

**5 WEEKS SUCCESSFULLY REOPENED!!!**  
We have completed 5 weeks of school since our reopening with our new protocols and procedures in place which ensure a healthy environment. Congratulations to our staff, parents and children who made it possible.

## **Hello Meher families and friends**



**Mrs. Munoz**

**W**<sup>e</sup> have just completed our first month back and I am happy to report that things are going well. Yes, we have new

challenges but everyone, including

staff, parents and students are working as a united team. I am grateful to all of you.

The students are working joyfully every day and quickly returned to their work cycles. They handle the new drop-off and pick-up procedures with no problems and all of the extra hand washing has become the norm for them now.

I read the book I Am Enough by Grace Byers to the Elementary students and we had a wonderful discussion about accepting and appreciating our differences and loving ourselves and being kind to others. The children were very thoughtful in the discussion. The book has a special place in

the classroom so the children could read it on their own if they chose to and I also added a couple of other books that addressed the issues of diversity and kindness.

We had our official drive up graduation celebration for our Upper Elementary students that will be moving on to new middle schools. It was bittersweet, but the students, their families and staff really enjoyed the special event. You can see photos of the graduation celebration on our Instagram [meher\\_montessori\\_schools](#).

Every week we have new children join us or returning students come back. It is nice to see more children in the prepared environments joyfully working and concentrating. The vein of consistency in the work gives the children some sense of normalcy. I am happy for them. For those families that have not yet returned, if you have any questions, please call me or Mrs. Chavez and we will be happy to speak with you.

Re-enrollment packets have been mailed out. Please read them carefully as there are changes in the information and to the paper work that must be filled out. The due date for re-enrollment and securing a place for your child is July 15. Let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you all for your continued support. We love you all. Stay safe and healthy.

Adela Muñoz



**Ms. Lopez**

## A report from Ms. Lopez

**H**ello parents! I hope this newsletter finds you all well and healthy. Our classroom is slowly growing. The children are so excited seeing new and familiar faces coming into the

classroom. The most recent returning students jumped into working, with materials they've had lessons on, as if they never left. Mostly they are excited about

seeing their friends again and sharing stories about what they did when they were on "vacation". When children get to talking, I take the opportunity to have them tell me their stories through the moveable alphabet and then write it in their journal. Writing

in their journal is a huge reward for them because then they get to draw a picture of what they wrote; their favorite part.

The kids have been so good at following our new classroom protocols. Having an assigned table in the classroom has been fun for them. We personalized the tables by adding their name tags and they absolutely love it. It's great to see them building a community around these new guidelines we implemented in the classroom. They still find a way to make it work and be fun for them as well.

Our classroom is all things red, white and blue for 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The children were excited to make their projects with Mrs. Suh



and display them in our environment for the rest of the children to see. This month, we celebrate Summer Duran's 6<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 5<sup>th</sup>! Happy Birthday Summer.

Ms. Lopez and Mrs. Suh!



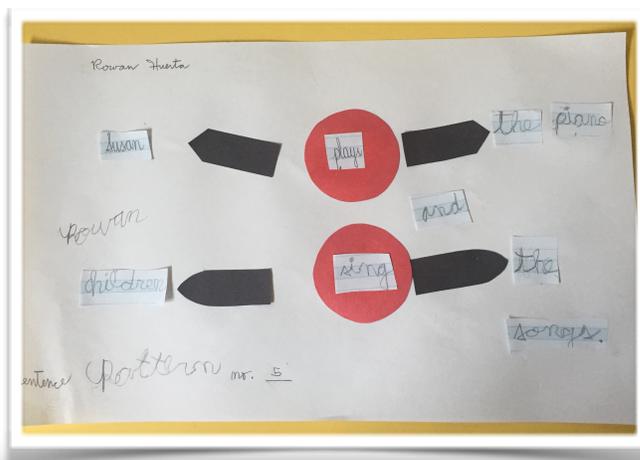
## A report from Mrs. Rivera

**H**ello parents and children in our class! I am glad and excited to share with you all the great and happy things that the children have achieved and will continue with this month of July. I continue to hope and pray for all my parents

and children to be safe and healthy at all times. Secondly, I'm so happy and blessed to have finished the month of June working safely and successfully with our parents, children, staff and our administrators who devotedly and continuously pour their love and care to all.



**Mrs. Rivera**



## Advanced work in Language with the Function of Words

Our children are doing great and they love to come to school every day since day one! They're always excited to learn new lessons and follow through till the next step comes in. These children are developing their cognitive, psychomotor, emotional and

social skills everyday in school. Plus, many have a growth spurt too!

