Prepare to be Splashed!

Spring Splash

Sunday, April 22nd
Noon – 3 p.m.

The playground areas will be transformed into a splash park featuring water slides, The Woods High School Student Talent Show, and a Shaved Ice Truck.

Dress your children in swimsuits and water shoes and come play at School of the Woods. Enjoy tasty food, crafts, face painting, and tons of family fun.

Looks for Pre-Sale Admissions and Raffle Ticket Sales in the Carpool line later this month.

Join the fun and sign up to volunteer at schoolofthewoods.org

Parent Education Event

Book Discussion of The Yes Brain
By Dan Siegel & Tina Payne Bryson

Tuesday, April 10th at 7 p.m.

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Edited by Barbara Bends
Talking Respectfully to Your Children

By Jane M. Jacobs, MA

If you have observed a Montessori class, you may have wondered: How does the teacher manage 20 or more children when I have trouble with just one or two? If only I had her skills and patience!

Having taught for several years before I had children, I was astonished to discover that my Montessori classroom experience did not prepare me for parenthood. Though Maria Montessori believed in extensive training of the teacher, few parents receive useful preparation. Fortunately, I found a book that helped me translate Montessori theory into more effective parenting: How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk, by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish.

The following ideas from this valuable book might be helpful as part of your parenting tool kit. e bonus is that these tools will work for you in any setting—and with everyone, not just children.

Learn to look and listen

Montessori stresses the importance of carefully observing a child as he goes about his work. is is one of the ways we can show respect for the child, another major premise of the Montessori philosophy. We o en jump to conclusions and step in without taking into account what our child might be doing, thinking, or feeling. Put down the phone, turn o the television, watch, and look into your child’s eyes when you speak.

• Practice observing and staying quiet first.
• Listen to yourself as well as your child—if your immediate inclination is dismay or anger, write down what you would like to say, but don’t say it.
• Try not to fix anything or problem-solve—just be with your child.

Name the feelings

It’s easy to be anxious when your child is upset. As a result, we may minimize children’s feelings or attempt to protect them from disappointment. In the long run, it is more productive to help children identify and learn from their emotions. Just as Montessori materials help children learn concepts and nomenclature, thoughts and feelings can be defined for our children. Adapt the style or phrasing to suit your child’s age.

• Listen to your child as he or she talks, offering feedback such as: “Oh...”; “Mmm...”; “I see.”
• Recognize and name your child’s feelings: “You seem upset (or angry, or happy)....”
• Resist asking and then answering questions that are rhetorical or accusatory: “What were you thinking?” “Who drank the milk?” “How many times have I told you...?”
• Try to understand from your child’s perspective and describe, perhaps with fantasy: “Sounds like you wish you could eat cookies for every meal.”
  Show respect for your child’s struggle: “I see that it’s hard for you to...”
  Describe the dilemma your child is facing: “Even though you know...” “The problem is...”

Engage cooperation

Keeping the family on schedule—and making certain everyone is fed, clothed, bathed, etc.—is no easy task, especially as children often have timetables, needs, and desires different from adults (and often from each other). Montessori believed that children, when given tasks appropriate to their abilities, delight in their accomplishments. Organize your home so children needn’t rely on adults for everything, and give them the time and the direction they need so they can become independent and successful in contributing to the family. You may find you don’t have to resort to demands or reprimands.

• Acknowledge feelings first: “You’re cozy in your bed this morning.”
• Offer a choice: “Do you want to wear the red shirt or the green shirt?”
  Be playful: “If you were a magician, you would already be dressed!”
• Rather than reminding, describe what you see: “This table needs to be set.”
  Say it with information: Use a word or short description, rather than a nagging, repetitive demand: “Shoes, backpack...”
• Write a note: “I’m hungry” on the dog’s collar or “Hang me up!” on the jacket.
• Take action without insulting: “Let’s clean up, put the paints away, and go outside.”

Be patient as you learn these new skills; it takes time and practice—and will pay off. As Faber and Mazlish state: “We want to demonstrate the kind of respectful communication that we hope our children will use with us—now, during their adolescent years, and ultimately as our adult friends” (1982, p. 88).

JANE M. JACOBS, MA, is a licensed marriage and family therapist and an educational consultant at Montessori Services. She has taught children ages 2 to 7 in Montessori schools, Head Start, and at a preschool for children with developmental challenges. She is AMS-credentialed (Early Childhood). Contact her at jjacobs@montessoriservices.com.

