



Let's Talk Kindergarten

Happy New Year and welcome back to all our families and friends! It is that time of year when we all look to the future for many reasons; goal setting, making new resolutions, looking at new beginnings. At Westmont, we are excitedly preparing for the next school year! Yes, believe it or not, we are launching the reenrollment process in the days to come for the 2017-2018 school year. Be on the lookout for our paperwork coming your way soon.

Part of this process includes a very special event where we present an information session on our Kindergarten Program to all interested and eligible families. Any of you who know me know I can talk at length about Westmont and its Kindergarten year. As a lifelong Montessori teacher and a former Kindergarten and elementary teacher, I have seen the outcomes and successes of the program first hand.

I also like to observe and stay current on the work and progress of our Kindergarten students throughout their days. What an experience; every child should have it. From collaboration with Maker Space projects, to reading to their peers and younger classmates, to experiencing a live ecosystem, to discovering the power of writing, to following passions and creating new ones, to mentoring younger friends, each day is an adventure.

There is so much to tell you and so much to say I thought I would simplify some details and give you my top reasons for giving your child the gift of a Montessori Kindergarten year. I started with my top ten and, as you can see, I got carried away:

1. Your child is already here.
2. You know the environment is safe and supportive of your child's needs.
3. The program is individualized.
4. The curriculum is developmentally appropriate.
5. Choice and responsibility go hand in hand.
6. The curriculum includes the quite often forgotten science, geography areas.
7. Montessori Materials abound on the shelves: Research shows that hands-on learning helps the **brain** create pathways that make it easier and quicker to retain information.
8. A five year old is on the brink of transitioning from concrete to abstract thinking, what better way than with specifically designed Montessori materials.
9. Our students learn how to learn and continue their love of learning daily.
10. The program is full day.
11. One half of the day is spent with same age children.
12. The other half spent with mixed age groupings.
13. Each child can be a leader, a teacher, and a community builder.
14. Grace, courtesy, and conflict resolution skills are role modeled and expected to be carried out.
15. Our students develop self-discipline through their work habits.
16. Responsibility for self, others, and the environment is inherent in the classroom.
17. Challenges are accepted.
18. Life skills are taught and strengthened.

Who would not want to see a future generation that is motivated, resilient, self-assured, kind and considerate, capable of leadership and collaboration?

Why not invest in your child's future now. Quality early learning education has long term positive results such as success and contentedness in life and career.

Join us Saturday, January 21, from 10:00-11:30 (child care is available) and walk in our Kindergarteners' shoes, you'll feel really empowered.

Colette.