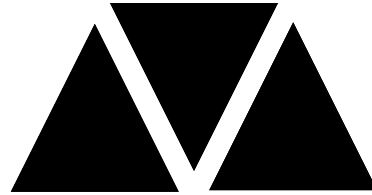


Villa Montessori School School Year Calendar

2011-12



Villa Montessori School serves the educational needs of children from infancy through pre-adolescence. Recognizing that the children of today are the future leaders of tomorrow, we strive to develop intrinsically motivated and independent learners who will achieve their highest potential, therefore preparing them to become successful participants in society. We challenge the children to learn and explore on an individual basis, as well as develop a respect for others and the environment.

Villa Montessori School

August 2011

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year! This calendar has been prepared to give you an overview of the coming school year, including special events, school breaks, and more. Please refer to this calendar often, and look ahead to the coming months to note special dates and events you won't want to miss.

A "welcome to school" coffee with Head of School Renee Detloff will be held the morning of August 10. This is a good time to stop in and ask questions or just relax for a minute with a cup of coffee.

A sense of community is important at VMS, and one way this is fostered is through our monthly Spirit Day events. One Friday a month, the students and staff have the experience of coming together for a special program. Everyone is encouraged to wear their VMS "Spirit" clothing on that day as well. The first Spirit Day this year will be Friday, August 26 when we invite local community "helpers" to our school. These visitors (fire department, police department, etc.) will meet with the children and explain their roles. The special vehicles that our guests often bring along with them are always a big hit as well!

United Way is sponsoring its annual "Day of Caring" on August 31. We hope to have a group of community volunteers at our building that day to work on a service project for the school. Last year, Day of Caring volunteers painted the Raphael classroom and west wing hallway.

Did you know... Villa Montessori School staff members are highly qualified individuals who care about your child's education and well-being. All lead teachers have a minimum of a bachelor's degree; many of the aides also have bachelor's degrees or associate's degrees in child development. Staff members receive regular, on-going training through the Montessori Heartland Teacher Education Center conveniently located here at VMS. In addition, staff members take continuing education classes in diverse subjects and model cooperative behaviors for children to emulate. Trained in the world-recognized Montessori philosophy of education, the VMS staff strives to develop an inviting, safe learning environment for all students.

Curriculum Minute: Practical Life activities in a Montessori classroom help the child develop self-help skills, independence, concentration, and a sense of organization. Such activities range from pouring and spooning, to using the dressing frames, to helping with cooking and baking projects. Practical Life exercises are the backbone of the Montessori curriculum. These exercises lengthen the child's attention span, encourage concentration, provide practice in large and small muscle skills, encourage left to right work order, and are indirect preparation for writing. Practical Life activities often overlap into other areas of the curriculum, including math, science, and language.

*"Confidences would come more easily in the years they are longed for if they were invited in the years when living was exciting and every act a great adventure."
-Maria Montessori*



Villa Montessori School

August 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Monthly Statement Due	2	3	4 First Day of School	5	6
	Child Care Only					
7	8	9	10 Welcome Coffee	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Community Helpers Spirit Day	27
28	29	30	31 United Way Day of Caring			

Villa Montessori School

September 2011

School is closed Monday, Sept. 5 for Labor Day.

VMS will celebrate “International Day” on Friday, September 16. Students will experience international food, music, activities, and crafts, making it a day of interactive learning and fun. Parent volunteers are always welcome for our International day activities; be sure to talk to your child’s teacher if you are available to help on this day.

A “Guided Observation” parent education program will be held Wednesday, September 28th. This is an opportunity to learn more about your child’s classroom. Look for more information to come.

Did you know... VMS faculty and staff members, Board of Trustee members, and parents take leadership roles in the life of the school. The school has five major committees which affect change in the school; committee members include VMS faculty, staff, parents, and trustee members. The committees include: Governance and Administration; Long Range Planning; Community; Personnel; and Programs. Committees meet four times/year; members help develop the budget, recommend policies, and work on school accreditation matters. Committee work is ultimately reported to the Board of Trustees. If you are interested in the possibility of serving on one of these committees in the future, be sure to indicate this on your volunteer sheet at re-enrollment time.

Have you checked out the brochure rack in the mailbox area? This rack holds current information about Quad City area classes, attractions, events, etc., that may be of interest to families. Information about community resources (counseling, health services, etc.) can be found in the school handbook and is also posted on the bulletin board in the community room.

