In August of 1987, I answered an ad for creative help at a small private school in a church basement. It changed my life. Doing creative dramatics with young elementary students, as the extra set of eyes on the playground, and as a classroom assistant when a teacher unexpectedly left, I saw a whole new way of looking at children and their potential. I was hooked.

In 1990 I began training to be the toddler guide for a new program at The Montessori Children's Center. Looking back, I am amazed at how much I did not know, how much I have learned, and how much my toddlers have taught me every year from then until now.

What is also amazing is how little has changed in our purpose. Yes, the mission statement is more complete, and our Blueprint is idyllically grounded in Montessori principles. But our purpose hasn't changed—keep the children safe, let them know they are loved, and help them do it by themselves.

The road to this place in time has not been smooth. Many people worked together against seemingly impossible odds to go from that basement with two 'pre-primary' classrooms to our current home. Three times the school almost closed, but sustained by our purpose and in the best deus ex machina style, strong leaders stepped up to keep the doors open. The most important people on this journey are our students and their families. Without your care and support, these doors would have closed long ago. My first students have graduated from college by now and are starting their own families. Like their parents before them, and like you, they will want the best for their children. We strive to offer it.

I shudder remembering the climber/slide rising high over the hard grass at the church. I give thanks that a wonderful cleaning crew comes every night, instead of me with a mop and a sponge. As we dust our beautiful rolling shelves, I recall my secondary career as shelf and stool polyurethaner-in-chief. Where we were and where we are seem light years apart, not just thirty.

From The Montessori Children's Center to The Montessori School of Winston-Salem: the more things change, the more they stay the same. Only better. Much better.
Ms. Kay Smitherman has been an anchor in our Toddler Community for more than 20 years. She continues to serve our youngest children with the same passion, dedication and nurturing love she has since her first day in August in 1987.

TMS Prospective Parent Open House
Sunday October 6th, 2013 from 2PM-4PM.
We welcome you to share this information with any families, friends, or colleagues you know interested in The Montessori School of Winston Salem. Help us spread the word.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 4th-9AM
Community sing
(please join us for our first community sing of the school year-CH lobby area)

October 6th
2PM-4PM
Prospective Parent Open House

October 7th
NO SCHOOL

October 15th-6PM
Community Meeting
*On the agenda -TMS Strategic plan will be presented by our HOS.
Please reserve childcare by noon of this day by contacting

Fall Planting & Garden Days
October 25th-26th

Fall Planting and Garden Days are scheduled for Friday, October 25th and Saturday, October 26th from 8AM to 6PM both days. Friday, 8AM-11AM, will be a Gardening Day opportunity with with your child(ren). This is a special gardening time for projects such as your child's classroom "back yards" and community spaces, including preparing our gardens for winter, weeding and mulching, etc. There's plenty of work to do!

Bring your shovels, wheelbarrows, work gloves (all labeled) and plenty of energy! We'll provide direction, hot apple cider and snacks! Kids are welcome on Saturday as well, but they will be your responsibility, having them work safely with you.

There will be no childcare offered on these days.

Please RSVP with Shauna if you plan to attend the fall planting days.

Parent Discussion

Positive Discipline: Toddler through Adolescent
Thursday, October 17th
6PM

Ever peek into a Montessori classroom and wonder, "What did
they do to those children to make them so calm?" Ever wish you had that kind of peace at home?

We cordially invite you to an evening with our Director of Education and teachers to learn more about how we redirect children's behavior and how this form of positive discipline can make a difference for you, your child and your family at home. We will discuss how redirecting children's behavior looks from toddler through adolescence, and you will leave with concrete strategies you can apply at home.

Child care is available for this event. Please RSVP with the office by noon of this day. Thank you!

For Small Hands for Smart Play!
Montessori Materials designed to encourage and support young children at home.

This family resource catalog is filled with hundreds of age-appropriate, child-size items that encourages independence, creativity, and problem-solving. You will find over 200 items priced under $10! Our school earns free classroom supplies and materials every time you order from the For Small Hands catalog or website. We received over $400 in credit last year!

Magazines are available at the front desk if you have not yet received one. Place your order easily online or turn in your paper order form by 10/18 to receive free shipping! School Customer # is 167168.

Email our Parent Promotion Coordinator, Beth Whicker with any questions.

Dedication of the TMS Toddler Peace Pole
International Day of Peace
September 20, 2013

Peace building begins early at The Montessori School. The mantra, "Peace begins with me," can be heard among the toddler students daily inside and out and serves as a touchstone as our children learn how to interact peacefully with one another. Just as we build sand castles, the Pink tower or the decanomial square, peace must be built with our own selves - our bodies, our hands, our words.

Peace begins with me when I smile and say hello.
Peace begins with me when I use my gentle hands.

Peace begins with me when I hold your hand, or share what I have (simply because you need it) or choose words over a push or a shove.

Peace begins with me when I say, "Thank you."

Peace begins with me when I water the plants.

Peace begins with me when I build a fort with my friends and when I ask, "Do you want to play too?"
26, 2013 Mr. Michael (our PE lead) will participate in a full Ironman triathlon in support of the Wellington YMCA. Please be sure to give Michael your support as he rides for a cause. Way to go Michael!

Peace begins with me and you.

Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed their time and efforts at the fall picnic. Thank you to all the families who came out and supported this event. Happy fall everyone!

As always, feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

__________________________________________________________________________

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