

Bruno Blast

Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy

Reflections from Ms. Rebecca

We have much to celebrate at Bruno Montessori this fall! Our soccer teams are practicing and playing games each weekend. Students are playing in our newly constructed "Ga Ga ball" pit. Fall festival decorations are appearing. We see parents dropping off snack and volunteering at events such as the PTO sponsored movie night. Middle school students are mentoring our elementary students and preparing to guide our preschool children

through the upcoming Trike-a-thon. School pictures are being taken this week amid the beautiful backdrop of our wooded outdoor environment. All of this is in addition to the great Montessori learning taking place in the classrooms across our campus!

I sincerely thank the teachers, students, parents and families for your participation in all that is happening at Bruno Montessori. The work that is done here is

truly a group effort. We are excited to be holding our Annual Open House this week on Thursday, October 4 from 6-8 p.m. This is a great opportunity for current and prospective families to explore all aspects of the school. Please feel free to visit levels outside of the one your child is currently in so that you can see what the future holds for your child's education at Bruno Montessori!

September, 2018

Inside this issue:

Extended Day News	2
JBMA Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night	2
Montessori from My Perspective By Mary Ellen Kordas	3

JBMA Flower Garden

Our middle school has been working about 2 hours each week in the garden. They currently have about 2,000 seeds of basil, oregano, cilantro, and parsley budding on our lighted shelves in our growing room. Students have been responsible for watering all of our seed trays each day and making sure to check for pests and soil issues. The middle school has also been working on the schoolwide effort to clear the garden rows for upcoming plantings. This fall we are hoping to plant multiple herbs in the rows to grow production level plants for our Garden Microeconomy.

Upper Elementary has also been involved in the Garden this school year helping Ms. Kim create compost trays for seed germination and planting. They have also helped in clearing out the rows and raised beds in the garden for the coming seasons!



Extended Day News

We are very busy having fun in the Extended Day program. Many students enjoy taking part in the enrichment activities; Tennis, Art and Happy Feet. We also had the opportunity to make playdough and cook banana bites.

We are focusing on creating a peaceful classroom and feeling what is like to be individually peaceful. Maria Montessori created many lessons to teach peace. She believed that true world peace could be attained by starting with children. She was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts. The Primary Montessori students at JBMA are respectful, inquisitive and reliable contributors in the Extended Day program. It is a joy to be with them each day.



Students making playdoh



On nice days the students eat their 2nd snack outside.

2nd Annual Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night

Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night actually started with a visit from the Chick-Fil-A Cow. She was at JBMA during morning drop off where she helped greet the students.

That evening JBMA families went to Chick-Fil-A to enjoy their evening meal and visit with other families. Of course many of the children enjoyed the play area.

Chick-Fil-A donated a portion of inside sales and designated drive thru sales to the school.



If not a hug, maybe a high five



Who doesn't love a hug from the Chick-Fil-A Cow?



Linus, Edmundo, Laura & Sergio Olivo-Conde



Talia & Dana El Khatib

Montessori from My Perspective

By Mary Ellen Kordas
February, 2014

I will never forget my first visit to a Montessori classroom when my son was 3-years old. I could literally feel the enormous respect for the children displayed in the beauty of the environment and the conscientious attention to detail. Small vases of flowers were on the tables, tastefully chosen works of art hung at the children's eye level and the children were happily and calmly working both independently and collaboratively. I didn't understand how this "method" worked, but I knew it was the answer to my long journey to find a school for my son. At the time, I didn't know it was going to also change my life!

Montessori classrooms are prepared environments for children of multi-ages, meeting their unique and varied needs. The furniture is appropriately sized, the materials available on low shelves for easy access to the children and the layout of the room is warm and inviting. This preparation gives the children what they so deserve, which is the freedom to find work that has a range of ability levels from very sensory materials and practical living skills to complex language, mathematics, and cultural explorations. There is never a shortage of materials to engage any child. The mixed age range in the classroom allows the children to be both student and mentor. The younger children look up to their older friends modeling on their mature behavior and excellent language and motor skills. The older children have the

opportunity to teach their younger classmates both through use of classroom materials and from their broader understanding of social cues. Nothing in the classroom is put there by chance. Each guide (teacher) is a keen observer who recognizes opportunities to introduce new work to a child ready for just that lesson. The magic is in the match! Each guide leads a child to maximize his or her potential socially, physically, and cognitively.

Current thinking indicates that Montessori is an incredible experience for the very young child and it is, but can those same concepts of independent, hands-on learning be applied to an elementary and middle school level? The simple answer is yes! Montessori children become vested in becoming competent, confident individuals who want to make a difference in the world. They learn to become friends and supporters of their classmates in a calm, yet vibrant, setting. There is a great deal of research indicating that children who are participants in their educational journey will be more creative in their careers and have a sense of belonging becoming global citizens. Many researchers are now aware of what a difference a Montessori education makes. Montessori children learn to collaborate, to think independently, and to pride themselves on work well done.

The Montessori children that I had the honor of knowing in my long and most satisfying career as head

of school became partners in their educational journey. They became active participants in their education, not passive receptacles of information. How much more satisfying to feel a part of the learning process.

A high school honors English teacher came to visit me one day and asked if she could observe our students. I asked why and she told me that she had 8 of our graduated students in her honors class and they were different than the other students. I was intrigued and asked for more. She told me that they went beyond what was required in the work. They kept asking for more depth, but she also recounted how respectful they were with the other students and interacted with her as a collaborator. They set an example and raised the bar in the class.

One always wonders what makes the difference in the life of a child. I believe I found one thing that makes a difference—Montessori.

Mary Ellen Kordas is a former Montessori school head and current treasurer of the American Montessori Society Board of Directors. She is also on the leadership Faculty at Seton Montessori Institute, Chicago; and CMTE/NY, but most important she is the grandmother to two students at Kinderhouse Montessori School, San Diego, CA.

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

5509 Timber Hill Road
Birmingham, AL 35242

Phone: 205- 995-8709

Fax: 205-995-0517

E-mail: Rebecca@jbma.education



We're on the Web!
www.jbma.education

Upcoming Events in October

- 4 Open House 6:00 – 8:00
- 5 End 1st Quarter
- 8 Columbus Day – No School
- 9 PTO Meeting 6:00 – 7:00
- 16 Make-up & Sibling Pictures
- 18 & 19 1st – 8th Parent/Teacher Conferences, Dismiss at 1:00
- 19 Preschool Trike-A-Thon
- 21 Fall Festival 1:00 – 3:00
- 26 Toddler & Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences – No Toddler or Preschool Classes
- 29 – Nov. 2 Scholastic Book Fair
- 31 Halloween Parade