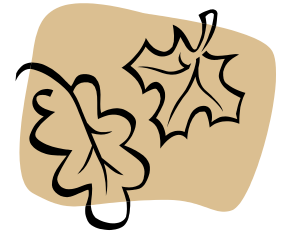
Curriculum Minute: The sensorial or Perceptual Skill Development (PSD) curriculum component is unique to a Montessori classroom. PSD exercises respond to the child’s need to recognize and experience and five senses. PSD activities are necessary for helping the child distinguish numbers, letters, and sequencing. The sensorial awareness of his surroundings prepares the child for the slight by highly critical differences the child will see between a “d” and a “b” or a “10” and a “100”! The emphasis is on “same” and “different” skills continue to develop through adulthood.

*“The senses, being explorers of the world, open the way to knowledge.”
-Maria Montessori*



Villa Montessori School

September 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Monthly Statement Due	2	3
4	5 Labor Day — School CLOSED	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 International Day Spirit Day	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Committee meetings					
25	26	27	28 Parent Education Program	29	30 Monthly Statement Due	

Villa Montessori School October 2011

Fall conferences are taking place. Your child's teacher will talk to you about his/her progress in each of the curriculum areas; you are encouraged to ask questions and share information from home that may be helpful to the teacher. Please make every effort to attend your conference. Winter conferences will be held in the February/March time period. Don't feel that you must wait until conference time to speak with your child's teacher if you have questions/concerns about your child or have information you wish to share with the teacher. Please feel free to call your child's teacher, or if you prefer, you can schedule a time for a face-to-face discussion. This is especially important if you do not have the opportunity to see your child's teacher on a daily basis.

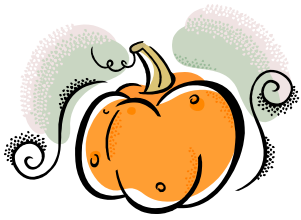
Fall break is October 24– November 4. No classes are held but child care is available if you need it. A child care sign up sheet will be posted on the table near the front entrance prior to break; if your child plans to attend, please sign up so we can adjust staff accordingly. Time used during “child care days” is not included in your regular tuition and will appear as a “child care charge” on your next billing statement. Please remember that if you sign up for child care at least 5 days in advance of the break, you will receive a 5% discount on your child care charges; however, you **will** be billed for all time for which you are signed up.

Did you know... As a private, independent school, VMS does not receive outside financial support from state, federal government, or religious institutions. Tuition and fees supply most of the annual operating budget for the school. That is one reason why support of the VMS annual giving fund is especially important to preserve and expand the high quality of programs offered to VMS students. Families can contribute to the annual giving fund in a variety of ways, such as spreading out your donation by adding it to your monthly tuition payments, or making a designated donation through your workplace giving program. Supporting school-sponsored events—like the spring carnival—is another important way families can assist the school financially. When families support these events, the school can avoid activities for the sole purpose of fundraising (e.g., candy sales, gift item sales, etc.).

Curriculum Minute: The math curriculum at VMS is based on helping students achieve mastery in all facets of math that they will need for future success. In a Montessori classroom, every concept, from initial quantity/symbol relationships to double digit division, is introduced and reinforced with the child actually visualizing and creating the quantities that are to be derived. As the child demonstrates mastery of the concept by manipulating the many types of materials in the classroom; the teacher then moves the child from the concrete materials to the abstract. Our goal is for each child to learn to value math, be confident in his/her ability, become a math problem-solver, and to learn to communicate and reason mathematically.

*“It is the spirit of the child that can determine the course of human progress
and lead it perhaps even to a higher form of civilization.”*

- Maria Montessori



Villa Montessori School

October 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Board Meeting	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Fall Break — Child Care Only					
30	31 Fall Break— Child Care Only					

Villa Montessori School

November 2011

Fall break continues through Nov. 4.

School will be closed Nov. 24 and 25 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

School pictures are November 9. Individual and group (class) pictures will be taken. Look for further information on the time your child's picture will be taken. A week or two later, you will receive proofs and ordering information. A school yearbook is published in late spring; be sure that your child's picture is taken so he/she can appear in the yearbook!

