

# Bruno Blast

Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy

## Reflections from Ms. Rebecca

Dear Bruno Families,

I want to officially welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year at JBMA! Our faculty and staff are hard-working, caring individuals and they are always learning new things for the benefit of your children. The JBMA community as a whole is a collaborative group of diverse people who share a love of learning, a commitment to Montessori philosophy and dedication to children.

There are many reasons I am personally committed to the important work that is being done at Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy and over the next few months I will write in more depth about my top three reasons. This issue of the Bruno Blast will be dedicated to the reason that overrides all others for me and accordingly lands in the number one position.

The number one reason I am drawn to the work at Bruno Montessori is that I have the opportunity to work with globally diverse children and their families. While I have worked in previous Montessori and private school settings in Florida, none afforded the global perspective that I have experienced over the years at Bruno Montessori. Since I began working at Bruno, I have worked with children and families from a wide variety of regions across the globe.

We will be having an International Fair this year which is a wonderful opportunity for us all to come together and support each other and learn from each other. We have families in our community from well over 22 countries! The Montessori curriculum exposes children to the continents and people of

the world at the earliest age, promoting a more global view of life. Bruno children don't just read about other cultures, they have the opportunity to learn first-hand from each other. Education is powerful. The Montessori curriculum emphasizes the interdependency of all life. Accordingly, our Montessori children can more readily see the role they play now, and in the future, for making the world more harmonious.

Maria Montessori was a strong proponent of peace education for children. She said: "Averting war is the work of politicians; establishing peace is the work of education." Dr. Montessori recognized the importance of teaching peace early in order to bring about a world of peace and tolerance. As educators and parents, we are the models for peace.

September, 2017

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## JBMA Flower Garden

Gardens are an excellent experiential learning tool where students are able to express their creativity and use their problem solving skills to generate garden plans. I am sure many of you have noticed the activity in our flower garden this year. The students and Ms.

Kimberly, our elementary after-care teacher, have been busy working the garden in preparation for our second season on the JBMA Flower Farm. Season one yielded many beautiful flowers and we are excited about the future of the garden. Students,

teachers and parent volunteers are all working together to enhance the garden and provide learning opportunities for everyone. Please consider signing up for the summer subscription service detailed in the insert to this newsletter!



## Elementary Students Use the New Outdoor Classroom

Lower Elementary students were the first group to enjoy using the new outdoor classroom. They used it to present "The Drama of the Archeozoic Ocean." It is one of the Montessori Great Lessons. Third graders performed the play which teaches how organisms in the ocean use calcium for their exoskeletons and dwellings thus purifying the water. This helps other life to be able to exist.

The funds for the new outdoor classroom were provided by the JBMA PTO.



### Knowledge is Power

Being a parent is the hardest thing you will ever do. You may think you have a hard job, but being a parent is the hardest job you will ever have, and it doesn't end. I know because we have raised two children and at this time I am pleased to say they are both in college and will graduate in the next two years, but it has not been easy. I cannot say that we alone can take credit for their current success or happiness. Many people helped us along the way, especially our sons' teachers, who helped us through twelve years of school and beyond.

My husband and I are both career educators. When our sons were young we had little knowledge of learning difficulties. My younger son exhibited some unusual hand wringing motions, but we assumed he would grow out of it and he did to an extent. He went on to exhibit other unusual characteristics, but, we didn't understand them and thought that they would go away. Our doctor suggested that he might benefit from further exploration of the behaviors, but we didn't follow through. With our approval, the doctor contacted the teachers at our son's school and they noticed classroom difficulties that we were unaware of. Our son would have greatly benefited from identification of the source of the difficulties. It would have given us the power to understand and work with him on his struggles.

When we finally did identify the source of the difficulties, he received

accommodations in class and he continued to see our doctor for additional support. He was transformed in the classroom. He participated in the discussions, answered questions and his grades drastically improved. Our son enjoyed a success he had not had before. Thanks to our doctor and his teachers' accommodations he was able to control his ability to be distracted and his constant need to move. He was thrilled that for the first time he was really successful in school. Today he is a graduate student in architecture and has an apprenticeship with a top-notch architecture firm in Kansas City.

Our older son struggled through elementary school until a very wise teacher helped us to understand our son's distraction. When we explored further, we learned that our son was gifted but his distract-ability had kept him from achieving his full potential. He also received classroom accommodations and continued to see his doctor for additional support. He was so relieved. He began achieving the success he had struggled with for so long in school. He felt in control of his world. Today he is preparing to graduate with a degree in aerospace engineering.

Knowledge is power. Exploring the reasons behind our sons' struggles gave them extreme relief because they understood and could learn to control the things that affected them on a day to day basis. Learning about this gave them an

understanding of why they did their homework but failed to turn it in and many other issues. This new understanding was not an excuse but an explanation for their world.

So from one parent to another, if your child has any of these characteristics, think about it. Could a change of diet, exercise or further exploration help your child in the classroom?

- Difficulty following directions
- Easily distracted
- Daydreams frequently
- Difficulty listening
- Difficulty paying attention
- Difficulty staying on task
- Struggles in school with long assignments
- Difficulty with remembering things
- Easily frustrated
- Can't stay on one task but moves from one to another without completing any
- Difficulty working quietly
- Difficulty sitting still
- Fidgets or squirms when sitting
- Blurts out or interrupts
- Doesn't listen/take turns
- Takes risks without thinking about consequences

If you see several of these characteristics in your child, think about exploring further. Sometimes the struggle is unnecessary and the rewards are great.

