles and nouns, they have also learned personal pronouns and adjectives and how to use them. There is still more room for practice and now we are making sentences and stories with the use of the verb "to be" in the form of describing a "state of mind".

All of our kids have worked very hard to achieve their current knowledge and, while there is still room for improvement, they should be very proud of themselves. I am personally very proud of them.

As many of you know, this is a "Good bye!" to you and our beloved school. I will be leaving my duty as Spanish Teacher at the end of April. My husband Brad, and I will be delivering our second baby girl at the end of May; and between April and the delivery we have to prepare for our move to Japan, my Citizenship process, and all the health screenings that these last two require. It has being a pleasure and an honor work with so many fine young boys and girls and with the amazing staff of E.C. Montessori. I came to teach and I'm leaving with tons of learning on my part. Thank you all for making this enrichment of my life possible.

I will miss you! ¡Hasta luego! Until later! Isabel.

# ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

by Steve Johnson



As I write, the strawberries are ripening on the stem. The tomato plants have many little yellow flowers and the sunflowers are racing up and out of the ground. The jalapenos are growing beside mint and lemon balm. The garden is the evidence of a very hard working and adventurous 4H Garden Club. They have made bon fires, composted soil, and conserved rainwater which has resulted in a virtual outdoor classroom.



On the wall beside the garden, you can see a beautiful new mural made by the Fine Arts Workshop. One can find a lotus flower as it gets sprinkled with rainwater and a dragon that flies over the moon. A girl walks her dog as more dragons fly through a neighborhood. The children created this large collaborative painting by first making small sketches; then, the challenge was to arrange them together to make a visual story.

Currently our young artists have been looking at and discussing bridge design. They are now building a bridge to be used by the kindergartners for the "Bridging Ceremony". The students are measuring, cutting, and assembling wooden boards to build a bridge of which they are the architects and carpenters.

Our Fitness Club continues to keep us in top shape by practicing yoga, aerobic workouts, dance, and exploring the natural world outside. We have also discovered the best climbing tree in Beaufort. Staying healthy basically means doing activities that are good for us and fun.

It has been a most rewarding year watching the students develop their interest in the life sciences, gardening, fine art, and mind/body health. I am so proud of our kids and their accomplishments. Have a great summer. The sky is the limit for what the next year will bring.

# THE ART ROOM

by Rhonda Jordan

Spring is blossoming and so are all of the little ones in the primary classrooms. They have worked hard this year on drawing and using color. We have also done projects to show off their fine motor skills with tearing, cutting, gluing, painting and stamping. The past couple of weeks, each primary room has worked on a classroom embroidery project. They did a great job of choosing colors and stitches that would complement their classmates work. The final pieces are being made into wallhangings for each classroom.

The Elementary Art Room has been buzzing, too. They have been working hard on drawing, painting and making. They are using perspective and incorporating a horizon line into their landscapes. They have continued to talk about art history, they all actually asked for a lesson on Leonardo da Vinci. They have also been questioning "What is Art?" which led to a discussion on Marcel Duchamp. For Earth Day they participated in a Recycled Art Exhibit organized by the wonderful Ms. Amy Horn.

The elementary children are not only working hard on art in the classroom, they have also been working on art at home and sharing it with the class. I am so very proud of their imagination and motivation!



# BARRI<sup>ER</sup> ISLAND 2011



# UPPER AND LOWER ELEMENTARY

In March of 2011, our elementary students enjoyed another great visit to the Barrier Island Environmental Education Program. For the last five years, our students have participated in this overnight naturalist program on Seabrook Island. Live Oak and Ginkgo Room students enjoyed three days of hands-on classes about the flora and fauna of Coastal South Carolina which, as always, culminated in a trip to the “mud pit” to get a little dirty! Our evenings were spent in more traditional camp programs including a campfire and square dance. We were also introduced to our newest sports obsession, “noodle hockey.” As always, our trip to Barrier Island’s program provided, “...a unique opportunity to learn about and experience nature in a way that is hands-on, memorable and a whole lot of fun.”



## ROSE ROOM

### The Montessori Golden Beads

Children are fascinated by these fabulous beads – the units, ten bars, hundred squares and thousand cubes. It’s amazing to adults that 1000 beads are wired together to fit in our hands in the form of a perfect cube, and we see a perfect progression from 1 to 1000 and beyond, represented in a most beautiful way.

The purpose of these perfect little golden beads is nearly boundless! Since our number system is based on 10, the sensorial work prepares children to recognize that 10 is an important number. For example, the pink tower, brown stair and all the cylinder materials are based on 10 pieces per material type.