As we approach winter, families should be aware of the school's snow/storm day policies. We strive to be open every day of the school year, regardless of weather. However, we do not wish to endanger the well being of our staff and families if weather conditions make travel inadvisable. VMS will utilize the Moline/Rock Island/United Township schools as a guideline for determining weather-related school closings. In the event that heavy snow or ice is in the forecast for later in the day, the school may announce an early dismissal. There is no tuition reimbursement for weather-related school closings. Listen to TV and radio stations for cancellation information; generally, KWQC-TV Channel 6 is the first station notified, with WQAD-TV and CBS4QC following.

Did you know... VMS strives for open communications between its staff and families. VMS office staff is positioned readily at the front entrance and is always happy to provide help or answer questions. Renee Detloff is the head of school and available to talk with you about the school and its policies, Montessori philosophy, child's placement, etc. Just stop in the office, call, or e-mail her at: detloffr@villamontessori.org. Maureen "Mo" Brandle is the business manager and Chris Curless is the business office assistant; you can talk to either one of them about your bill or other financial matters.

To help keep families informed, the school uses a variety of communication methods, including the Villa Voices newsletter, notes placed in family mailboxes, information posted on the front entrance and wing easels, bulletin boards, and white boards outside each classroom. Families who provide the school with an e-mail address will receive information from the school via e-mail. This is particularly useful when the school needs to contact families quickly, e.g., early school closing due to bad weather. Please notify the school if your e-mail address changes.

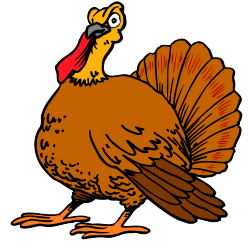
While parent/teacher conferences are an important communication avenue, teachers are always welcome to chat with you throughout the year. Phones inside each classroom make contact with the teachers especially convenient for busy families. (Because teachers are busy with the children in the classroom and are rarely at their desk, e-mail is not a recommended method of communication to the teachers.) The school web site is utilized as an advertising tool to reach prospective families; the web site also provides information for current families such as lunch menu, school calendar, etc. which families can access. Families are occasionally invited to fill out a survey in order to provide valuable feedback to the school.

"The first duty of an education is to stir up life, but leave it free to develop."
-Maria Montessori



Villa Montessori School

November 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Monthly Statement Due	2	3	4	5
Fall Break— Child Care Only						
6	7	8	9 School Pictures	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Committee Meetings						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Thanksgiving Break— School CLOSED						
27	28	29	30			

Villa Montessori School

December 2011

Please join us for our annual production of the “Nutcracker.” Each student has a role in the production. Watch as our students are magically transformed into graceful snowflakes and proud marching soldiers and provide us with their own interpretation of this one-of-a-kind holiday classic. A rehearsal is held the day before. The Nutcracker provides students with the opportunity to perform on stage, which benefits even the youngest child. The self-confidence which is being developed now is helpful to the children for many years to come.

VMS alumni enjoy coming back to watch the annual “Nutcracker” production. They often tell us that their own participation in the Nutcracker helped give them the self confidence to later perform in concerts and plays and give speeches in front of peers. Once in high school, VMS alumni often begin renewing friendships as they start attending events that bring Quad City area student leaders together, such as the Student Hunger Drive, student council events, and social events such as Jingle Jam. Typically, VMS students are the class officers, sports team captains, and academic team leaders... just check out the many news clippings about our alumni posted on the bulletin board in the mailbox area. As a relatively young school, the oldest VMS alumni are now in their 20’s and early 30’s and are attending colleges throughout the country, working for Fortune 500 companies, or even starting their own businesses. VMS tries to remain in contact with its alumni through a periodic newsletter, “Villa Messenger.” In the future, when your child has left the school and has joined the ranks of “alumni” we hope that you will keep VMS informed of any address changes so that we may remain in contact with your family. VMS especially appreciates hearing from families regarding the successes their children have in junior high, high school, and beyond.

Winter break begins December 15 and runs through January 3. Note that school is **closed** December 26 through December 30 and January 2. Be sure to sign up for child care if you need to utilize it during all or part of break. Remember: child care days are not included in your tuition and any time used over the break period will be added to your next statement.

Due to the school’s closure the end of December, tuition payments are due December 23rd.

Curriculum Minute: Villa Montessori School has curriculum maps available for each age level, which outline the school’s goals for what students will learn and achieve within each curriculum area. The curriculum maps were developed by VMS staff in conjunction with the Illinois Learning Standards, as adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education. Villa Montessori School’s curriculum meets or exceeds the standards set by the State of Illinois.