Reference


Around Campus

Texas Independence Day celebrated with a Rodeo Parade
Who is ready for the egg hunt?

Spring is Here
Books Recommended by the Teachers

Compost Stew, by Mary McKenna Siddals
Grades preschool – 1st
Kids everywhere are knowledgeable about the environment and climate change. Not only is composting becoming more common in households and residential gardens, but many school gardens feature compost piles, too. But how do you start a compost pile? What’s safe to include? Perfect for an Earth Day focus or year-round reference, this inviting book provides all the answers for kids and families looking for simple, child-friendly ways to help the planet.

Here We Are, by Oliver Jerrers
Grades preschool – 2nd
Oliver Jeffers, arguably the most influential creator of picture books today, offers a rare personal look inside his own hopes and wishes for his child—and in doing so gifts children and parents everywhere with a gently sweet and humorous missive about our world and those who call it home.

Insightfully sweet, with a gentle humor and poignancy, here is Oliver Jeffers’ user’s guide to life on Earth. He created it specially for his son, yet with a universality that embraces all children and their parents. Be it a complex view of our planet’s terrain (bumpy, sharp, wet), a deep look at our place in space (it’s big), or a guide to all of humanity (don’t be fooled, we are all people), Oliver’s signature wit and humor combine with a value system of kindness and tolerance to create a must-have book for parents.

The Day the Crayons Quit, by Drew Daywait
Grades preschool – 2nd
Poor Duncan just wants to color. But when he opens his box of crayons, he finds only letters, all saying the same thing: His crayons have had enough! They quit! Beige Crayon is tired of playing second fiddle to Brown Crayon. Black wants to be used for more than just outlining. Blue needs a break from coloring all those bodies of water. And Orange and Yellow are no longer speaking—each believes he is the true color of the sun.

The Book With No Pictures
Grades preschool – 2nd
You might think a book with no pictures seems boring and serious. Except . . . here’s how books work. Everything written on the page has to be said by the person reading it aloud. Even if the words say . . . BLORK. Or BLUURF.
Even if the words are a preposterous song about eating ants for breakfast, or just a list of astonishingly goofy sounds like BLAGGITY BLAGGITY and GLIBBITY GLOBBITY.
Cleverly irreverent and irresistibly silly, The Book with No Pictures is one that kids will beg to hear again and again. (And parents will be happy to oblige.)
From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
Grades 5 and up
In this winner of the Newbery Medal from E.L. Konigsburg, when suburban Claudia Kincaid decides to run away, she knows she doesn't just want to run from somewhere, she wants to run to somewhere—to a place that is comfortable, beautiful, and, preferably, elegant.

Claudia knew that she could never pull off the old-fashioned kind of running away...so she decided not to run FROM somewhere, but TO somewhere. And so, after some careful planning, she and her younger brother, Jamie, escaped -- right into a mystery that made headlines!
## Calendar

### APRIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2 - May 30</td>
<td>High School: Quarter IV</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 9 - May 31</td>
<td>Middle School: Cycle 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Parents Education: Book Discussion, 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-13</td>
<td>Elementary: Achievement Testing for currently enrolled Elementary students</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>Upper Elementary: Achievement Testing for currently enrolled Upper Elementary students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 - 28</td>
<td>Upper Elementary: 6th-grade History Field Study to Williamsburg, Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>All School: Spring Splash, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.</td>
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### MAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sports Banquet, 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Middle School: Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 - 18</td>
<td>Middle School: Adventure Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>All School: End-of-Year Breakfast, 8:15 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Debate Banquet, 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>High School: Prom</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 - 25</td>
<td>Middle School: Immersion Week, Internships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Parent Education: Bridge Meeting for Parents of K, 3rd, 6th, 8th Grade Students, 11:45 a.m.</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>High School: Junior and Senior Luncheon</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>High School: Senior Banquet</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>High School: Graduation Ceremonies</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>MEMORIAL DAY/STUDENT HOLIDAY (all classes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 - 30</td>
<td>High School: Final Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Middle School: Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Last Day of School for Students, International Lunch for Elementary and Upper Elementary</td>
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## Save the Date

**June 2\(^{nd}\) and 3\(^{rd}\)**

**The School of the Woods Dance Recital**

Hamman Hall Hall at Rice University