

Parent Points

An information newsletter promoting full family learning at The Family Learning House.

September 8, 2006

"We are apt to forget that children watch examples better than they listen to preaching."

—Roy L. Smith

CALANDER POINTS

September 14, 2006

Virtues Visitor in Class
11AM

September 14, 2006

Parenting Support Group
9 AM—10:30AM

September 15, 2006

Ayi Virtues Program
9AM—11AM

September 20, 2006

Parent Learning Workshop
A Montessori Overview
7PM - 8:30 PM

September 29, 2006

Half day of School
For all children

The Family Learning House

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Joyful Children!

The photos to the left illustrate the joyful and purposeful work that has been done in the past two weeks at the Family Learning House. Infant Community children began their first full day of class on September 4th, while the children in the Primary Classroom completed their phase in cycle on September 7th.

Looking ahead the school is busy planning meaningful learning opportunities for the children, their parents, Ayis, Grandparents and the wider Family Learning House community. More information about different programs that are available can be found later in this issue of Parent Points.

Parenting Support Morning

Karyn Robarts will lead a weekly support meeting for parents beginning Thursday September 14, 2006 from 9AM — 10:30AM in TFLH Parent Library. All parents are welcome to participate in this opportunity for continued learning.

Ayi Virtues Program in Session

The Family Learning House **Ayi Virtues Program** will resume weekly sessions beginning Friday, September 15, 2006 from 9AM until 11AM. The weekly workshops will be held in the Parent Library and are open to Ayis, Drivers and Grandparents.

These weekly sessions will be led by FLH moral education facilitator Michelle Xu and will focus on how to provide virtues based childcare. Joining Michelle for the first six weeks of the program is parent volunteer Helen Fosh and will cover the 5 Strategies from "The Virtues Project."

An Evening with Montessori

Kate and Terry Millie will present our first Parent Learning Workshop on September 20, 2006 from 7PM - 8:30PM in the Primary Classroom. The workshop will cover an overview of the Montessori approach and how it is used in TFLH.



Hong Yan's Health Tip

At the Family Learning House snack time includes fruit and vegetables as well as plenty of water. Your child may freely take snack at any time through the morning. However, after a day at school most children need to recharge with a nutritious snack.

contain these items at home to avoid any problems.

If your child or anyone in your family has any serious food allergies please inform the school so that we are aware of the allergy, the emergency procedures, and can work to prevent an allergy related incident.

When choosing an after school snack, especially something for sharing with friends please be aware of the food allergy situation at our school. Several children have severe allergies to peanuts, peanut oils, cheese and seafood. If possible please keep snacks that

Hong Yan is one of our Primary classroom assistants as well as Pin Ying and PE teacher. She is a medical doctor by trade and acts as our on site medical specialist.

Virtue of the Week

Every two weeks our character education program brings a different virtue into focus. The first two weeks of September feature CLEANLINESS.

Please take a minute to review the following information to help demonstrate the place our virtue of the week has in your life. Remember, the best way we can guide our children is to model the behaviour we expect to see in them.

CLEANLINESS

Cleanliness means washing often, and keeping your body clean. Cleanliness can be in your mind as well as your body. A clean mind means that you can concentrate your thoughts on things that are good for you. You can "clean up your act" by deciding to change when you have done something you aren't proud of or when you have made a mistake.

I am practicing cleanliness when I...

- Keep my body fresh and clean
- Remember to care for my teeth every day
- Get in the habit of putting my things away
- Put only healthful things in my body
- Use clean, precise language
- Look for ways to clean up my mistakes

I keep myself clean. I put my things and my life in order. I



Parking Alert

Effective immediately all parents and drivers are requested to park their cars on the road adjacent to the Unity Garden and walk their children to The Family Learning House for drop off, pick up or for any Family Learning House related events. Please do not drive your car onto the laneway where The Family Learning House and Daystar Academy are located.

It is our hope that this will eliminate the road safety hazard of having cars parked or standing alongside the school, the playground and Daystar Academy as well as address community concern about the flow of traffic in this area during school hours and school events.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this matter, as it helps to protect our children's safety.

This new policy is in effect under ALL circumstances including inclement weather.



Kate's Corner: Natural Consequences

“What kind of discipline is used in a Montessori classroom to make the children do their work?” This is a common question that parents and other educators have when researching Montessori schools.

In a Montessori classroom we strive for self-discipline. This development takes time and only comes about through careful preparations and guidance from the adults around the children.

Children crave clear boundaries and guidelines about appropriate behaviour as they go through the process of creating themselves. The most important tool for any adult working with a child is to ensure that your boundaries are consistent. All rules, if broken, should have natural consequences that are directly related to the rule.

In our classroom we have many boundaries that help the children develop self-discipline, all with relevant, natural consequences:

Boundary: Orderliness - the children must clean their work area, tuck in their chair and put their work back on the shelf.

Consequence: Other children are unable to use the work because it has been left out on the table. Another child trips over the un-tucked chair and remind the child to tuck it in.

Boundary: Service - serving food and cleaning up afterwards is every child's responsibility.

Consequence: The children won't receive their lunch (this may sound harsh, but it is the children's responsibility to bring the food to the table and serve, the adults will not do this for them.)

Boundary: Respect - The children must respect each

other and the adults in the classroom by tapping someone's shoulder and waiting patiently for the answer.

Consequence: The children will not receive attention if they are calling out, interrupting or disturbing people's work.

These boundaries are learned and understood over time through daily experience in the classroom. These boundaries allow the children to understand how to function in the Montessori environment.

SETTING BOUNDARIES AT HOME

We encourage parents to discuss your home boundaries and rules. You may even involve your child in the discussion. Some rules and boundaries you may consider are:

Boundary: Respect - We respect everyone's space in the house and ensure that we leave rooms as clean as we found them.

Consequence: Children are asked to clean up as they work, they are responsible for their own items throughout the house and may not proceed to

another activity until the area is clean.

Boundary: Responsibility - we are responsible for completing all chores.

Consequence: If family commitments are not met then time reserved as playtime must be given up to complete these obligations.

Whatever boundaries you choose, we encourage you to use consequences (positive or negative) that provide a natural link between the behaviour and the resulting action.

“Let us always remember that inner discipline is something to come, and not something already present. Our task is to show the way to discipline”

**Maria Montessori,
*The Absorbent Mind***