For additional information about Montessori education, the school has available many works by Dr. Montessori and those who have studied her methods.

*“We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe,
and are connected with each other to form one whole unity.”*

-Maria Montessori



Villa Montessori School

December 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1 Monthly Statement Due Board Meeting	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9 Nutcracker Dress Rehearsal	10 Nutcracker Performance	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
				Winter Break—Child Care Only			
18	19	20	21	22	23 Monthly Statement Due	24	
	Winter Break—Child Care Only						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
	School CLOSED						

Villa Montessori School

January 2012

Welcome to 2012! The school is closed January 2. January 3 is a “child care” day. Classes resume January 4.

Outdoor recess at this time of the year often includes sledding, rolling snowballs, and other activities that take advantage of the winter season. Please make sure your child has ALL of the proper outdoor clothing (warm coat, hat, waterproof mittens/gloves, snow pants, and boots) to enjoy outdoor recess time. The school will supply new gloves/mittens and hats for those children who do not have them at school for outdoor time; families keep these items and will be billed \$2 for them.

Did you know... VMS holds accreditations from the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). In addition, the school is a member of the American Montessori Society and the north wing is licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. These accreditations help provide assurance that the school is reviewed on an ongoing basis, meets quality standards, and continually strives for improvement. As an independent school, VMS is organized as a not-for-profit corporation governed by a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees, as opposed to being “owned” and run by the government (public schools), or by for-profit entities (propriety schools). The governance of an independent board provides for a separation of power between that of the trustees and the administration of the school. The board’s role is to serve as an advocate in the community for VMS; establish policy and goals in conjunction with staff and committee input; approve the annual budget; focus efforts on the school’s mission; and monitor the work and progress of committees. The Board of Trustees does not make decisions on day-to-day administrative issues of the school, nor does it serve as a grievance committee or supersede decisions made by the Head of School.

As part of its accreditation process, the school periodically surveys its families (usually in the spring) to discover areas of strengths and as well as those areas which may need improvement. The survey findings are taken to the five school standing committees to develop ways to address those areas in need of improvement. When you have opportunity to fill out a survey for the school, please do so... your input is valued and will be utilized.

Curriculum Minute: Each classroom at VMS is rich in language activities, and each curriculum area in the class has books within it to both enrich the area and expand on the child’s knowledge base. We work with the child in developing handwriting skills and use the D’Nealian method which allows for the easiest transition to cursive. We use a phonetic approach to language, but English is not perfect and there are some words and rules that just need to be memorized. There is a large quantity of different types of language activities throughout each room—not just in the language area—to try to reach children with a variety of learning styles.

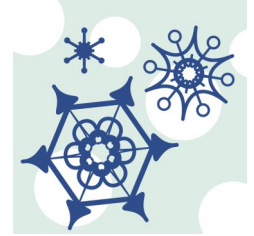
*“Our aim is not only to make the child understand, and still less to force him to memorize,
but so to touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his innermost core.”*

-Maria Montessori



Villa Montessori School

January 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> School CLOSED	<i>3</i> Winter Break— Child Care Only	<i>4</i> Classes Resume	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> Spirit Day	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>				

Villa Montessori School

February 2012

Re-enrollment for fall is now underway! To re-enroll your child, turn in your application fee and necessary paperwork, then sign up for a re-enrollment conference. At your re-enrollment conference, you will have the opportunity to talk to Head of School Renee Detloff to discuss the program your child will be in next year, review components of parent commitment to the school, as well as ask any questions you might have about the school, curriculum, etc. Be sure to complete enrollment soon, as enrollment opens up to the general public March 1.

To help ease the transition into a new age level program, students are allowed to make visits to the older classrooms during the spring. This helps make the move in the fall (e.g. toddler to pre-primary; pre-primary to kindergarten, etc.) much easier for the children. If your child will be moving up to a new program next year, we urge you to make an appointment to tour and/or observe in the classrooms. This is especially important if your child is ready for elementary in the fall.

The week of February 27 is celebrated internationally as Montessori Education Week. The Montessori method of education was developed by Dr. Maria Montessori a little over 100 years ago. Montessori was not only a person, but is also a social movement, a philosophy, a theory of development, a curriculum model, and a set of methodological strategies. At VMS, you'll see traditional works which were developed and used in the original Montessori classrooms... but you'll also find other materials and activities selected by the teachers to supplement and expand upon those traditional materials. While we are a Montessori school, we also recognize that children learn in many different ways and we strive to do whatever is needed to help **your** child learn and succeed.

