



BRONXVILLE MONTESSORI SCHOOL
BUILDING A LIFE-LONG LOVE OF LEARNING

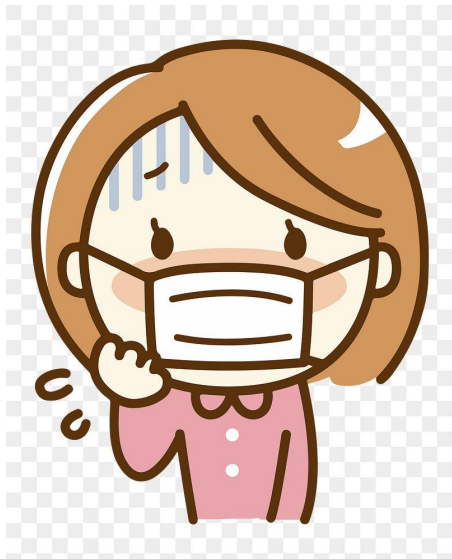
School Quarterly Newsletter

December 2023 - March 2024



Hello BMS families,

Winter is almost upon us and soon this beautiful winter scene may be a reality. So, it's time to prepare for possible school closings. We utilize the **IRIS ALERT** system. If there is a delay, early dismissal or closing, you will receive a message via the contact information you provided, either the night before (**if we know**) or no later than 6 AM that morning. Additionally, you will receive a message via **Brightwheel** to ensure everyone has received the message. We didn't have many closings last year so let's keep our fingers crossed for a mild winter season. Note: please ensure that we have all updated contact information on file. If not, please send your information to Ms. Liz at admissions@bronxvillemontessori.com



Covid - 19, Flu and RSV

Look at the picture above...I am sure no one wants to return to wearing masks all the time, RIGHT? Covid - 19, Flu and RSV are respiratory viruses that are **contagious** and spread through the environment quickly. We house young children who put their hands in their mouths (and fingers in noses, sigh), still need to practice coughing into their sleeve (if you please) and blowing their nose without help from an adult and must be reminded to wash their hands. The teachers are doing their due diligence helping the children learn these self-help skills, reminding them to frequently wash their hands as the teachers continuously clean the environment with the **bleach and water solution**. Now, we need your help to keep the spread of these viral infections out of the BMS environment or at least to a minimum. Each of these illnesses can present, at the onset, as a mild cold with a persistent cough and even runny nose. If your child has two symptoms (runny nose and cough...cough and sore throat), or a fever or persistent cough, please

keep your child home and contact his/her pediatrician. If your child should become ill at school with these symptoms, the teacher will first monitor your child, then reach out to you to inform you of the symptoms and how your child is feeling. *Please have emergency contacts available if your child needs to be picked up.

To-date, we have had several reports of RSV and pneumonia or pre-pneumonia in our classrooms. Therein, I want to provide you with some of the signs and symptoms of RSV, Pneumonia, and Covid - 19, as well as highlight some of the similarities:

1. **RSV**- a stuffy or runny nose, sore throat (also check for strep), mild headache, cough, wheezing, labored or fast breathing, fever, not eating or drinking well and/or a general ill feeling. **RSV can lead to bronchiolitis or **pneumonia**.
2. **Pneumonia**- fever, cough, chills, fast breathing, breathing with grunting or wheezing sounds, working hard to breathe (labored), vomiting, chest and/or belly pain, being less active and loss of appetite.
3. **Covid -19** - fever, cough, trouble breathing, gastrointestinal problems (bellyaches, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea), headaches, muscles aches, loss of taste and smell and symptoms of a cold.

**Please note - I underlined all similarities of the three (3) respiratory illnesses and also note they all, in some way, present as a cold (www.kidshealth.org).

Our main concern and goal is to keep your child, and all our little sweeties at BMS, healthy and safe, but we cannot do it without you.

***If your child is coughing or has a runny nose while at school, we will put a mask on him/her to help prevent the spread of germs. Thank you in advance for all your help and cooperation!

Reminder #1...if your child is sick, has seen a doctor, and received a diagnosis, you must call the school to inform us of the illness...

