

# OLMS

## Our Lady's Montessori School



Hello Families and Friends of OLMS,

"Back to school, back to school, it's that time of year to start anew!" Welcome to our 2017-2018 school year! We are thrilled to hear of your summer fun and times spent renewing as a family. We kick off this month with a Back-to-School night for all parents on Tuesday, August 8th @ 5:30pm. Join us for an hour on a journey into who OLMS is and what we have to offer throughout this year.

Our staff is hard at work preparing the classrooms for inspiration, learning and overall fun! Your children are not just learning intellectually based on the Montessori Method but OLMS also prepares the child spiritually through our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, social-emotionally from the support of Conscious Discipline by Dr. Becky Bailey and physically by the Healthy Way to Grow program. You can say, we educate the *whole child*; guiding him as he embarks on a journey of exploring his surroundings and soaking in all knowledge. The skills he learns now, builds the foundation for his future as independent, confident adult. Who in turn, can give all that experience back to his community. Your child, a child of God, will be our next generation of inspiration, mentors and protectors of our Earth. "From tiny acorns, grow mighty oaks!" Have a blessed school year!

Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, guide us,

*Sarah Howard*

Program Director

August  
Volume 12, Issue 8  
**2017**



**OUR LADY'S  
MONTESSORI SCHOOL**  
OF THE SOCIETY OF OUR LADY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY



Hello Apostles Parents,

Welcome to the start of a new school year! It has been a wonderful, fun-filled summer. We have all had a chance to relax, children and teachers alike, and now we're ready to start our academic year. The first couple of weeks of August, we will be wrapping up our Jobs unit, enjoying time outside, and preparing our classroom.

When our academic year officially starts on August 17, we will focus on classroom expectations, building a safe community between the children, and developing a peaceful environment that we can build on throughout the year. We will be talking about different traits, such as responsibility and compassion, and how to use those in the classroom.



One difference you may notice once we start the school year is that all of the shelves in our classroom will be closed off except for Practical Life and Sensorial shelves. The rest of the shelves will not be open for the first four to six weeks. We do this to give the children a chance to relearn the expectations of the classroom. Practical Life and Sensorial materials are designed to help the children learn how to move in the classroom, to refine gross and fine motor skills, and they invite the children to practice classroom etiquette by respecting the materials. Once we have all mastered this, we will begin opening up other shelves. You will see works from pouring and basting to sewing and building, and as Montessori guides, it is our job to make sure we are meeting the needs of every child, so we will be rotating materials on a regular basis.

Please do not forget our Back to School Night on August 8. Even if your child is not new, Back to School Night is a great time to reconnect with teachers and fellow parents, and learn what we have in store for your child this year. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Peace,

Ms. Tayler, Ms. Andrea, and Sr. Aurora



Just as many expectant mothers go through "nesting" before the arrival of a new baby, the Disciples class has been busy revitalizing the classroom to keep the environment engaging and appealing for our learning activities. As we go "Back to School," we will also be going "Back to the Basics" by refreshing, refining and, in some cases, extending the scope of work. The building blocks and mastery of skills acquired in the Practical Life and Sensorial work areas of the classroom are vital to understanding and manipulating the didactic materials found in language, math, geography, science, art, etc... "The first essential for the child's development is concentration. It lays the whole basis for his character and social behaviour. He must find out how to concentrate, and for this he needs things to concentrate upon. This shows the importance of his surroundings, for no one acting on the child from outside can cause him to concentrate." Dr. Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind* (221).

Grace and courtesy are also essential "back to basics" that are inherent in Montessori and will be a primary focus as the children are welcomed back. Patience is the key to modeling and achieving good social graces. The unique concept of having single person functional didactic materials aid in practicing the virtue of patience. "There is only one specimen of each object, and if a piece is in use when another child wants it, the latter—if he is normalized—will wait for it to be released. Important social qualities derive from this. The child comes to see that he must respect the work of others, not because someone has said he must, but because this is a reality that he meets in his daily experience." Dr. Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind* (223).