Did you know... Each year VMS undergoes a cost comparison of its own tuition and fee schedule with those at other area private schools, pre-schools, and child care facilities. The tuition at VMS is comparable to most of the others, and is considerably less than the other ISACS-accredited school in the area. Tuition and fees are reviewed by each of the school's five committees, and approved annually by the Board of Trustees. Our individualized fee structure and scheduling flexibility allows families the opportunity to customize their schedule beyond what is allowed at other pre-schools and child care centers... and in many cases families save money in the long run since they pay for only the days and hours they need/want to use.

Curriculum Minute: VMS classrooms provide early exposure to and experiences in history that cultivate later understanding and interest. History activities help the child develop a concept of the passage of time and also present the story of the universe and man's role in it. The ultimate goal is that the child will develop a fellowship with all people who lived before us, and well as with those who are presently alive.

“School cannot start too early to encourage the refinement of taste in children. To present for their learning the fine gradations between right and wrong, and to support their treasuring of a sense of the past.”
-Maria Montessori



Villa Montessori School

February 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Monthly Statement Due	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Spirit Day	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			
	Committee Meetings					

Villa Montessori School

March 2012

Weather is very unpredictable in March and April, so be sure your child is prepared for going outside, no matter if it is 60 degrees and sunny or 35 degrees and windy. Please check your child's box to make sure his/her "extra" clothes are appropriate for the weather.

Our school open house is held March 21. This is the perfect opportunity to bring along extended family members and friends to visit your child's classroom and see all the work he/she has been doing! It is also a good time to visit the next age level program if your child will be moving up in the fall.

Did you know... VMS is the only accredited Montessori school in the Quad Cities area. VMS was a forerunner among Montessori schools nationally in providing a 0-3 program for our families. The addition of the Montessori Heartland Teacher Education Center at VMS further establishes us as a leader in Montessori education and teacher training; adult students from all over the Midwest have come to Heartland to further their understanding of Montessori philosophy, and become a certified Montessori teacher.

Curriculum Minute: The goals of the geography curriculum at VMS are two-fold: 1) the child will attain a sense of spatial orientation, and 2) he/she will become aware of and accept other cultures through related experiences in cultural studies, and will learn similarities of mankind. Geography is taught systematically at the appropriate age level. The study of geography begins with the birth of the child, as the infant discovers his body parts and his space in the world; the toddler becomes more and more aware of his surroundings and control of how he gets where; the pre-primary child discovers the continents; and the elementary child becomes fascinated with the cultures and the Cosmos as a whole. It is no accident that most VMS students know the names of the continents by the time they are 4 years old!

*"The training of the teacher who is to help life is something far more than the learning of ideas.
It includes the training of character; it is a preparation of the spirit."
-Maria Montessori*



Villa Montessori School

March 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Monthly Statement Due	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Board Meeting	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Open House	22	23 Spirit Day	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Villa Montessori School

April 2012

Spring break occurs April 2 through April 13. Child care is available throughout break with the exception of April 6, when school is CLOSED.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in the Community Room the week of April 30. A huge variety of children's books, adult books, and children's activity kits will be for sale. Now is a great time to pick out books for you and your child to enjoy together. Volunteers are needed to help set up and tear down the Book Fair, as well as provide cashier help. Please volunteer if you can!

Did you know... Mealtime is a pleasant social learning experience in our classrooms. Children eat together at tables along with staff members who interact with the children and model appropriate table manners. Eating experiences are made more enjoyable with tablecloths and flower arrangements. Children learn how to set the table, how to politely make needs and requests known during lunch, and how to clean up after themselves. Lunch menus are posted on the bulletin board in the mailbox area and at each classroom; extra copies are available in a marked slot in the family mailbox area. If your child has any food allergies or dietary restrictions, please notify your child's teacher and classroom staff.

Updating of the school's building and grounds is a continual process. The school building itself is still relatively new and was built in congruence with health and safety regulations; however, many updates have occurred since the building was originally constructed, including a gazebo to the west of the school; fencing; playground equipment; updated alarm system; video monitoring system; and a cement corridor off the north wing for wheeled toys.