So, not only is the use of the beads nearly boundless, children can become acquainted and work with the golden beads at a very young age in Montessori, for they know all about 10! They can easily see and learn that ten units makes a 10 bar, ten 10 bars make a 100 square, and ten 100 squares makes a 1000 cube. They “get it” early, and get real excited about it, too!

At around 3 a child can be introduced with the 3 period lesson to the 1,10, 100, and 1000 bead sets. After one grasps what each bead device is all about, they can do a little layout that shows the amazing thing that happens at 9. Nine....and one bead device of the same kind takes us to the next level. (Tens to hundreds, and so on.) Later a child can master matching up symbols to the bead devices (number cards which say 1,2,3....and 10, 20, 30, etc.), they can do full bead layouts for a visual and spatial feel for quantities to 1000 and beyond.

The four processes of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division are practiced after children learn how to create large number quantities on a tray, using the numeric cards as a guide. Both the number cards and the Montessori lessons are structured to highlight the most important concept of place value to assist the child now and for years to come. Later on in early elementary, the abstraction of carrying over numbers from the ten column to the hundreds column will be no mystery. That 10 squared is 100 and 10 cubed is 1000 will be an easy concept, for they have worked with these ideas hands-on in the most concrete way possible. Children and teachers alike are amazed by the golden beads and what children can do with them!

## PALMETTO ROOM

Every Monday and Wednesday we have Spanish with Ms. Isabel. We have learned so much this year! Ms. Isabel always brings us new lessons and work for our Spanish shelf. The children have enjoyed singing all the songs and counting to 100 in Spanish.

Thank you, Ms. Isabel, for all of your hard work. We wish you and your growing family all the best in Japan. We will continue to do the rock and roll guitar counting, a favorite in the Palmetto Room!



## MORNING GLORY ROOM

It all began with Kamryn and her avocado pit! We placed it on a jar on the windowsill and forgot all about it, until one day the unbelievable whisper, "It's growing!", went around the room. And so our garden grew! We were given beautiful orange trees, tomato plants, chives, parsley, rosemary, and chocolate mint. We rooted potatoes and grew beans, peas, carrots, watermelons and peppers from seed. There is much enthusiastic watering, weeding, and even singing!

We love digging up earthworms, so we researched how important their work is, studied them, and released them into our garden. Then we received more garden "helpers" in the form of ladybug larvae. We are watching in fascination as they scurry around growing larger and larger and larger. We can't wait for the next stage in their metamorphosis!



## DAFFODIL ROOM

With the end of the school year now in sight and summer fast approaching, the Daffodil Room has started to teach the children about sun safety. We all know that sunshine is beneficial to our health and provides us with the essential Vitamin D we need to survive. But too much sun can affect our bodies in negative ways. Unfortunately, excessive sun exposure can cause blistering sunburns, premature aging, cataracts, a weakened immune system and skin cancer. Thanks to an informative sun safety class that many of our teachers took as part of continuing education, we now can better protect the children from the exposure to the sun they have here at school. Each child in the Daffodil Room has received a pair of sunglasses to wear on the playground. These glasses are only to be worn outside because as the children will tell you, “they protect our eyes from the sun.”



These glasses have quickly become a source of fun and laughter while at the same time teaching the children to protect their eyes from the sunlight.

Each child also received a bracelet with five white beads. We slip these on right before we go outside. The beads will then change color, starting with yellow, then turning to orange, and finally changing to red if they

have been exposed to too much sun. This is a great way for the children to self-monitor their sun exposure. Once the beads turn to red, it is time to go inside! In addition to the sunglasses and sun bracelets, we have also been talking to the children about the importance of putting on sunscreen when they go to the beach or a pool. The children have become much more aware of both the positive and negative effects of the sun. We encourage you all, as parents, to continue and encourage these safe practices at home.

## MAGNOLIA ROOM

*“The things he sees are not just remembered; they form a part of his soul.”*

—Maria Montessori

In our Montessori classroom, we aim to have an environment that both sparks interest and invokes thinking for our little ones. They are experiencing so many wonderful lessons on a daily basis.

The picture shown captures the scene of a toddler watching the fish in our aquarium. She is making connections and discovering new things about fish; how they swim, how they eat, and interact. You can see the pure wonder on her face, and understand that Maria Montessori had the amazing understanding of children, and gave us the means to tap into how they learn in order to give them the best learning experience possible.



# PINWHEELS FOR PEACE

imagine... whirled peace!



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