

Bruno Blast

Joseph Bruno Montessori Academy

Reflections from Ms. Rebecca

December is always a time of excitement and anticipation at JBMA and it highlights my third reason that I am so pleased to be here. Montessori education guides children beyond academics. The holiday season accentuates this aspect of our curriculum. Children are singing and practicing for the holiday programs. They are sharing their cultural holidays with each other. Some are taking holiday field trips. Others are showing empathy, grace and courtesy as they visit nursing homes, share their amaryllis bulbs and sing holiday songs to the residents. Education is about so many

aspects of sharing, giving, support and kindness. It is amazing to watch our children during this season as they embody and demonstrate their ideas of love, kindness and hope.

I wish you safe travel and enjoyable holiday moments over the next few weeks and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

November/December,
2017

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Holiday Store

The Middle School is having its annual Holiday Store starting Dec. 11th through Dec. 14th. A schedule will be home in backpacks with the time your child's class will visit the Holiday Store. All proceeds go to the Middle School's spring class

Trip to Bud's Best Cookie Factory

What could be better than putting on the bright red JBMA tee shirt, a hair net and boarding a tram for a tour of a cookie factory? Ask any of our K5 students and we are sure they will say "nothing."

The 5 year old kindergarten students observed how the little Bud's Best Cookies are made, and learned the factory is capable of producing up to 1 million cookies per hour. Of course the best part was sampling the finished product!



The Little Mermaid

On November 3rd at 6:30 PM, Ms. Leila, Cast and Crew presented *The Little Mermaid*. The evening started out with JBMA Strings performing "Part of Your World" followed by a colorful journey under the sea with Ariel and her family and friends.

Directors of the JBMA Strings are **Caroline and Samuel Nordlund**. String Members are:
Shahin Kooshiar Cello
Tessa Tremblay-Cox Violin
Leilah Kooshiar Violin
Annalise Nordlund Violin

Cast and Crew of the play were:
 King Triton **Darryl Allen Bender**
 King Triton's Court:
 Mermaid Lala **Audrey Gibler**

Sparkles **Surabhi Nevrekar**
 Finny **Hannah Barnette**
 Mermaid Meme **Juliana Latham**
 Pearl **Marley CowanBrown**
 Mermaid Rey **Searcy Colvin**
 Other Members of Triton's Court:
Joele Cruz, Karthika Muthavarapu, Vedika Sharma, Zoey Bush, Audrey Passino
 Ursula **Gaby Poczatek**
 Sliitheries: **Leilah Kooshiar, Tessa Tremblay-Cox, Suhanna Jan**
 Sebastian **Gauri Gupta**
 Scuttle **Aarush Chavar**
 Flounder **Sara Elizabeth Denny**
 Ariel **Aleah Ward**
 Sailors:
 Calico Kat **Elizabeth Tremblay-Cox**
 Captain Slappy **Sarah Peter**
 Scurvy Sue **Eva Richie**

Other Sailors: **Ansh Nair, Christina Hillegass, Suhaani Naik**
 Duke **Louis Westerkamp**
 Prince Eric **Stephen King**
 Max, the Dog **Alex Mixon**
 Chef Fifi **Margaux Richards**
 Ginger **Airana Rodriguez**
 Nutmet **Raina Valliani**
 Miss Callaloo **Charlotte Miller**
 Reverend Gumbo **Liam Pope**
 Sound: **Clemente Brannon, Nick Hohnstein, Shahin Kooshiar**
 Make-up: **Cristina Giner, Priya Soni, Pooja Soni, Charley Richards**

Middle School Peer Partners

JBMA middle school students spend one day a week with lower elementary students. They may help them with a math lesson, read with them, or just be there to listen. They also go to the preschool one day a month and read to the children. The middle school students pick the book they wish to read to the preschoolers. The most recent choices were Holiday stories.