With spring weather, families are sometimes concerned about storms and tornados. The school has an "Emergency Procedures Plan" which covers a wide variety of emergency situations, including those that are weather-related. This plan was created with guidance from federal, state, and law enforcement personnel. The school practices emergency drills, e.g., fire drill, tornado drill, etc. In addition, the school has a weather radio in the office which provides information on any severe weather in the area. See a staff member if you have questions.

Curriculum Minute: The study of science is so much more than stuffy labs with Bunsen burners that many of us remember from our own school days. At VMS, science will awaken a sense of wonder and awareness in the child. For VMS children, science can include: a field trip to the Botanical Center; a visit inside the Star Lab which comes to VMS each winter; nature walks to observe and identify objects which are living/not living and plants/animals/minerals; planting seeds and watching them grow into beautiful flowers or delicious vegetables; discussing nutrition and why the body needs different types of foods. The study of science strengthens the child's power of observation and focuses attention through the child's interest. Vocabulary is enlarged and an understanding of everyday happenings is enhanced. Children have a natural sense of curiosity that the study of science satisfies through research, reading, and experiments.

*"The land is where our roots are. The children must be taught to feel and live in harmony with the Earth."
-Maria Montessori*



Villa Montessori School

April 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Spring Break—Child Care Only				School CLOSED	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Spring Break—Child Care Only					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
	Book Fair					

Villa Montessori School

May 2012

Attention all grandparents! You are invited to visit VMS the morning of May 4 for our annual Grandparents Day celebration. Enjoy a snack and a visit with your grandchild in his/her classroom. If a child does not have a grandparent who can attend, a family friend or other relative is welcome to come. The children really enjoy having the special people in their lives visit them at school.

Our final Spirit Day on the school year will be May 18. An all-school recital is planned. Each classroom plans a song or activity to share with the rest of the student body. Elementary students are invited to prepare a performance of their own.

School is closed on Monday, May 28 for Memorial Day.

As the weather warms up, families need to be aware of the school's sunscreen procedures. If you wish for your child to have sunscreen, please apply it to your child before arriving at school. If your child stays into the afternoon, parents should send a bottle of sunscreen (labeled with the child's first and last name) and sign a sunscreen permission form so that it may be re-applied at school before going outside in the afternoon. Sunscreen permission forms are available from your child's teacher or the school office.

Did you know... When our school began in the early 1980's we wanted parents to understand just how critical their involvement was both to the success of the children and to the school. Fifteen hours of volunteer service is required of VMS parents—not only for sharing family expertise, but primarily to let the child know that the parent/family cares about the education and activities that occur at school. The Montessori philosophy on which our school is based views the child as a member of the larger, global community and as such the responsibility of citizenship is part of the child's educational process. Having our families participate in volunteer activities at VMS demonstrates to the children how their families are part of the larger, global community. Young children have a difficult time understanding a world that extends beyond their own family, so when they see a parent doing volunteer work for their school, they see their family as participants in a “global community” that they will later learn extends far beyond their school and home!

Curriculum Minute: Music and art are an important part of the VMS curriculum; teachers strive to develop not only skills, but also an appreciation of art and music. A tour of the school reveals artwork by Impressionist artists (north wing) and Renaissance artists (west wing). Each classroom in the school is named after an artist (e.g., Monet, Grant Wood). Words such as DaVinci or Raphael can be added to a child's vocabulary and knowledge base as easily as the word “Snuffulupagus!” The music that plays in the community room is rotated periodically so children have the opportunity to hear classical music, as well as music of different genres and cultures. Having the child listen to and recognize various types and styles of music expands their cultural knowledge as well.

“Whoever touches the life of the child touches the most sensitive point of a whole which has roots in the most distant past and climbs toward the infinite future.”
-Maria Montessori



Villa Montessori School

May 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Monthly Statement Due	2	3	4 Grandparents Day	5
Book Fair						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Spirit Day—VMS Recital	19
Committee Meetings						
20	21	22	23	24 Board Meeting	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day— School CLOSED	29	30	31		

Villa Montessori School

June 2012

End of year conference forms will be completed and placed in your mailbox. Please see your child's teacher with any questions.

A favorite end-of-year event is the school carnival, which will be the evening of June 8. The entire family will enjoy the many games and refreshments. Many volunteers are needed to supervise games, serve refreshments, etc. Please assist wherever you can to make the event a success and enjoyable for the children. Families are asked to pick up children by 4 p.m. that day so staff and volunteers can make last minute preparations.

