

The SFMS Chronicle

May 2010

Published monthly by Santa Fe Montessori School, 1010 Solana Drive, Solana Beach, CA 92075, phone (858) 755-3232
Nancy Sager, Founder

Walter Huebscher, Head of School



THE SANTA FE MONTESSORI SCHOOL ANNUAL GALA IS JUST ONE WEEK AWAY!

The Gala Committee has been working hard all year and is really excited to celebrate with you at our annual gala this May 15th,
“Getaway to the Junkanoo” - a Caribbean Celebration!

This is going to be an elegant and exciting NIGHT TO REMEMBER! For starters, we have Fuller Lighting coming in to transform our elementary building into a Caribbean oasis with gorgeous LIGHTING and AV; we have an OPEN BAR, a catered Caribbean-style DINNER by Milton's; there will be a live & authentic STEEL DRUM BAND playing all night, courtesy of “Steel the Band”; we have celebrity AUCTIONEER, Sean Kelly, (“as seen on Letterman”); and of course, we have amazing & exciting AUCTIONS GALORE (international trips, an exclusive pro surf package, STING tickets, spa and golf getaways) - at par with any glamorous fundraiser event in San Diego County (and yes, we are getting coverage in the local society pages too and there is word that the MAYOR of Solana Beach will be attending!).

ATTEND our ONCE-A-YEAR event: you will be disappointed later if you miss it and hear about it from others! The ticket prices couldn't be more reasonable: \$75 buys you a full dinner, drinks, entertainment and fun kids' party for the whole evening! But do not wait to buy your tickets as we have LIMITED seating capacity! Return your RSVP at school or go to our school website, www.santafemontessori.org to purchase your tickets TODAY! And don't forget to invite other family members AND to buy your TUITION OPPORTUNITY tickets!

Please come and join us, your volunteer gala committee, SFMS teachers and staff, your fellow parents, friends and family and support the school that is supporting the growth and enrichment of our kids all year long and celebrate with us
“Getaway to the Junkanoo!”

Warmly,

ANNA DANES, Gala Chair & Gracie's Mom (Room 1 CH)
anna@zrginc.com 858-967-8090

Due to Day Care staffing constraints, we can only accept children for Gala Day Care Reservations up to noon of Monday, May 10th. We absolutely cannot accept Day Care drop-ins on Gala Day.

MORE NEWS . . . Please see page 2 for Summer Program and Positive Discipline information, page 3 for the Parents' Association News, and page 4 for some Montessori perspectives, and page 5 for information on RFB&D Learning Through Listening meeting. This is the last issue of the Chronicle for this school year.

The Summer Program 2010 is almost full.

If you have not yet enrolled for summer,
please do so soon to assure your child has a spot.

For The Children's House

Three, three week sessions:

Session one, June 21 - July 9

Session two, July 12 - July 30

Both sessions with Ms Dawn, Ms Sibylle and Ms Soraya
and

Session three, Aug. 2 - Aug. 20

With Ms Estella and Ms Maike

For The Toddler Community

Two, three week sessions:

Session 1 ~ June 21 - July 9

and

Session 2 ~ July 12 - July 30

Both sessions - Ms Maria and Ms Lesley

Applications for the sessions listed above can be printed out from our website,
www.SantaFeMontessori.org.

Just click on the link for the level you're interested in on the home page.

You are invited to join us for the next

Positive Discipline

Family Education Center Class at SFMS

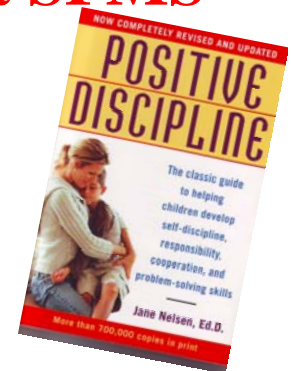


Jane Nelsen

which will be held on

Saturday, June 5th

10 am to noon.



The overall goal of these classes is to help parents and teachers develop long-term skills that encourage their children to think for themselves, feel capable, become more responsible and have a greater respect for themselves and others.

