



Directors Notes

The holidays are over, yet things haven't slowed down here at Miniapple. Thank you to all the families who attended our Kindergarten Information Night. We had a great turnout and we hope the information was helpful. If you have any other questions about our Kindergarten program, please let us know. Don't forget, we offer a 10% discount for Kindergarten. We are already thinking ahead to the summer and fall school sessions. We will be setting a date for our Spring Program and celebrating Montessori Education Week at the end of February.

Fall Registration

Even though it is still winter, February brings us to the time to be thinking about Fall registration. Fall re-registration is required on an annual basis. Between now and March, all Miniapple families will be required to fill out a new registration form and to pay the registration fee for Fall. If you submit your application by March 31st, the registration fee will be \$25.00. As of April 1st, the fee will be \$50.00. We currently have about 15 families on our waiting list, but our current families have priority for the new school year. Turning in your registration form will help us know how many spots we will have available. Please look for the form in your child's cubby. Please don't forget we need two parent signatures (when applicable).

Summer Registration

Plans for Summer need to be arranged at this time as well. We are unable to offer vacation credit for tuition—if you enroll for summer, you are responsible for tuition for June through August. If you plan on being gone four or more weeks, we can offer one month without tuition if prior arrangements are made. We hope to offer a school age program for children aged 6-10 if space permits! Registration forms will be available as soon as we know we will have room.

Winter Wear

Please be sure you are labeling each item sent to school with your child. If you are looking for lost items, please let your teacher know. If the item wasn't labeled,

they will have a harder time finding the lost item. Sometimes other children take things home that are not theirs, so if everything is labeled, hopefully each child will only take what belongs to them.

Dates to Remember

- *February 8th: FIELD TRIP: Children's Museum
- *February 20th : MIM CLOSED (for staff in-service)
- *Feb. 27th-March 2nd: Montessori Education Week
- *February 28th : Night of Presentations 3:30-5:30p
- * February 29th: Italian Feast \$4 per child
- *March 1st : Around the World: Show and Tell
- * March 2nd : Pajama Day
- *March 3 1st: Last day for 1/2 price fall registration

Please let us know if there is anything you need. Thank you to all our families for being a part of the Miniapple Family! We appreciate each and every one of you.
Lee & Danielle

CLASSROOM NEWS

Toddler Room

Hello Toddler families! February is here, but it seems like January just started. Our February calendar is full of fun activities. In the first two weeks we will talk and learn about Valentine's Day and colors. During the week of Valentine's Day, we will decorate Valentine bags and you are welcome to bring treats to share with our friends. Please remember we are Peanut-Free. The last week of February is Montessori Education Week and we will have an Italian Feast and learn all about Italy. We said goodbye to Ryan and Patrick, who moved to their Children's House. We also said goodbye to Levi who moved with his family to Two Harbors. We will miss you. We welcomed Lorelei, Liliana and Anais, and their families to the toddler room. We wish a very happy 2nd birthday to Brady on February 13th. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to me or Crystal. Suggestions are always welcome.

Reshma and Crystal

Children's House One

We would like to say thank you to a few of our families. Thank you to Ava for the tea cup set and Chinese New Year projects. Thank you to Anno for the Chinese zodiac. Thank you to Maelin for the donation of a microscope and many slides to enhance the science work in our school. Thank you to Walter for the Wish List poster.

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day by sharing candy or cards with our friends. Please, it has to be individually wrapped and **nut free.**

The children are given as much freedom to work out their own social relations with each other as possible. Maria Montessori felt, that for the most part, children like to solve their own social problems, and that adults cause harm by too early and frequent interference.

When adults interfere in this first stage of preparation for social life, they nearly always make mistakes...Problems abound at every step and it gives the children great pleasure to face them. They feel irritated if we intervene, and find a way to a solution if left to themselves.

Take care, Wangmo and Najat

Children's House Two

Hello from Children's House 2!

January was a big month for us with a lot of changes. First, we welcomed two new friends to our room, Mya and Patrick.