The last day of classes is June 13. There is much learning and activity occurring in the classrooms up until the very last day! Please be considerate of your own child, the teacher, and your child's classmates by continuing to bring your child to school on time and as scheduled. Child care only days will be June 14 and 15, the summer program begins on Monday, June 18.

Reminders for the end of the school year:

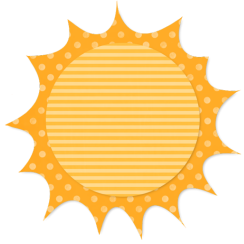
- If your address or phone number changes over the summer, please notify the office.
- Please let us know if there are additions or deletions to the list of persons authorized to pick up your child. We have a form that needs to be filled out for this purpose.
- Please take home ALL personal items—jackets, school work, etc. Check your child's classroom file and/or blue box.
- If your child receives immunizations or has a physical over the summer, be sure the school receives a copy for your child's file.

Did you know... Evaluation within the school occurs at every level, from students, to staff, to the school as a whole. Student achievement conferences are held during the year to update parents on their child's progress in the classroom. VMS staff members go through evaluations annually for goal-setting. The school as a whole goes through many evaluations and inspections, including those for accreditation (Independent Schools Association for Central States and National Association for the Education of Young Children); licensing (Illinois Department of Children and Family Services); as well as regular inspections from the Health Department and State Fire Marshal. The building itself is regularly updated with sprinkler and fire alarm system testing and heating/cooling system inspections.

Curriculum Minute: The Perceptual Motor Development (PMD) curriculum concentrates on three major developmental areas: fundamental skills; physical fitness; and perceptual motor development. PMD activities help build the child's coordination, strength, agility, and improved self image. At VMS the emphasis is more on individual fitness for life rather than team sports, although the students do participate in cooperative team games. Pre-primary extended day and elementary students enjoy a wide variety of physical fitness activities which branch out beyond the ordinary, including swimming, bowling, mini golf, etc.

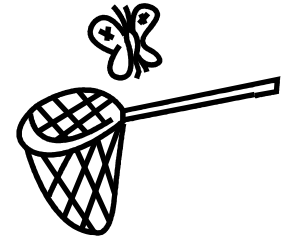
“Only through freedom and environmental experience is it practically possible for human development to occur.”

-Maria Montessori



Villa Montessori School

June 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Monthly Statement Due	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Carnival (Early Dismissal)	9
10	11	12	13 Last Day of School	14 Child Care Only		16
17	18 Summer Session Begins	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Monthly Statement Due	30

Villa Montessori School

July 2012

The summer session continues throughout this month. School is closed the week of July 2 through July 6.

Please double check to see that all necessary forms (signed application, contract, physical form, volunteer form, etc.) are turned into the school office to ensure that your child is ready for school next month.

Be sure to carefully check your billing statement that comes out in mid-July as it will contain information regarding the start of the new school year.

July is a good month to:

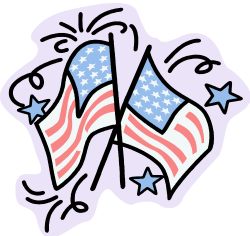
- schedule your child's physical/immunizations (reminder: the school needs copies of any updated physicals and immunizations for your child!)
- participate in your local library's summer reading program
- take advantage of classes/workshops being offered by the park/recreation board, the library, the art museum, or family museum
- consider community service opportunities that may be available for you and your child at places such as the humane society or a senior citizen center

Did you know... Villa Montessori School has its own mission statement which guides the school. It is as follows:

Villa Montessori School serves the educational needs of children from infancy through pre-adolescence. Recognizing that the children of today are the future leaders of tomorrow, we strive to develop intrinsically motivated and independent learners who will achieve their highest potential, therefore preparing them to become successful participants in society. We challenge the children to learn and explore on an individual basis, as well as develop a respect for others and the environment.

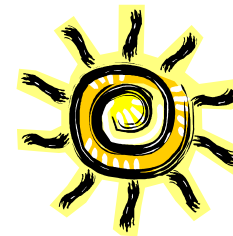
"We could study a child from every angle and know everything about him from the cells of his body to the countless details of his every operation and we would still not perceive his ultimate goal, that is, the adult he is to become."

-Maria Montessori



Villa Montessori School

July 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
	School Closed					
<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>				