

# Armand Bayou Montessori School

## Newsletter May 2009

### **To Armand Bayou Montessori Parents:**

Thank you for the support and time you so generously give us throughout the year. We contribute the success of the school to our dedicated parents and teachers.

### **Mark Your Calendars....**

**Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** - Cinco de Mayo Celebration

**Monday -Friday, May 11-15<sup>th</sup>** - Teacher Appreciation Week

**Thursday, May 21<sup>th</sup>** - Music Program 10:30am

**Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>** - Memorial Day Holiday- School Closed

**Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>-Kindergarten Graduation 10:00am**

**Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>-Last Day of School-Early Dismissal at 11:00am**

**Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>** - Summer Program Begins!

### **Infant/Toddler:**

Summer will be here before we know it.

Sometimes it feels like it's already here! We will begin water play on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> for infants. Please bring light clothing (cotton dries quickly) that you won't mind getting wet for them to wear on the deck during water play. Onesies work very well. For toddlers, please bring your child in his/her swimsuit along with a plastic bag for the wet clothes and a small towel (the size of a hand towel). Please bring shoes that you don't mind getting wet. Water shoes are recommended. Please label all belongings, including shoes! Please apply sun screen and insect spray to your child before they come to school, if needed. If you would like for us to re-apply it in the afternoon, please bring containers labeled with your child's first and last name.

Water play has many benefits. Water is a whole body experience using all of the senses. It is a natural draw in the infant classroom. The infants enjoy the soothing and relaxing sensations of a bubbling fish tank, water running at the sink for hand washing, water poured into a glass, and drips of water on the table for clean-up. In the summer, water is sprinkled from an overhead sprinkler into a water bin below. Heads go under the drizzle, hands are extended, water is stirred, splashed, toys are dipped and tasted, water is scooped up in cups and poured out on legs and feet and sometimes a drink is taken. The whole body experience extends to logical thinking as water is poured out-experiencing weight and the effect of turning cups upside-down.

As the infant moves into "toddlerhood", water is experienced in more concrete terms of filling spoons, cups, pitchers, and dumping or carefully pouring the water back into a container.

Walking through puddles challenges balancing and walking skills.

Every new experience awakens new nerves to form and increases cognitive functioning.

Did you know that early water work also leads to later Montessori skills of math, weights, and measures, personal hygiene, cooking, history and transportation, electrical power, science, and tons of language work?

The infant and toddlers enjoy water play tremendously. We look forward to watching their faces as they splash happily in the water this summer!

## **Early Childhood:**

**May 22 - Zoo Field Trip**

It is a melancholy sort of month for us as we see how the children have matured during their 3-year program constantly growing and changing. As we enter May, we'll talk about May Day, seeds and gardening to enhance our appreciation for nature. In addition, we will learn about mammals and their properties..

This year we will have a special activity to celebrate mother's Day. Moms and children will have an opportunity to have Mother's Day treats together and join in a "Show-n-Tell your Mom" activity. We will take turns talking about why Moms are special, how they are different, and how they are alike.

Dates to Remember:

May 21 - Music Program

May 25-Memorial Day-School Closed

May 29-Kindergarten Graduation

June 4- Last Day of School

## **Elementary:**

**Thank you for sharing your children with us. It has been a joy working with all of you and watching your children learn and grow.**

**May 15<sup>th</sup> is Pajama Day! Your child can wear his/her favorite pajama and slippers to school.**

**I look forward to an exciting school year with my first to fourth graders.**

**For the children staying there is an exciting summer planned with an emphasis on the Rainforest and fun field trips to support that theme. For those of you leaving, have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you in August.**

**Ms. JoBeth**