We are all familiar with the contributions that Maria Montessori gave to the world of education. Her research and teaching provided students with rich environments in which children can naturally learn math, language, science, etc. However, what you may not be familiar with is that she is a major figure in peace education. In Montessori’s writings she explicitly denotes “that education is perhaps the most genuine means – of eliminating war once and for all.” Maria Montessori maintained that values such as personal responsibility, cultural awareness, and global awareness must be both an implicit and explicit part of every child’s education.

One important part of a Montessori classroom is the Peace Table. The peace table is a conflict resolution tool for the classroom. It is where children go when they have a disagreement with someone in the classroom. All the children are taught to listen and speak respectfully to each other. They take turns using “I” statements such as I feel unhappy that you’re angry. Most often an ongoing disagreement will bring the children to the peace table. It is there they can resolve their differences without harsh words or hurt feelings. The problems seem to be resolved just by the very act of communicating feelings.

This approach gives the child their own voice. It lessens the “say you’re sorry” response from a teacher. The peace table also provides structure that will carry with them outside the classroom. They will have a virtual peace table wherever they go. Lastly, it benefits both the teacher and child as they practice the tools of trying to solve their own problems; showing them that problems are solvable.

No School!
Both our school and supplemental care programs will be closed on Monday, February 17th in observance of the Presidents’ Day holiday.

Valentine’s Day
We love Valentine’s Day! Be sure to check with your child’s teacher concerning the class Valentine’s Day party. If your child is preparing Valentine cards for his/her classmates, please make sure that you send in a card for each child in the class.
Montessori Education Week: February 24th – February 28th
Each year Montessori communities across the country honor the legacy of Maria Montessori during Montessori Education Week. This year would have been Maria Montessori’s 150th birthday. We have a special board up in our hallway that takes you on a journey through her life. On Thursday, the school will be gathering and having a celebration where we will sing songs of peace, love and friendship.

Parent/Child Classroom Visits March 5, 2020
6:30-7:30
Come in and visit your child’s classroom on March 5th from 6:30-7:30. Come in and let them give you a lesson. Ask your child to show you what their favorite work is in the classroom. It is sure to be a wonderful experience.

Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser
It’s back again and yummier than ever! The Gertrude Hawk candy fundraiser will run from February 18th through February 28th with delivery anticipated the week of March 30th. There are tons of treats to choose from that will satisfy your sweet tooth. Look for a brochure in your child’s cubby or visit www.gertrudehawk.com to purchase online. All proceeds benefit our school.

Fall Re-enrollment
We are currently in the process of enrolling for our upcoming school year. If you have not done so, please hand your paperwork. Re-enrollment forms were given to every family to reserve your spot for next year. If you need another form, I will be happy to give you another copy. If your child is presently in Kindergarten, you still need to fill in the re-enrollment form on the bottom stating that your child is going into first grade.

Summer Camp
Camp Applications will be put in your child’s weekly folder. If you would like to pick up an application for a friend please stop by the office. We are planning another extremely fun summer!

Security Measures
The security of your child is of the utmost importance. If your child is to be picked up by a friend or a relative, send a note to inform us to that effect. If for some reason you forget to write the note, please call the office to let us know with whom you want your child to leave. As you enter and exit the building, please do not let anyone into the building that you do not recognize.
Important Snow/Emergency Closing Information

In the event of snow or other bad weather, we will use our emergency closing system to keep you posted on school closings, late openings, or early closings. Our school closing number is 384 in Montgomery County. You can access our information in the following ways:

- CBSphilly.com and KWY newsradio (1060AM) will announce our school closing number of 384 in Montgomery County.
- Register at CBSphilly.com to have text alerts sent to you in the event of a school closing or late opening. NOTE: Even if you registered last year, you will need to re-register this year.
- Go to the CBSphilly.com website and click on “school closings”; look for our school number, 384 in Montgomery County.
- T.V. channel 6abc Action news will list our school information (we will be listed as Blue Bell Montessori Children’s House)
- TV channel NBC-10 will list our school information (we will be listed as Blue Bell Montessori Children’s House)
- Call the school telephone (215-646-6816) and listen to the message.
- Check your email for a message from the Principal. (Don’t make this your only source since emails are not always received)

Guidelines for Health and Safety

Please review the health guidelines and procedures in your 2019-20 Parent Handbook. Do not send your child to school if he or she is too ill to comfortably take part in all regular school activities (including outdoor play) or if he or she will infect other children. Children who are ill may return to school after being fever and symptom free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Thank you for doing your part to keep our school community healthy.