As the fun, relaxing summer days wane and meet the engaging and satisfying challenges of the new school year, we look forward to welcoming Sr. Maria in her current mission to accompany the children in the Disciples class in their growth and maturation throughout this school year.

In Jesus and the Maternal Guidance of Our Lady of Grace,

Ms. Carolyn, Ms. Emily and Sr. Maria



# *Angels*

The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. - Deuterometry 3:4

August is an amazing month to start a fun time with learning about the school year. This month our theme in circle time is about "Back to School," our shape will be a *circle*, our color will be a *red* and our sound is "*B*". We will also be learning and focusing on how to walk in line, staying in our chairs while eating lunch, and proper hand washing. Also we will keep practicing our basic sign language.



"Be the change that you want to see in the world."  
- Mahatma Gandhi

God Bless,

Mrs. Reyna, Mrs. Sandra and Ms. Celia



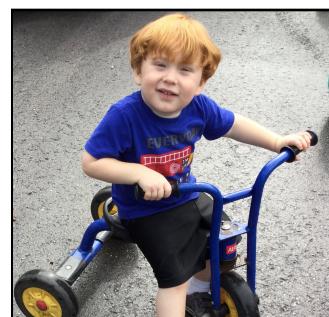
---

Dear Families,

## *Saints*

What a great Summer! The children in the Saints' room really enjoyed being outside this summer. They have enjoyed water days, going on nature walks, and getting to explore life outside of the classroom. As we now begin our transition back into the school year, our focus this month will be Primary Colors.

This month we will be hosting our Back to School night, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm-6:30pm. In the course of the evening, we will introduce our new teachers and roles in the classroom; discuss the daily schedule of the classroom, Toilet training, and what a Montessori classroom looks like. We invite all of our families to attend. This will be a great opportunity to ask questions and get to know other families in the class. We look forward to seeing everyone!



In Him,

The Saints' Teachers



# August 2017

This month is dedicated to:  
Immaculate Heart of Mary



| Mon | Tue  | Wed | Thur  | Fri  |
|-----|--|-----|---|--|
|     | 1  | 2   | 3   | 4<br>First Friday<br>Adoration @<br>10am-4pm |
| 7   | 8<br><b>Back-to-School<br/>Night @<br/>5:30pm-6:30pm</b><br>(All Families<br>Welcome!!!) | 9   | 10  | 11<br><b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>                   |
| 14  | 15   | 16  | 17<br><b>First Day of<br/>2017-2018<br/>School Year</b><br><b>Children's Mass<br/>@ 10:15am</b> | 18   |
| 21  | 22   | 23  | 24  | 25   |
| 28  | 29   | 30  | 31  |  |

## The Importance of Blessing Your Children by Sr. Mary of Holy Hope, SOLT

I do not remember exactly when I began blessing each child individually with holy water during naptime, but it is a ritual I cherish every day, and possibly the moments I will miss the most next year when I am no longer in the classroom at naptime.

Every day, as the children are settling into their cots for their afternoon nap, I take the holy water bottle and wet my thumb with holy water, tracing a cross on the forehead of every child and saying, "God bless you." The children love being blessed, and if I miss a child, he or she usually reminds me. One time, one of our children had pulled up her shirt and was slapping her stomach noisily. When I went over to see why she was making so much noise, she complained, "You forgot to bless me!" Another time, I accidentally got holy water in a child's eye, and she informed me, "Sister, you got 'God bless you' in my eyeball."

After a while, some little ones were not satisfied with only receiving a blessing; they also wanted to give one. So, often after I bless a child, a little hand gets stretched out to me, and I put holy water on the fingers. Then I bend way over and the cross is traced on my forehead, and he or she says, "God bless you!" I receive a lot of blessings! This double ritual, of blessing and being blessed, is a concrete synopsis of my experience at OLMS: No matter how much I give the children, they bless me many more times in return.

I want to encourage all our parents to bless their children every day, multiple times a day, by tracing a cross on their foreheads and saying, "God bless you." Our children need to hear us blessing them and at the same time, praying to God for them. When a child is upset, I often trace the cross on their foreheads. It is a silent reminder that I love them, I bless them, and ask God to bless them as well, in both happy and difficult moments.