

THE MESSENGER

May 2010

Directors' Notes

It is hard to believe that it is the end of another great school year. This is both an exciting time and sad time for our staff, some of the children we have been working with since they were toddlers! We are thrilled to see all the progress that the children have made and how much they have blossomed over the years, at the same time we will miss being part of their daily lives. We also know that the children leaving Woodland are leaving well prepared for what lies ahead of them in elementary school.

We want to thank all of our families for everything they have done for Woodland this year, we had an amazing group of volunteers that made things like the Silent Auction fundraiser such a success. We have had great parent/grandparent volunteers in our baking program too. Our gardens are beautiful and some of our classrooms are freshly painted thanks to volunteers.

As the school year ends and summer begins this will also bring a change in Administration. Heather will be working hard to get summer camp off to a smooth start and then Erin will return to the office as the new Head of School! We are excited to see her return, she has a great vision for Woodland and will be able continue the excellent level of programming that Woodland offers.

Have a safe and fun summer, enjoy time with your children, they grow up so fast!

Thank you,
Heather and Jennifer

END-OF-YEAR PICNIC

Change of Date: Thursday, June 3rd

Where: Olin Park

When: 5:00p.m. -7:00p.m.

What: POTLUCK!!!

Please join us in celebrating
another excellent year at
Woodland.

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Thank yous

A heart-felt thank you to Jennifer and Heather for all their sweat, blood and tears that they have given to the school these last two years as co-directors.

Fundraising Affairs

Pants for Pennies was a success, we made \$672.00 for the school. Thank you to everyone who helped put it together: donating the clothes, sorting the clothes, hanging the clothes, and running the show on Saturday. We appreciate your dedication and loyalty to Woodland.

Calendar

April

- 6 Tuesday Return from spring break
- 16 Friday Spring Sing-A-Long 10a.m.
- 22 Thursday Earth Day celebration

May

- 7 Friday Parent/Teacher Conf.- school closed
- 15 Saturday Pants for Pennies
- 28 Friday Farm Field Trip preschool only
- 31 Monday School closed

June

- 7 Friday End of School Picnic 5:30p.m.- Olin Park
- 4 Friday Annual Preschool Fair
- 11 Friday Last Day of School
- 14-18 Mon-Fri Camp Woodland Set up- preschool closed
- 17-18 Thu-Fri Summer Set-up- Toddler House closed
- 21 Monday Camp Woodland begins

A Montessorian Message

This will be my final discussion on Discipline in the Montessori classroom. I will complete this three part series with an explanation of the Montessori Peace Table; an example of which may be found in each Preschool Classroom at Woodland. I will first provide a brief reminder of the main tenants of Discipline in a Montessori classroom, and then outline the process for the discipline tool of the Peace Table.

In Montessori we strive for inner discipline for each child. This inner discipline is developed with clear limits and a sense of freedom if the limits are respected. The work in the classroom is often self-correcting so that the limits may come from the environment instead of the teacher. Children are given the language to be their own advocates when disputes arise. Finally, when possible, children are encouraged to work out their own conflicts. It is this last principle, working out conflicts, which I will expand upon with the example of the Peace Table.

The Peace Table is a small table often found in a quiet corner of a Montessori Classroom. It may have a pretty table cloth on it; possibly comfortable pillows around it, and perhaps a flower or bell adorn the table as well. However the teacher has chosen to set up the Peace Table, every table has a small picture book that walks through conflict resolution. When two children have a conflict they may visit the peace table to resolve it; if they are young children, or new to the classroom, the teacher may visit the table with the children. Older children, especially Extended Dayers, are able to do the process of the Peace Table on their own.

The Guidelines of the Peace Table are as follows (you are welcome to use them in your home; they are excellent for sibling conflicts, as well as adult conflicts). Once two children start to argue, they are asked to visit the peace table with the teacher. At the Peace Table the teacher will ask if both children are sitting comfortably. They are instructed to face the other person, and listen closely to what they say. The speaker is asked to speak clearly and pleasantly. The following guidelines are then walked through by following the pictures in the Peace Table book (these pages are available to photo-copy if you would like to make a book for your home).