Reminder #2...after the visit to the pediatrician, don't forget the doctor's note...

Please and Thank You



Benefits of a Montessori Education

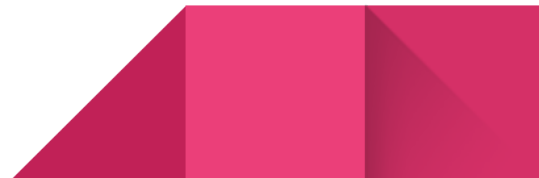
The “Montessori Method” is an approach in educating young children. This method allows young children endless opportunities of free “self-directed” activities, under the guidance of the Montessori directress. However, it is “freedom within limits.” In the Montessori classroom, the teacher is referred to as a “guide” and/or “servant”, because her role is to guide and serve our young ones. The directress takes the time to prepare an environment conducive to learning for the young child. The environment is set up to meet the needs of all learning styles which is beneficial to your child’s growth and learning. Here are just five (5) ways your child will benefit from this environment (this is in no way an exhausted list):

1. The opportunity to learn at his/her own pace. The classroom has materials that will pique the interest of each child. The child can take his/her time exploring and experimenting with the material of choice until mastered; then and only then will he/she move on, satisfied, to the next activity. *Note - no child is haphazardly moving throughout the classroom. Lessons are given and the “guide” is gently directing the child to activities



that will meet his/her developmental needs, whether, cognitively, socially, emotionally or physically.

2. A structured environment which lends to a child becoming focused, one who can concentrate on a task. One of the areas in the environment that fosters this is the area of practical life. This area has materials used in daily life such as napkin folding, pouring, spooning and sweeping. These manipulatives help each child develop self-confidence, order and independence. Additionally, the repetition of the lesson fosters the focus and concentrations needed to engage in all the various areas of the Montessori environment.
3. A normalized child. This is important to the child's freedom of movement and choice in the Montessori environment. The normalized child is calm, understands the rules and routine of the classroom, confident and happy to learn and explore. The normalization process begins the day each child walks into the classroom. For toddlers, this process can take up to 12 weeks and for the 3 to 6 children, up to 8 weeks. When the child is normalized, there is no control from without, the control comes from within the child, hence we have a curious, focused, independent, self-disciplined learner. **“Once a direction is given to them, the child's movements are made towards a definite end, so that he himself grows quiet and contented, and becomes an active worker, a ‘being’ calm and full of joy” ~ Maria Montessori**
4. An independent child. I know parents don't want to let their child grow up (so fast) but each child is longing for his/her independence. They want to do things for themselves and are very capable of doing so many things, if given the opportunity. This environment allows your child to become an independent individual. In the Montessori environment, each child is allowed to do for him/herself. They carry their own bag, put away their lunch box, and clean up after themselves. They are allowed to make mistakes, which is important to their learning. Your child is learning by “doing” not having things done for him/her. **“The greatest gift we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence” ~ Maria Montessori.**
5. A self-directed learner. One of the most important developmental milestones any child can achieve is the ability to become a motivated learner. One who will love to learn. The Montessori environment provides unlimited experiences in the various areas of the prepared environment. Your child is provided endless opportunities to explore their interests as they strive to reach their fullest potential. Your child will not only explore their area of interests but develop a yearning and willingness to explore areas least appealing to them.



I hope after reading these five (5) points, and there are more, I hope you see how your choice to send your child to a Montessori environment is preparation for the future. **Maria Montessori** said it best, “The education of even a small child, therefore, does not aim at preparing him for school, but *FOR LIFE.*”



Parent Observation Month

During the month of March, parents will have the opportunity to come, sit and observe in their child’s class for 30 minutes to see the magic which takes place in their Montessori classroom. This visit will be by appointment only and for both dad and mom. Further information will be provided in February 2024.



Photo Day

On **Wednesday, March 20, 2024** we will have our annual Photo Day! All children will have the opportunity to have their picture taken with their classmates & teachers, individually, and with a sibling. More information to follow...

Thank you for taking the time to read this latest newsletter. Love you bunches!

Ms. Deborah Bobian