Patrick moved to CH2 from the toddler room and has been exploring the book corner and the many new jobs he has learned in his new classroom. Mya is new to our school and has been busy learning so many new things: names of new friends, where things are in the

room, and how to work on job in the classroom, to name a few. We are happy to have them both join our room. In January we also said goodbye to Renee who moved with her family to Two Harbors, Minnesota. All of us in CH2 will miss her and we wish her all the best. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Colin and Briana

Children's' House Three

The distinction between mind and body can be often a hard line to identify. In Children's House 3 (and the other Children's Houses), we use language to help the children begin to recognize the two forms (mind/body) as separate. Grace and courtesies help introduce this concept with purposeful language and make it usable. For example: "please stop touching my body (instead of "please stop touching me") or "please keep your body in line" or "you may not hit my body"

We also encourage, as needed a child to use his or her mind to tell their body something (implying that we can be the boss of our bodies). Examples: Keeping the voice inside the body and stop touching others. Another mind/body acknowledgement we use includes giving the body love (hugging or kissing oneself) reminders to treat your body kindly and gently and exercising with the body in fun ways like dancing.

Because this is a very complex and philosophical topic, we approach it with clear and practical language. Since it is a topic with volumes of opinions, we keep it as simple and unimposing as possible.

In peace, Sinuda and Ellyn

Children's House Four

One of our tasks as a caregiver is to guide the child through the ordering of reality. One way we assist the child is to provide the vocabulary for things, both physical objects and non-physical concepts like emotions, in hopes of assisting the child to develop consciousness of him or herself within the environment.

Naming emotions, even if we're guessing or asking if they feel like ___? allows the child to own their feeling and choose one of the many ways we have positively modeled how to process that emotion.

The need to be alone and expressing the need to take a break can be a difficult emotion for young children to politely process. You can help by verbally acknowledging when YOU are feeling overwhelmed and stating that you are going to take a break by sitting with a book, looking out at nature, etc. and would like a few minutes alone. This makes recognizing that one needs a break a positive experience versus something to be enforced.

Wishing you sunny days, Erica and Jamila

French with Najat

Bonjour a toutes les familles et joyeux mois de Fevrier. This is the month of love and Montessori because we will celebrate Valentine's Day and also the Montessori Education Week. We will focus this month on using the expression of : j'aime, je t'aime, etc. We will also learn the name of some Montessori materials in French ex: Pink Tower (la tour rose). For story time, we will start reading a story about Italy: "la Bottine Magique de Pipo". Our song for winter is "Rac a Tac Tac". We will also sing "Tout le que je veux"
Merci, Najat



Montessori Education Week

This fun-filled week is February 27th-March 2nd. On Monday we will have Montessori History Day where the children will learn about Maria Montessori and there will be information throughout the school for parents to read and find out more. Tuesday is the Night of Presentations from 3:30-5:30. We will also learn all about Italy, the birthplace of Maria Montessori. Wednesday is the Italian Feast and don't forget to wear Red, Green and White, the colors of the flag of Italy. Thursday is Around the World: Show and Tell. Bring something from anywhere in the world! Friday is Pajama Day. We are excited about all the fun activities!



Italian Feast!

To celebrate Montessori Education Week, we will be having an Italian Feast on Wednesday, February 29th. This meal will be catered, and we would like to collect \$4 per child to cover the cost.



NIGHT OF PRESENTATIONS

On February 28rd from 3:30pm-5:30pm, you are welcome to join your child in their classroom as they show you the Montessori materials they know. They will be giving you a "presentation" on the work, just like they receive from their teacher. You will see some of the amazing work they have done and you'll be able to see exactly what they have been talking about. This a fun time for parents to be involved in their child's learning, and you might learn some new things yourself!

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to William our newest Employee of the Month! Thank you for all your votes!

Name Label Program

We are excited to offer Name Labels for your child's belongings. A Miniapple parent is working with us to provide great quality and quantity for a reasonable price. You can receive 4-150 labels (depending on style) for \$25. They are great on lunch containers, books, bags...anything you want to make sure you will get returned to you. MIM will earn a couple of dollars off every order. All money earned will go toward playground toys and items for the classrooms.

Please make checks payable to MIM.