1. Place one hand on the table and the other on your heart – this means it is your turn to speak without interruption and that you will speak from your heart.
2. Say the other person’s name and look into their eyes.
3. Say how you feel – tell the truth about your feelings “I feel sad” “I feel angry”.
4. Say why you feel this way. “I feel sad because you...”
5. Listen to the other person’s response – the other person follows the same procedure.
6. Reply to your friend.
7. Ring the bell when you have reached a resolution to let everyone know that you have solved your problem.

The peace table is one of many ways the philosophy of Inner Discipline is carried out in the Montessori Classroom. I hope the investigation of this example, as well as the entire discussion of discipline, has been helpful to your family.

As always stop in the office to discuss anything, especially Montessori philosophy; as many of you know I never tire of it. A discussion of the Peace Table is a wonderful way to end 2006. I hope everyone has a warm and wonderful holiday season, and a happy new year.

Sincerely,

Erin

Preschool Daily Routine

- 7:30a-8:30a Early Arrival - On the playground when the weather is good, otherwise in **Classroom 1** (Betty's room) on rainy days or when the weather is cold.
- 8:30a Preschool classes start in the classrooms.
- 8:30a-10:30a Work time in the classrooms.
- 11:00a Some children have lunch, the children that don't have lunch are on the playground.
- 11:45a The children on the playground come in and eat lunch, the children that just finished lunch go outside on the playground.
- 12:00p Extended day children go inside with Bernice and eat lunch and then start their program.
- 12:30p Some children go home, nappers go inside and nap in **Classroom 4** (Kerry's downstairs North classroom), pre extended day children go into **Classroom 1** (Betty's room). Children in **Classroom 1** (Betty's room) are picked up on the stairs outside of the office at 12:30, Children in **Classroom 4** (Kerry's room) and **Classroom 2** (Mary Anne's room) are picked up in the North hallway outside of **Classroom 4**.
- 2:30p Another pick up time, Extended day and nappers are picked up in the North hallway outside of **Classroom 4** (Kerry's room). Pre extended day children are picked up on the stairs outside of **Classroom 1** (Betty's room) by the office.
- 2:30-5:30p After-school, some children are downstairs in **Classroom 4** (Kerry's room) with Cari B and Raquel and some children are upstairs with David in **Classroom 1**. All children are picked up in the North hallway outside of **Classroom 4** (Kerry's room).

Toddler House Daily Routine

Summer Daily Routine

- 8:15a.m. – 9:00a.m.: - drop off outside
- 9:00a.m. - 9:25a.m.: classroom work time
- 9:25a.m. – 9:45a.m.: potty into snack time
- 9:45a.m. – 10:15a.m.: classroom work time
- 10:15a.m - 10:45a.m.: work away into line time
- 10:45a.m. - 11:25a.m.: outside time
- 11:25a.m. – 12:15a.m.: potty into lunch time
- 12:15p.m.: morning program pick up
- 12:15p.m. - 2:15p.m.: Nap time

Toddler 3 Daily Routine

Winter Daily Routine

- 7:30a-8:20a Early Arrival - On the playground when the weather is good, otherwise in **Classroom 1** (Betty's room) on rainy days or when weather is cold.
- 8:20a.m. – 9:30a.m.: - classroom work /open snack
- 9:30a.m. - 9:40a.m.: use the potty
- 9:40a.m. – 10:00a.m.: dress for outside
- 10:00a.m - 10:45a.m.: outside time
- 10:45a.m. – 10:55a.m.: inside and undress
- 10:55a.m. – 11:25a.m.: classroom work time
- 11:25a.m. – 11:45a.m.: line time
- 11:45a.m. - 11:45a.m.: use potty
- 11:45a.m. - 12:30p.m.: lunch time
- 12:30p.m.: morning program pick up
- 12:30p.m. - 2:30p.m.: Nap time
- 2:30p.m. – 4:30p.m.: open snack and After school