Our older ones are always ready to assist the younger children in their needs and are happy to be good role models. The children are polishing their cursive writing skills and have improved very much! Sentence patterns are recognized as they read books daily in class. Comprehension of stories read are expressed well through a series of questions asked.



In geography, the three graduating children in our class made a beautiful project: The World Map! They traced, punched,

glued and wrote in cursive the name of each continent. These are posted on the wall located at the language area. For math, they polished their multiplication tables in memory, and are working into division numbers as well.

The younger children are improving their large and fine motor skills through a series of activities. These include punching paper on the line, metal insets, collage, folding cloth, polishing and tactile works in the sensorial areas to mention a few. These children develop a love of work at their own pace while a guide sits beside each child as lessons are given.

We have two new children that started this June: Kiana Huang (Hawkin's younger sister who was in Ms. Munoz' class) and Katalina Patrick. Both girls are 3 years old. These girls adjusted well and are happy everyday to be in class because of the warm love and care we continuously show them in many simple ways. Both are learning fast, especially our "Grace and Courtesy" lessons. We are blessed to have these girls in our class.

On "Father's Day," the children brought home a special gift, saying: **You Are My Sunshine Daddy!** I believe all Dads were thrilled and happy on their special day! Three projects were made by the children for 4th of July: A big red star with eyes, a picture of each child in a streamer and last, fireworks with three stars on it. These projects are made possible through the art skills of Ms. Mills who has been with us since June. From the bottom of our hearts, the children and I thank you so very much! May you be blessed always. Thank you to both Ms. Martinez and Ms. Mills for helping stabilize the order and smooth flow of our classroom everyday and being there for the children's needs.

As always, longing to see the rest of my children and parents; we miss you all!

Mrs. Rivera, Ms. Martinez and Ms. Mills



**Mr. Mindes**

## A report from Mr. Mindes

**W**ow! Our first month back has sped by! Initially, the classroom felt different because of the (necessary) safety guidelines, but soon enough the new procedures

became typical. Similarly, after the first week of school, energy levels shot back to normal as students readjusted to their previous school routines. Remarkably, even the two-month pause in school feels distant now!



### Students flourish among their peers

Once students found themselves among their peers, their creativity bubbled; they excitedly roamed about the garden and patio area gathering leaf samples and collecting insect specimens. Their interest in leaves led to lessons on the function of leaves and leaf nomenclature, while their interest in insects (phylum: Arthropoda) opened the way for a discussion on taxonomy (the classification of living things) and insect commonalities. "Did you know," I asked the students, "that all insect have six legs?" "Of course," one brave, young student declared in support of the six legs claim, "arachnids have eight!"

### Lower Elementary students cheer on the Upper Elementary graduates



Part of the magic of the Montessori method is the multi-aged classroom, where older students benefit (emotionally) from helping their younger peers, while younger students benefit from

seeing the work and achievement of the older students. One such feat that the younger students recently witnessed was the Upper Elementary graduates receiving their diplomas. One by one the graduates drove in to the waving cheers of the younger students standing on the patio. It was a wonderful moment watching beaming graduates celebrate with air hugs and laughter!



*From Ms. Wildhaber,  
Director of our  
Altadena Campus*

On Wednesday, June 17th, the school had a video conference with a Child Care Licensing analyst. She was very

impressed with how the school was adhering to the protocols and guidelines that have been put in place due to COVID-19. Small things that take extra time every day, such as having parents bring their own pens, daily temperature checks, limiting parent access for drop off and pick up, are some of the things the analyst asked about specifically. She seemed pleasantly surprised to hear that the school was well stocked in masks, gloves, Lysol disinfecting spray, hand sanitizer, bleach, and disinfecting wipes. Overall, the conference went very well. Although, I must admit, it was a little hard not to laugh when she asked about hand washing in the school and with the children. As I am sure the parents all well aware, this school has always been very proactive with hand washing. The children were already used to washing every time they came indoors, before and after eating, after toileting and using a tissue, as well as anytime their fingers made it inside a nose or mouth. And as we have always told them: it's not a wash unless they use soap.

**Reminder:** As both of our classroom are growing, we are encountering more overlap between families for drop off and pick up. Please remember to keep the drop offs and picks ups brief. If there is another parent waiting outside the gate to enter, please be respectful of their wait and try to limit the conversation between yourself and your child's teacher to help move things along.

### In Mrs Wildhaber's Classroom:

As we enter our sixth week back at school, it has been very exciting for me to

welcome back at least one returning student almost every week. What started as a classroom of five has grown to a classroom of nine! The larger class size has definitely had a positive impact on the class. There is more observation happening between classmates, peer reading, and independent work happening in the classroom.

