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Back to School

A Montessori Start



# the CMS voice

Back to School 2015

## New Playground



Thanks to the fundraising efforts of our PTO and a grant from Lowes, we're excited to begin our playground re-design! On **Saturday, August 8th**, we'll be completing construction of the new slide structure, as well as building benches around the large trees by the sand box, building a new sandbox enclosure, and spreading mulch and sand.

Bring your shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows and help us out! Email [clemsonmontessoripto@gmail.com](mailto:clemsonmontessoripto@gmail.com) if you can be here. Thanks!

## The 2015-16 School Year is Just Around the Corner!

We're gearing up for the start of school! Primary and Elementary students begin **Wednesday, August 19th**. Pre-Primary students begin **Monday, August 24th**.

**New families**, teachers will contact you the week of August 11th to schedule a visit to your home to meet your child and answer any questions you may have.

**Preschool (Pre-Primary and Primary) parent meetings** will be held **Thursday, August 13th from 6:30 -7:30pm**. The meeting will begin in the Primary 1 classroom (in the main building) to welcome everyone back to school and briefly address key whole school policies and procedures. Then parents will separate for information specific to individual classrooms. These meetings are for parents only. In order to allow parents to focus on the meeting, childcare will be provided at the school. Please contact the office to **sign up for childcare by calling 654-4483 or emailing [school@clemsonmontessori.com](mailto:school@clemsonmontessori.com)**

The **Elementary parent meeting** will be held **Monday August 17th at 5:30pm**. Elementary students are welcome to join us for the meeting.



Also join us for our **Annual Ice Cream Social Monday, August 17th at 6:30pm** on the preschool playground. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with friends and welcome new families into our community over ice cream sundaes!

You can find these and other important dates on our website [clemsonmontessori.com](http://clemsonmontessori.com) under events.

## Off to a Montessori Start This School Year

We're so excited to welcome you to the 2015-16 school year. Whether your child is beginning his experience in Montessori, or is continuing her journey in the elementary environment, you can support our community's goals by implementing a Montessori approach at home that mimics the approach in the classroom.

*Support your child's individuality,  
independence, and confidence:  
Allow your child to make choices*

The trick to letting your child make decisions is to offer choices that work for you.

"Would you like eggs or a smoothie for breakfast?"

"Are you going to wear the blue shorts or the green shorts?"

"Are you packing carrots or snap peas as your veggie today?"

While eating breakfast, getting dressed, and packing lunch are non-negotiable, you'll avoid power struggles by getting your child's cooperation in making these choices.



*"We must help the child to act for himself, will for himself, think for himself; this is the art of those who aspire to serve the spirit."*

*-Maria Montessori  
Education for a New  
World*

*Support your child's love for order:  
Create a routine*

*"Order is one of the needs of life which, when it is satisfied, produces a real happiness."*

*-Maria  
Montessori*



One of the reasons children thrive in a Montessori classroom is because the environment is prepared; everything is child sized, everything has its proper spot, and procedures and routines are in place.

Create order in your home space so your child can be independent at tasks. Make sure your child's belongings have a place they belong so he knows where to find them and return them. Offer child sized tools in the kitchen to help with food preparation. Assemble a cleaning caddy your child can access so he can help with clean up.

Create order with a daily routine so that your child knows what to expect. Having the same general routine appeals to child's love of order and creates a sense of harmony. Start by creating consistent morning routines for eating breakfast, getting dressed, packing lunch, and saying goodbye.

*Support your child's desire for self-reliance and responsibility:  
Allow your child to care for himself*

To be successful supporting your child's desire to "do it for him/herself", give yourself extra time. Yes, it takes longer for a child to accomplish a task, but practice patience. The rewards are great in the long run.

Even young children can gather their own dishes for breakfast, and can load them in the dishwasher after eating.

Children naturally reach a phase where they want to start dressing themselves. Let them! Don't worry if something is backward or mismatched. You'll get no judgment from us and the world will know your child did it him/herself!

If your child stays for lunch, encourage him to participate in making his lunch. Check out the simple guidelines online at [clemsonmontessori.com](http://clemsonmontessori.com) in our Parent Handbook .

*NEVER HELP A  
CHILD WITH A  
TASK AT WHICH  
HE FEELS HE  
CAN SUCCEED.*

*MARIA MONTESSORI*

Given the responsibility that comes with choice and independent action, children learn to organize and plan. They gain confidence in their own autonomy, allowing them to grow into happy, independent members of the community.