

Parent Points

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

October 13, 2006

Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right; the right to dignity and a decent life.

- Nelson Mandela

CALANDERPOINTS

October 17, 2006

White Band Day

In support of

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY

October 27, 2006

8:30-11:30AM

Primary Class Field Trip

Green House

October 27, 2006

Half day of School

For all children

The Family Learning House

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Mid-Autumn Moon Festival Celebration



Our mid-autumn moon festival celebration featured singing, dancing, storytelling, lantern making and of course lots of delicious snacks. The event was held at the FLH on October 9, 2006. A big thank you to all of the families that attended this very special evening celebrating the harvest moon. The mid-Autumn Moon Festival is the second in our series of Family events hosted by The Family Learning House throughout the year. We will have details about our next FLH family event in an upcoming edition of Parent Points.

FLH TRAINING EVENTS



During our half day of professional development on Friday September 29 all staff of TFLH completed a first aid refresher course. We reviewed techniques for CPR and choking emergencies as well as basic first aid skills for minor bumps, cuts and burns. In the photo above Hong Yan practices CPR under the guidance of our workshop facilitator.



Every Friday Michelle Xu and Helen Fosh facilitate the Ayi, Driver and Grandparent virtues training sessions. The first five sessions will focus on the 5 strategies from *The Family Virtues Guide*.

The weekly sessions deliver important information about providing virtues based childcare.

REMINDER: Every Thursday from 9 - 10:30 AM Karyn Robarts hosts a mother's support group in the FLH Parent Library. All mothers are welcome to join the informative discussions about the challenges and joys parenthood.



Photos of TFLH children participating in cooperative games during PE class.

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

Every two weeks our character education program brings a different virtue into focus.

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.

GENTLENESS

Gentleness is acting and speaking in a way which is considerate and kind to others. It is using self-control, in order not to hurt or offend anyone. You can be gentle with people and animals in the way you touch them and the way you speak to them. Being gentle with things means to be careful so that they will not break and not be hurt in any way. Gentleness is moving wisely, touching softly, holding carefully, speaking quietly, and thinking kindly.

I am practicing gentleness when I...

- Make it safe for animals and people to be around me
- Touch carefully
- Speak with a soft voice
- Express my feeling peacefully
- Think gentle thoughts

I am gentle. I think, speak and act with gentleness. I show care for people and for everything I touch.

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY

让贫穷成为历史



Tuesday, October 17, 2006 is the fourth global white band day. In 2005 it was agreed that the white band would be used as a worldwide symbol by the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, the world's largest ever anti-poverty movement with organizations representing more than 150 million people in over 80 countries. Across the world millions of people will show their support for the fight against poverty by wearing a white band.

On October 17, we ask you to send your child to school in a clean fresh uniform so that we can take a group photograph with a **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** banner as an act of solidarity against poverty and a call for world leaders to do more to eradicate poverty. We will email our photo to www.makepovertyhistory.org demonstrating our support of this cause and our role as world citizens who can make a difference. We will continue to plan activities and events to allow our children to discover how to make poverty history throughout this school year.

MAKE HISTORY



The Quest For Independence

It is in the child's nature to quest for independence. When a child begins to grow teeth he frees himself from the need for his mother's milk. When a child begins to crawl and later to walk she is able to explore her environment independently.

In the Montessori classroom we encourage our children to function independently. Children follow an inner guide to discipline, choose and complete their own work, prepare their own snack and care for their own bodies. We know that children can do much more than most people give them credit for. It is often our own desire to provide for them and not their need that leads us. By recognising that children want to learn the skills that lead to independence we can help them to learn and grow.

Help Me To Help Myself

There are several ways parents can help their children to become independent at home. Take some time to critically look at your child's routine to see where there is room for more independence. Give your child clear choices, guidance, and plenty of time helping them to help themselves when:

Toileting – As soon as a child can stand they can help in the diapering or toileting process by pulling their own pants up and down, moving stepping stools or laying out fresh clothing or diapers. Empower your children with these responsibilities.

Eating – A child that has the muscle control to pull themselves to a standing position also have the hand control to use a small drinking glass and pitcher, small spoons and forks and can help to slice fruits such as bananas. These activities also help them to develop fine motor skills that will be very important when they begin to use a pencil to write.

Cleaning Up – Children thrive in an ordered world and one way we keep it this way is by cleaning up. Children can be made responsible for making their own bed, putting away their belongings and helping to walk or clean up after a pet.

Dressing – Children that can stand without support can also dress themselves. They can try buttoning their own shirt,

pulling up their own pants and putting on their own shoes. It takes a great deal of patience from the adults but children will eventually put their own clothes on with ease and comfort as long as they are given the opportunity to do it themselves.

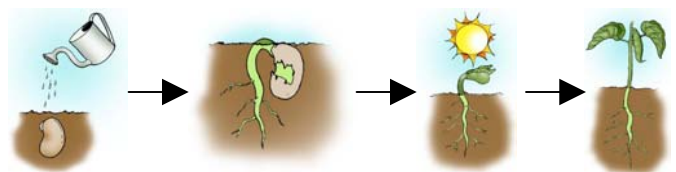
Caring for Themselves – Children can be made responsible for their own cleanliness by washing hands, blowing their nose, brushing their teeth and combing their hair independently.

Believe in the Child

If your family includes ays, drivers, grandparents or other adults, be sure to involve them in your efforts. Let them know that your child is responsible for certain activities independently and they need to be given extra time to complete them successfully. A supportive family that understands how to help children to become independent will end up raising upright children with strong and noble character. Above all else, believe in the child. Know that children are little people in the process of creating themselves and that they yearn to do it independently.

Kate Millie is an AMI trained Montessorian with a Masters of Education degree from Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland. Kate is the Primary Directress at the Family Learning House.

PRIMARY CLASS FIELD TRIP



During the month of October children in the Primary classroom are studying the theme of PLANTS. We are growing our own bean plants, reading stories about farming and the harvest and creating art projects that involve plants.

As a follow up to these activities our staff are in the process of planning a field trip to a local greenhouse. We will be requesting help from parent volunteers who will participate in a car pool taking children from school to the greenhouse.

We will send home a separate sign up sheet and permission slip detailing all important information a few days before the field trip.

GREENHOUSE FIELD TRIP

October 27, 2006

8:30 AM - 11:15 AM

(Children will be back at school for an 11:30 pick up)