

September 2009

Élan Vitale Montessori Newsletter

 Volume 1, Issue 1

Important Contacts

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A child is a discoverer. He is an amorphous, splendid being in search of his own proper form.

-Maria Montessori

Welcome Back!

There's a lot of excitement ahead of us, including new friends and teachers to meet, new books to read and new skills to master...

This monthly newsletter will serve as one of our primary forms of communication this year. We'll include updates from each of the classes, notes from the Board, messages from the Director and Administrator, a student reporter feature, and ideas to bring some Montessori principles home. We'll also attach a monthly calendar with snack assignments, important dates and birthday.

This month we are highlighting a couple of key policies from the Parent

Snack Policy

Handbook.

Élan Vitale Montessori has snack time each school day.

Families of Primary Students will be alphabetically assigned a week to provide snacks for the class.

Please provide enough portions for each child to have a snack each day of that week.. The current number of students in the Primary class is: 24.

Monthly snack assignments are sent home with the

newsletter.

Elementary students should pack their own snacks along with their lunch.

Please follow the "healthy body" guidelines outlined in the Lunch section of the

**Reminder:
Tuition is due Sept. 1 !!!**

Arrival and Dismissal Policy

Parent handbook.

We strive to keep the atmosphere within the school and classrooms child-centered. It is disturbing to children when parents linger in or near the classroom. It is specifically for this reason that the following arrival and

departure arrangements are followed.

For arrivals between 8:15 - 8:30, pull up in the school driveway and drop-off your child at the school entrance, we ask that you remain in your car and wait your turn in line until a staff member

approaches your car to greet your child. Please have all of your child's personal belongings easily accessible .

For arrivals before or after this timeframe, please park in the parking lot and escort the child inside the building, ensuring that a staff member



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BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Arrival and Dismissal Continued

has received the child.

When leaving the buildings, make sure front doors are completely closed. When leaving the school grounds, always latch the gate.

Some younger children, especially those who are coming to school for the first time, may cry the first few days at drop-off. The school staff is trained in the "**quick separation**" method, which works the best to calm your child and relieve your child's anxiety. Parents should say good-bye at drop-off. You may remind your child that you will be back, but you should leave quickly. Children who cry on arrival will stop crying shortly after your departure. Lingering or trying to convince your child to stop crying will only exacerbate the crying and anxiety. By maintaining a positive, cheerful attitude about the separation and about school in general, and immediately leaving, you will help your child acclimate to school. Parents who are worried about the state of their children are welcome to call

the office and ask the office staff to check on the child.

Remember that the staff has the best interest of your child in mind. If in the rare instance a child continues to cry and display extreme anxiety, a teacher or office staff member will notify the parent.

School Day only Children will be dismissed at 3:00 pm and will be waiting in the carport. Please follow the same guideline as for drop off (i.e. remain in your car and wait your turn in line) Children not picked up by 3:15 will be checked into Extended Care and parents will be billed accordingly.

Students can only be picked up by their parents or an authorized person specified in writing by the parent in the child's file. If a parent needs someone other than the person specified on the pickup authorization form to pick up his or her child, prior written notification must be made. Élan Vitale Montessori will not release your child to any person without written parent permission. The authorized person picking up

your child must have picture identification, such as a driver's license or passport. Picture identification is requested by staff for the protection of your child.

If you need to pick your student up early, please contact the school office, during the office hours of 8:00 to 12:00, so we may notify the teacher of the early pick up and your child's day will be modified to allow for this change.

If your child is not picked up by 5:35 p.m., your child's emergency contact (listed on the child information update form) will be notified. If we can not reach a parent or emergency contact, child social services will be called. A late fee of \$1.00 per minute will be charged for each minute the parent is late and \$2.00 for the second occurrence within 30 days.



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

Don't Forget to Sign up for your Family Service Hours!!! We need help with playground clean-up and interior painting!!!

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