To register on-line and **save 50%**, go to this web address,

<http://www.familyeducationcenters.com/special.html>

SFMS Parents' Association News

May 2010

A big thank you to all who helped make **Teacher Appreciation Week** a success. Our teachers enjoyed the special attention, massages, and luncheon and many commented on how truly appreciated they felt. Special thanks to our fantastic room moms who coordinated the gifts and events. You too are appreciated!



Parents' Association members Kathy Stenger (above), LeAnn Rytz (standing left) and Jennifer Busick (standing right) serve lunch to our very appreciated SFMS teachers.



Fundraising Update

We recently raised \$85 from box tops collections and \$267 from our March Family Night at Chevy's. Our t-shirt sales are coming along as well. If you have not yet purchased t-shirts, order forms will be sent home on May 10 and t-shirts will be available at the Gala as well.

Thanks to all of you who participate in these fundraisers. Your support allowed us to provide the massages and luncheon to our wonderful teachers and support the ongoing playground improvements.

Next Year

Just a reminder that we are looking for both returning and new faces to join the Parents' Association next year. Please contact LeAnn or Kathy if you would like to join us, especially if you would be willing to serve as treasurer, secretary, or vice-president.

Thank you!!

LeAnn at parkerandjismom@pacbell.net or Kathy at katherine.stenger@cox.net

Maria Montessori on The Teacher

It is not a question of giving a child a knowledge about the qualities of things, such as size, shape, and color, by means of various objects. Nor is it her aim to train a child to use the materials correctly. This would ... demand the continual active operation of the teacher in providing information and hastening to correct a child's every mistake until he had learned his lesson.

The profound difference . . . is that the objects are not a help to the teacher.

The objects in our system are, instead, a help to the child himself. He chooses what he wants for his own use, and works with it according to his own needs, tendencies, and special interests. In this way the objects become a means of growth.

The principal agent is the object itself and not the instruction given by the teacher. It is the child who uses the objects; it is the child who is active, and not the teacher....

In brief, the teacher's principal duty in the school may be described as follows; She should explain the use of the material. *She is the main connecting link between the material ... and the child*

Our schools . . . where the teacher restricts herself to giving guidance to children, have furnished them with a gymnasium for mental exercises. They grow stronger, develop a distinctive personality, are well disciplined, and acquire an inward health that is the direct and brilliant product of *the freeing of the mind* [emphasis added].

(pp 149-150, "The Teacher")

The Discovery of the Child, by Maria Montessori

...on Discipline

An interesting piece of work, freely chosen, which has the virtue of inducing concentration rather than fatigue, adds to the child's energies and mental capacities, and leads him to self-mastery.

The essential thing is for the task to arouse such an interest that it engages the child's whole personality.

.. on Mistakes and Their Correction

...there is one thing [the teacher] must never do and that is, to interfere by praising a child's work, or punishing him if it is wrong, or even by correcting his mistakes.

All the crosses made by the teacher on the child's written work, all her scoldings, only have a lowering effect on his energies and interests. To tell a child he is naughty or stupid just humiliates him; it offends and insults, but does not improve him. For if a child is to stop making mistakes, he must become more skillful, and how can he do this if, being already below standard, he is also discouraged?

...unless I can correct myself, I shall have to seek the help of someone else, who may not know any better than I do. How much better it is if I can recognize my own mistakes, and then correct them! If anything is likely to make the character indecisive, it is the inability to control matters without having to seek advice. This begets a discouraging sense of inferiority and a lack of confidence in one's self. (pp. 241-244)

The Absorbent Mind, by Maria Montessori



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RFB&D, a national, nonprofit, volunteer organization, is the nation's largest audio library of accessible recorded textbooks with more than 560,000 books in circulation. They are committed to providing students with visual, learning and other disabilities with the most effective access to content and integrated accessible solutions. Recorded books of all levels are available for kindergarten through to post graduate studies.

If you know of anyone with a disability who could benefit from learning through listening, or anyone who would like to know more about this organization there will be a free introductory meeting at the school on May 19th.

What: RFB&D's Access to Success

When: Wednesday, May 19th @ 6:00-7:00pm
(The meeting will begin and end on-time)

Where: Santa Fe Montessori School,
1010 Solana Drive, Solana Beach, CA. 92075

Space is limited so RSVP today!

ryoung@rfd.org <<mailto:ryoung@rfd.org>> or call 323-664-5525 ext 107
www.rfd.org/Western