The older children, who will be entering first grade in the fall, are working on strengthening their phonics and reading, developing story writing, and mastering fundamental math skills. For writing, these children are working on a Story Starter at least once a week. It is just what it sounds like: the start of a story. Each card has the beginning of a sentence and the child must complete the thought. From there, I have the child add two to four more sentences to round it out into a full fledged story. We are also working on compound words, synonyms, antonyms, and homophones to understand how words work and broaden their vocabulary. These lessons have been particularly fun for me to give, as I now have the luxury to sit with each child for the entire assignment as needed, and really support them in working with these higher level materials.

Our younger children are continuing to develop their phonics (some have just moved on to word building with the Moveable Alphabet!), master early math skills, and refine their practical life skills. It is such a joy to watch the children take out a material that they have not yet mastered and improve on it with each try.

Care of plants, painting, and making a puppet are all materials that are in heavy rotation between all the students. I cannot remember the last time there were any dead leaves on any of my plants!! These lessons all have several steps that need to be followed in a logical sequence to get the desired result. While it may not seem like it, activities like these help the child to prepare a mathematical mind. As the children become more adept at following the logical sequence of events to make a puppet, paint a picture, or care for a plant, they are organizing, sorting, and classifying their

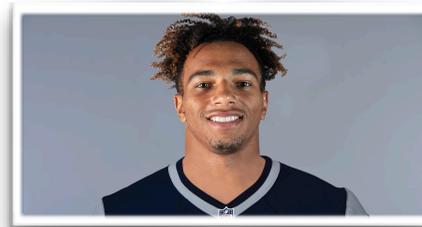
work. This is one of my favorite things about Montessori.

For the month of July, we are learning about community helpers. I have several books in our classroom library with pictures of a broad variety of community helpers. Additionally, I chose these books because they include non-stereotypical portrayals of varying community helpers. Female firefighters and doctors along with male nurses and teachers send powerful visual messages to young children, letting them know that their gender does not determine their career path. I was also mindful of making sure the books depicted people of color, differing abilities, and a broad age range. These qualities have always been my focus in selecting books for the class library. I feel that it is of the utmost importance that the children are exposed to representation of all walks of life in a positive manner at this time.

I would like to close out this newsletter with the word “yet.” When your child tells you, “I can’t...” or “I don’t know how to...” Follow up their sentence with the word “yet.” It is such a small word that can

make such a huge difference in your child’s approach to challenging tasks in life.

**Myles Bryant** was a student



here when our former director Sharon Hyde was teaching. Ms. Wildhaber was an assistant at the time. Miss McCray keeps up with the family and thought it would be nice for all of us to see what Myles’ latest step in life has been.

<https://www.patriots.com/team/players-roster/myles-bryant/>

Until Next Time,  
Mrs. Wildhaber  
& Mrs. Roque

**W**elcome back! I'm so excited to be back in the classroom and see all the friendly faces I missed. I'd like to thank our parents for trusting us with your children!

The children have transitioned very well into our new normal in the classroom. We've had many questions such as, 'Why I'm wearing a mask?' And 'Why do I have to spray the Lysol in the restroom after every use?', and 'Why do we now have assigned seating?'



**Johvanna Tinajero**

For the most part, children were able to answer those questions for each other which greatly

impressed me, but of course, during group time we went over why we are cleaning our classroom even more than what we had previously. The children have been very understanding and cooperative.

### **In the classroom**

The first week back I let the children get into a routine as I observed what they were working with. We had a lot of review as far as the way we walk in our environment, pushing our chair in, holding one material at a time, cleaning up after ourselves after lunch. We've also been reviewing a lot of grace and courtesy lessons such as how to wipe your nose and how to properly wash hands. Simply put, grace and courtesy is all about helping children to understand polite social norms. These lessons give the child the vocabulary, actions, and steps required for them to build their awareness of and responsiveness to those around them.

Special thanks to **Isabel Long's mom Amarjit** for kindly buying books for our library!

In the month of June many families celebrate Father's Day, so Ms. McCray and I decided to do a quick Father's Day project

with the children, and sent the gifts home for the children to give to their Dads.

For our classroom we are doing sharing day on Mondays so If the kiddos have anything fun to share with their classmates they can bring their item on Mondays (no toys please). Books are welcomed every day of the week

Thank you  
Ms. Tinajero  
Ms. McCray



## **Quotes of Dr. Maria Montessori**

"Discipline is born when the child concentrates his attention on some



object that attracts him and which provides him not only with a useful exercise but with a control of error. Thanks to these exercises ... the child

becomes calm, radiantly happy, busy, forgetful of himself and, in consequence, indifferent to prizes or material rewards."