***"One Family's Experience"***

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# Starting Each Day: Tips to Get Out the Door on Time

By Anne Prowant

Mornings can be tough. Everyone needs to get up, get dressed, have breakfast, and be ready to go, often in a short amount of time. We parents can end up rushed, frazzled, and short on patience. No one wants to begin the day that way! Here are a few simple, sanity-saving tips to help mornings with young children feel more manageable.

1. Establish a nighttime routine. A good morning starts the night before. Children thrive on consistency, so implement a predictable bedtime routine at the same time every night. Maria Montessori observed that children find security in a predictable schedule. Sticking to the same ritual (perhaps a bath, then story, then song, then lights out) each evening will comfort your child and make it easier to start winding down. Turn off any screens 60 minutes before bed, as these can interfere with restful sleep.

2. Prepare the night before. Minimizing the number of things you have to do in the morning is a simple way to streamline your routine. Encourage your children to select and lay out appropriate clothing for the next day, engage them in preparing lunches and/or starting the next day's breakfast, and remind them to place items that need to go

to school by the front door. Children as young as 1 can begin to be independent in dressing themselves, and older children can pack their own lunches. Resist the urge to step in—allow children to struggle a little, helping only when you see they may be becoming frustrated. Affording responsibilities like these offers children opportunities for input and thus a sense of ownership.

3. Stay organized. One way to avoid a frantic last-minute search for backpacks and shoes is to keep all of these items in the same place. Establish a cubby area near the doorway that has a place for shoes, backpacks, coats, and mittens. Make sure it is attractive and child-size to promote independence and a desire to keep it organized. (Montessori was the first educator to stress the importance of child-size furniture in the classroom.) Set and uphold the expectation that this is where your children should neatly store their things, and take time with your children to restore order if the cubbies get a little messy during the week.

4. Use the clock. In this busy world, children can feel rushed around without any understanding of why, and this can lead to tantrums and power struggles. Explain to your

child that everyone needs to be out of the house at a certain time. Show them that time on the clock (or use a sand timer.) In the morning, point to the clock and say, "Oh, look! We need to leave in 10 minutes. What should we be doing now?" Wait for an answer, but if the child cannot give one, be direct: "Now is the time to put on our coats and shoes." It's possible to make the morning routine a team effort, rather than a competition with parents doing all the heavy lifting. The keys are to be prepared, give yourself plenty of time, and allow your children to be independent. Yes, it may be faster in the moment to dress them yourself and rush them out the door. But in the long run, offering your children some ownership over their morning will enable a more peaceful routine for everyone. Listen to your children's input and involve them in the process—by doing so, you show respect and positively impact self-esteem. As Montessori asserted, "Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future."

ANNE PROWANT is a Children's House directress and freelance writer living in Charlotte, NC. She is AMS-credentialed (Early Childhood).

## Solar Eclipse

The Solar Eclipse on Monday, August 21 was a very exciting event for JBMA! We were able to provide all of our elementary students and faculty/staff with NASA Certified solar viewing glasses and with them students got to watch all the phases of the moon's shadow over the sun.

What an educational experience to witness a celestial event such as a solar eclipse! We are already looking forward to the next one in 2024.





## Joseph S. Bruno Montessori Academy

### Mission Statement

The community of the Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy provides the opportunity for all students to grow to their fullest potential:

- Cognitively
- Socially
- Emotionally
- Spiritually
- Physically
- Aesthetically

### Vision Statement

The vision of Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy is to provide children and families with an education according to the Montessori philosophy and curriculum. Our focus is not only to provide cognitive education for our students, but to also model a commitment to creating peace and care for the environment for years to come. In theory and practice, we will explore how the traditional Montessori curriculum can be combined with current best practices in education as well as technological advances in order to develop a successful group of 21st century learners. At JBMA we treat each child as an individual, building on their strengths and abilities to become life-long global learners.

### The Joseph S. Bruno Montessori Academy's Core Values Statement:

**Respect-** We embrace with respect all students regardless of racial, cultural or religious background, gender or the physically or mentally challenged.

**Peace-** We create an atmosphere that will promote the development of peaceful individuals. All students will become committed to creating peace, and taking care of the environment in their homes, school, and communities.

**Collaboration-** We provide each child a foundation for a lifetime of learning by having multi-age classrooms and multi-level collaboration.

**Independent Thinker-** We foster students' development of positive self-esteem; so they will become independent thinkers and accept leadership roles in the world of tomorrow.

## Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy

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We're on the Web!  
[www.jbma.education](http://www.jbma.education)

## Upcoming Events in October

- 3 PTO Meeting 6:00-7:00 PM
- 5 Open House 6:00-7:30 PM
- 6 End 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter
- 9 Columbus Day – NO School
- 15 Fall Festival 1 – 3 PM
- 19 & 20 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 19 & 20 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Dismiss at 1:00 for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 24 School Pictures
- 27 Toddlers and Preschool – NO SCHOOL
- 27 Toddler and Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 30-Nov 3 Fall Book Fair