



MONTESSORI CASA INTERNATIONAL PRESCHOOL

Inspiring a passion for learning

Directly from

Punum's Desk...

Cultivating Peace in the Montessori Classroom

"If we are to teach real peace in this world...we shall have to begin with the children." Mahatma Gandhi

Dr. Montessori believed that education was the most powerful and universal way through which to reconstruct society; a way to transition from war to peace. She recognized the child as the redeeming factor in the evolution of humankind and said "...we must gather together all the elements of the world and organize them into a **science of peace**." Therefore, it is important to think of education **as** peace, not education **for** peace.

Visitors to our school and perhaps you remember your first visit too, often marvel at how the classroom seems to be so ordered, so happy and that it seems to have a "hum" to it. The visiting adults don't want to leave let alone their children! Indeed, the children are joyful, relaxed, and happy. During the three-hour uninterrupted work cycle, they are able to choose an activity and work at it for as long as they like. They are able to interact with their peers and move about the room freely. The teacher's main goals are to make sure children are engaged, to connect them

with the prepared environment and to protect their work once they are immersed in concentration. Out of this comes that spirit of purpose, satisfaction, and joy permeating the room. You recognize this at pick up when the child comes to you satisfied and happy.

However, this is a lot of hard work and does not happen magically. So how is peace cultivated in the Montessori classroom? It begins with the exercises that teach Grace and Courtesy. Behind all that freedom that you may see there are rules – lots of them that teach respect and responsibility. With ongoing Grace and Courtesy lessons, we are able to give children tools for resolving conflicts peacefully and ways to cultivate a peaceful and productive environment for learning.

The process of engaging in purposeful work provides the child with calm and peace but it is the Grace and Courtesy exercises that gives the children the confidence they need to function independently within their little communities and eventually in the larger community of which they will be part. At MCI, we pledge to develop in our children the values of integrity, responsibility, empathy, equity, community, trust and peace.

"You cannot educate children to peace, but you can educate in peace." Grazia H. Fresco

Montessori Casa International

Parent Teacher Conferences

The conferences will be held via Zoom. The teachers will be sending sign up forms with their first April Newsletter. Please be on the lookout for it. In order for the teachers to prepare for your conference, please complete the attached questionnaire and email /dron it off to Dr. Bhatia

Montessori Casa International

April 2021

A 1-2 Spring Break NO SCHOOL

5 Professional Development NO SCHOOL

15-16 Parent Teacher Conferences NO SCHOOL

Creativity and imagination blossom in the Casa.