**— The Absorbent Mind**

"The child's development follows a path of successive stages of independence, and our knowledge of this must guide us in our behavior towards him. We have to help the child to act, will and think for himself. This is the art of serving the spirit, an art which can be practiced to perfection only when working among children."

**— The Absorbent Mind**

# Let's Relax a Bit

## COVID-19 Not Very Dangerous for Children

With the daily bombardment from most media outlets - whether radio, television, or various social media platforms - there is a fairly unrelenting theme of fear, uncertainty and doubt about all things COVID.

*For every child under the age of 15 who has died of COVID-19 there have been 6 pneumonia deaths for children of the same age.*

However there is one **underreported** very positive fact for parents of children under the age of 15. Children of that age hardly ever have bad effects from COVID-19 - be it hospitalization or death.

A look at the latest data posted on the CDC's website (<https://data.cdc.gov/NCHS/Provisional-COVID-19-Death-Counts-by-Sex-Age-and-S/9bhg-hcku/data>) shows that

out of the 112,226 deaths in the USA to date (as of July 1), only 29 are from children under the age of 15. That is a death rate of **0.0002584**. That means that for every 20,000 COVID deaths in the USA, only about 5 are children under 15 years of age.

However for the same age group the results for pneumonia are much more dangerous. Of the 122,587 deaths in the USA from pneumonia during the same time period, there were 176 deaths. That means that children under the age of 15 died at a rate of more than **0.001436**.

**This data shows that your child is roughly 6 times more likely to die of pneumonia than COVID-19.**

This is not to say that there are no risks to children from COVID-19 - *but let's keep it in perspective*. Pneumonia is much more dangerous to young children than COVID-19.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People.™

