

Greetings Parents,

Exciting things keep happening in the Hummingbird community! Though our beloved Ms. Stephanie is next door on her wonderful adventure, the room has been busy with growing! Emory has begun his transition into the Chickadee Class and is enjoying his visits; we still get to see him afterward for a few more days! And more than half the class is progressing happily in independent toileting, down to dressing themselves, needing reminders less and less!

The children are daily practicing with the many opportunities available in practical life, language, sensorial experiences and social skills. At any moment you might see someone preparing and baking muffins, another pouring beans, yet another cleaning the water he spilled on table and floor while pouring, while a friend across the room is building a puzzle near another who is arranging flowers and arranging flowers again. There might be a couple children working hard at food preparation, one still cutting her banana while the other is washing his dishes after cutting bread. Of course, someone could be enjoying the comfort of wandering and looking at work and possibilities, or sitting in the reading area to peruse a book, while another is taking care to clean his own nose and then wash his hands. You can certainly expect to see at least one person using the toilet—perhaps before returning to glue a charming collage. Among all this busyness, a small group might collect with Ms. Su to talk through a basket of vocabulary cards. Moment to moment the children meet up with one another and share greetings and comments, and maybe a little problem solving--the community grows daily in social graces! There are always opportunities for the spontaneous grace and courtesy lessons they love!

Outdoors their growing strength and courage is evident over and over again, from climbing the climbing wall or running across the bridge to swinging on the big swing for the first time. Here they run and chase, roll and giggle with abandon, clumping in friendly groups to dig or pretend or roam in exploration.

The next exciting thing to happen will be your visit. Observations are this month and we eagerly welcome your opportunity to see these amazing very young people at their day here at Montessori School at Emory. Please be prepared for your child's response to your presence, as none of us can imagine what that will be! You might see her working with focus as she would in your absence, or she might want to stay with you and watch, too, for a short time or for your whole visit. She is developing her relationship with the world and this experience is a part of that—because it's you, a big part. If she wants to be with you, welcome her in your heart, rather than getting up and trying to involve her in activities, and then observe everyone else. The adults here will be aware. And you still will see the rest of the class at its day, spiced by an interesting visitor!

Let's end with some messages from Stephanie in our last newsnotes, just because she has always expressed so well our appreciation for our partnership with you, and she easily shares ways you can help us do our best:

Parents, please feel free to volunteer at our school, as well as be a special guest in our classroom. Some past visits included reading, baking, art, playing an instrument and more!

*JUST A FEW REMINDERS:

- Your prompt arrival & swift drop off at the door, is most appreciated.
- In an effort to keep our children safe, please refrain from placing harmful items in your child's backpack. You may hand those items directly to the teachers. (Ex: hand sanitizer, chapstick, diaper rash ointment, etc.)
- Please label your child's belongings.

As always, thank you all for your continued support of Family of the Week!

Ms. Su, Ms. Pratibha, Ms. Kalpana and the Hummingbirds...and Ms. Stephanie, always with us in spirit!