Grace and Courtesy Beyond Please and Thank You

By P. Donohue Shortridge

A few weeks ago, I arrived at a hotel to check in, only to find that my room would not be ready for quite some time. There had been a pop concert nearby the night before, attended mostly by moms and their teenage daughters. Apparently, the moms spent their after-event time at the restaurant, while their teens proceeded to trash their hotel rooms, blast loud music, and run wild in the hallways until 3:00 a.m. The next morning, housekeepers were overwhelmed by a tsunami of debris: lipstick on mirrors, teeped beds, and wet trash everywhere. As I sat in the lobby contemplating this uncivilized behavior, I asked myself, How does this happen? Parents want children to be polite, kind, and civilized. But what does it take to foster that outcome? Mammals, especially humans, are social learners. We gain knowledge from our environment and from other people, especially from those whom we love. Unfortunately, we learn both antisocial as well as pro-social behaviors by watching others. So if there is anything you want your child to know how to do, or a way you want him or her to behave, you should first model it, then show him or her how to do it, offer lots of opportunities for practice, and finally, hold the child accountable. First, modeling: In the early years of life, we learn mostly by taking in the sensorial impressions of the world around us. A series of neural connections helps us imprint that which we see. The child watches what other

people do and attempts to do it too. Research has shown that mimicry increases pro-social behavior in very young children (Carpenter, Uebel & Tomasello, 2013). If you want your children to wait their turn to speak, do that yourself. If you want your children to stay at the table during dinner, turn off your cell phone and stay seated yourself. Second, practice: Think about what you want your child to learn—everything from when and how to say “excuse me,” to carrying on a phone conversation with Grandma, to holding the door open for someone with an armload of packages, to conducting oneself at a restaurant, in a theater, on an airplane, and at a hotel. We Montessorians call it adaptation to one’s culture (Montessori, 1964). Take it slow; you will have many years to inculcate these habits. Start with simple daily activities: “In our family, when we need to sneeze, we sneeze into our sleeve. Watch me. Now it’s your turn.” Other examples include: For a young child—pushing in one’s chair after getting up from the table. For an Elementary-age child—lessons on how we treat those different from us. For an adolescent—house rules on texting and driving. After you have modeled and practiced, hold your children accountable. If you use inductive statements, it will help the child discover for himself how to make the correction. Some examples: For young children—“When you go back to the table and push in your chair, then you may be excused.” For an Elementary-age child—“Before we go over to the

neighbor’s house to apologize for that bullying incident, you’ll come up with how you will make amends, which, as you remember, is part of apologizing.” For an adolescent (Dad, looking at a ticket for texting and driving)—“What happens now with your phone and car keys?” Finally, remember that your children really do want to learn all this. It’s how they feel competent and socially adept.

P. DONOHUE SHORTRIDGE is a Montessori consultant based in Littleton, CO. Contact her at pds@pdonohueshortridge.com. References Carpenter, M., Uebel, J. & Tomasello, M. (September/October 2013). Being mimicked increases prosocial behavior in 18-month-old infants. *Child Development*, 84(5), 1511–1518. Montessori, M. (1964). *The Montessori method*. New York: Schocken Books. p. 217. ILLUSTRATION © ALEX NABAUM THE

Students Score Highest Ratings at Piano Festival

Each of these students made superior ratings at the recent Piano Festival sponsored by the American Federation of Music Clubs. Congratulations to Gauri Gupta, Simone Bermudez, Gaby Poczatek, Elizabeth Tremblay-Cox, Anna Grace Tremblay-Cox, and Sebastian Bermudez for your diligent preparation for this event!



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.

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

Upcoming Events in December & January

Dec. 15 Dismiss at 1:00 PM – No
Aftercare
18-Jan..3 Holiday Break

Jan. 4 Students Return
5 Symphony – Middle School
8 Play Auditions 1st – 8th
9 PTO Meeting 6:00—7:00 PM
25 Parent's Night