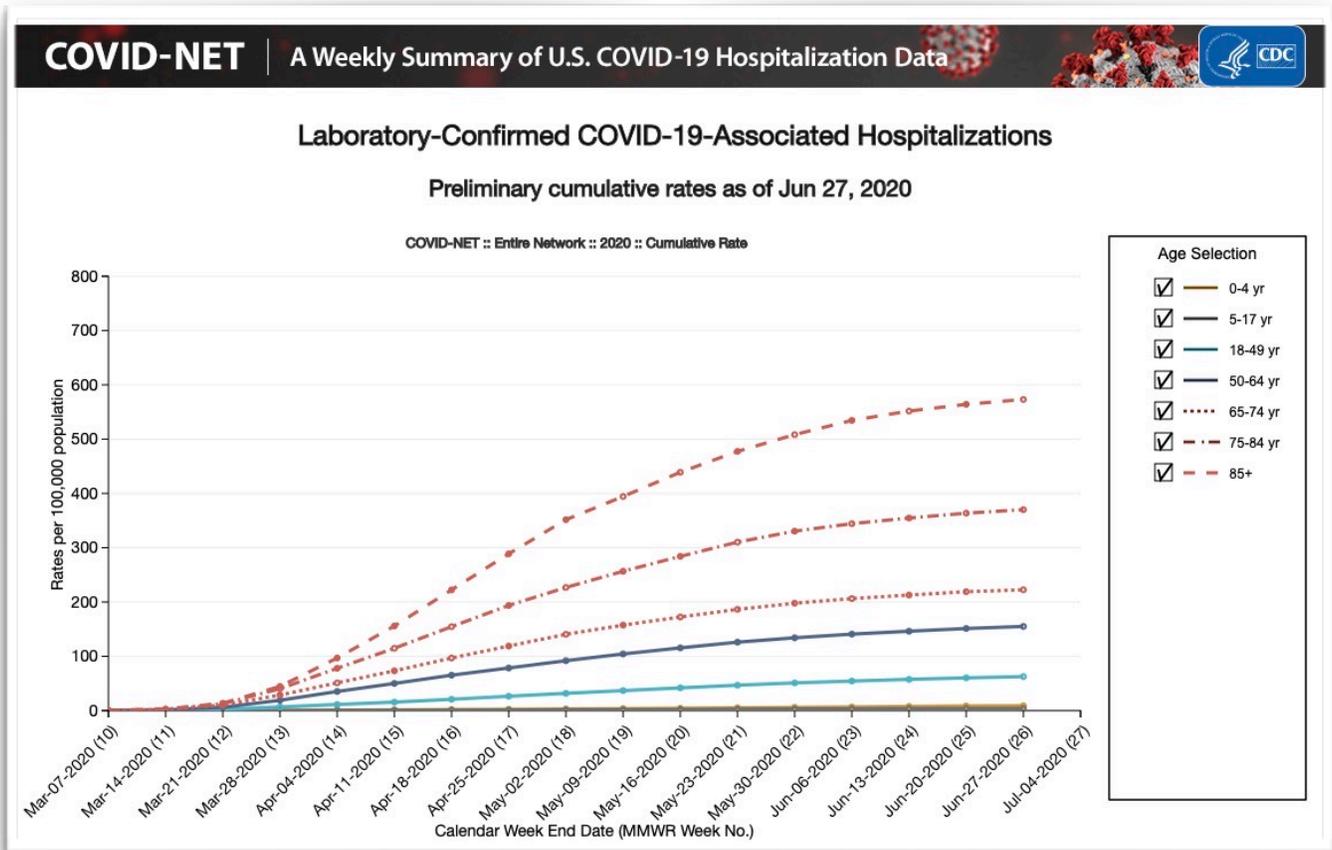
Data.CDC.gov

Data as of	Start week	Age group	COVID-19 Deaths	Pneumonia Deaths
07/01/2020	02/01/2020	Under 1 year	9	64
07/01/2020	02/01/2020	1-4 years	6	46
07/01/2020	02/01/2020	5-14 years	14	66
07/01/2020	02/01/2020	15-24 years	142	247
07/01/2020	02/01/2020	25-34 years	770	937
07/01/2020	02/01/2020	35-44 years	1,972	2,086
07/01/2020	02/01/2020	45-54 years	5,488	5,513
07/01/2020	02/01/2020	55-64 years	13,465	15,283
07/01/2020	02/01/2020	65-74 years	23,333	26,318
07/01/2020	02/01/2020	75-84 years	29,780	33,560
07/01/2020	02/01/2020	85 years and over	37,247	38,477
07/01/2020	02/01/2020	All Ages	112,226	122,597

But how about **hospitalizations** for COVID-19? Again let's look at the data. This CDC chart shows that children under the age of 18 hardly register on the data for hospitalizations. Look at the X axis. They hover on the bottom - hardly budging upwards at all. Whereas the older that people are the higher up on the Y axis the

**schools so far suggested that children aren't significant spreaders of the new coronavirus in society.**

*Why children rarely develop serious Covid-19 symptoms, how susceptible they are to getting infected and why they don't appear to be effective spreaders of the disease are among the most discussed*



hospitalizations are more likely.

So, even if children are not likely to fall ill or die from COVID-19 can't they still pass it on to others and be a dangerous vector in the community? Yes they can, but at a much lower rate than initially thought. *From the Wall Street Journal, 5/31/20*

*"A number of countries that have reopened schools in the past two months have reported **no resulting increase in coronavirus infection rates**, an encouraging sign for authorities around the world that are contemplating how and when to safely bring children back to the classroom.*

*Researchers and European authorities said the **absence of any notable clusters of infection in reopened elementary***

*riddles of the epidemic among scientists.*

*One reason for the absence of infections in schools could be that **children below 10 have fewer of the receptors the virus uses to enter the body**, said Prof. Herman Goossens, a medical microbiologist and coordinator of a European Union task force for researching Covid-19.*

*The number of so-called ACE2 receptors in some cells in the upper respiratory tract that the novel coronavirus uses as a gateway only starts to increase from the age of 10, making younger children comparatively less susceptible, he said."*

*So let's put all this in perspective and breathe a little relief about our children. They will benefit as will we!*

**F**rom counting beads in the primary classroom to racing my friends through the math boxes in the Upper Elementary classroom, my experience as a Montessori student shaped the foundational building blocks of the proverbial pink tower of my career.

The first block was shaped by the freedom of the Montessori classroom and the underlying lessons of empathy from my teachers and experiences at Pathfinder and Camp Surf. These experiences taught me to follow my passions, to think beyond myself and to care deeply about the world around me.

Mixed-age classrooms built the second block, teaching me humility and respect for my peers who can be educators as influential as my formal teachers. This block also holds the lesson that my own knowledge is valuable and that I similarly have the responsibility to

respectfully share this knowledge with my peers.

*My time at Meher built the strong moral values and work ethic that carried me through my Masters of Urban Planning at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and will continue to carry me forward.*

My time at Meher built these foundational blocks that I continue to stack others upon, holding within them the basics of

reading, writing and arithmetic, but more importantly, the strong moral values and work ethic that carried me



**Ms. Evita Chavez**

through my Masters of Urban

Planning at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and will continue to carry me forward.