



Bruno Blast



Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy

Reflections from Ms. Rebecca

October 2017

As I look back over the years, I can honestly say that I have always loved learning. My love of learning definitely lands in the top three reasons that I am honored to be serving as Head of School at Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy. I grew up with two sisters and playing school was always on the list of activities that we engaged in for fun. As I continued in school, I transferred that love of

learning to college, graduate school and law school.

Over time, professionally, I found my way back to education. I still love learning. I enjoy learning new strategies and teaching methods with our faculty. I love learning with the students. I frequently find myself in scenarios where I am learning from children of all ages.

My love of learning helps me to be an authentic presence in the lives of both the students and faculty. Learning allows us all to continuously improve. As educators know, it is the process of learning and not the product that is important. Montessori philosophy supports the desire of the children and the adults in the environment to become excited about the learning in and of itself.

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Parents who need to come into the Academy for any reason must park in a designated parking space.

Please Do not leave vehicles unattended and running.

JBMA Basketball Club

As we enter the winter season at JBMA, we look forward to starting up another basketball club. Playing basketball is a great way to be active and can help students learn skills that they can use in other sports or even in everyday activities. Aside from the physical skills that can be learned from basketball, the game also promotes teamwork and cooperation with others. For those interested in participating in basketball club, required forms and information will be sent out soon. The club season will start in January when we return from winter break and it will last until spring break.

There will be one session per week for 1st-3rd graders (Tuesdays 3-4:30) and one session per week for 4th-8th graders (Thursdays 3:15- 4:45). There will also be limited spots for each age group, so make sure to sign up as soon as possible!

November Peace Ceremony and Food Drive

The November Peace Ceremony's theme will be "**Building a Legacy**". The ceremony will be held on Wednesday, Nov 15th at 9 AM. We will be collecting food items for donation to the Catholic Center of Concern. The classroom donation list is as follows.

Toddler: Canned Vegetables
 Preschool 1: Canned Fruit
 Preschool 2: Soup
 Preschool 3: Spaghetti Sauce
 Preschool 4: Rice and Beans

Lower 1: Pasta
 Lower 2: PB&J
 Lower 3: Cereal
 Upper: Oatmeal and Grits
 Middle School: Boxed Dinners

We will also take fresh fruits and vegetables on the day of the Peace Ceremony.

All donations must be at the school before 9:00 AM on Thursday, November 16th.

2017-2018 SIP Meetings

As part of our process of continuous improvement, JBMA stakeholders meet periodically to examine our progress on our current JBMA School Improvement Plan and to focus on looking ahead to the school's future needs.

Our first SIP (School Improvement Plan) meeting of the 2017-2018 school year will be held on November 29 at 6:00 p.m. at the school. Please mark your calendar. All JBMA community members (parents, faculty, staff, etc.) are invited to attend and participate.

Toddlers

Toddlers are the youngest group of students at JBMA, but perhaps the busiest. The world is a big exciting place for a toddler and every day is a new experience.

We offer a variety of hands on materials that are changed approximately every two weeks. Changing the environment insures it will remain fresh and interesting to our young minds. It also allows the teacher to tailor the room to the needs of the individuals. Each item that is placed in the environment is carefully selected to assist in the development of each child. Materials that are placed in the room can be used in different ways to appeal to multiple developmental levels. The room offers several interest areas, or centers. At all times there will be an area developed to art, sensorial/manipulative, language, and practical life.



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

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

Upcoming Events in November

Oct. 30 – Nov. 3 Book Fair
3 Play *The Little Mermaid* 6:30 PM
7 PTO Meeting 6 – 7:00 PM
7 Make-up & Sibling Pictures
10 Veteran's Day – No School
15 Peace Ceremony 9:00 AM
17 Toddlers & Preschool Thanksgiving Feast
17 Dismiss @ 1:00 PM – No Aftercare
20-24 Thanksgiving Holiday
27 1st – 8th Talent Show Auditions