



# Christmas



December 2009

## SJA Montessori News

Dear Parents,

We are entering into the most blessed season. Celebrating Advent is a beautiful, meaningful way to have children learn that Christmas is more than Santa Claus. At the Montessori Children's House we keep the same routines and keep the real meaning of Christmas as our main focus. We will again collect food for local food pantries. Please bring food in boxes or cans, **no glass please**. The teachers will talk to the children about why we help other children in need. Our Montessori Christmas celebration will also focus on the true meaning of Christmas. On the last day before vacation each classroom will celebrate in a fun but low keyed way.

My Christmas wish for each family is that you find time to establish traditions that are not centered around getting presents. Have fun together, help someone else together, make gifts, make decorations and sing together. Children want to be loved and need to be respected as competent beings. Having them join in to help can be great fun and provide them with a sense of accomplishment.

**In Peace,**

Pam Esterline

"I know that happiness does not come with things. It comes from work and pride in what you do."

*Mahatma Gandhi*

### Important Dates

December 1-17	Food Drive for local Food Pantries
December 18	Christmas Mass 7:00pm
December 19	Vacation at the end of the day
January 5	School Resumes
January 19	Staff In-service



Montessori Children's House  
Elementary School  
Middle School

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“Children have for eons shown an interest in daily life through make-believe cooking and cleaning. It was one of the pivotal discoveries of Dr. Montessori that, given the chance, children usually choose *real work over imaginary*.

Allowing a child to participate in the daily work he sees going on around him is an act of great respect for, and confidence in, the child. It helps him to feel important to himself and to those around him. He is needed.

We can empathize if we think about the differences in treatment of a stranger, perhaps a dinner guest in our home, who is served and waited upon, compared to that of a good friend who is welcomed in our kitchen to talk and laugh while we prepare the meal together. Children don't want to be the guest, they want us to help them do it themselves.” Child of the World by Michael Olaf

“Montessori education instills in its students a different set of values—ones that reflect the four cornerstones of happiness. Montessori children learn to **embrace community and relationships**. Likewise, they **develop an understanding of their passions and interests** as a result of being free to explore and pursue topics and activities that capture their attention. In doing so, they learn to become **deeply engaged in their daily experiences and occupations**. They also **develop a strong sense of individual purpose and meaning** without the distractions and ills of comparative considerations.” What is Montessori by Heather Pedersen, PhD & Jason Pedersen

The four essential ingredients for happiness taken from Authentic Happiness by Dr. Martin Seligman



“The energy that can help mankind is that which lies within the child.”

*Maria Montessori*

