

## Great Blue Heron Herald- November 7th

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Hello Heron Families!

I hope that you are all enjoying the change in weather and our extra hour since the time adjustment. Please take the time to read the information I am providing below, it is lengthy, but all is important for you to know. Thank you for your time!

This week, our school will remember a tragic time in our world history, The Holocaust- where millions of people, particularly Jewish people and others, were persecuted by Nazi Germany. We will present age-appropriate lessons and have conversations on this subject. If you have any questions or thoughts please reach out to me.

### **Important Dates**

November 9th- Community Blood Drive from 12:00-4:30pm at our school.

November 11th- Veterans Day, no school! Thank you to all who serve!

November 15th- Picture orders are due! Forms went home on Friday. If you did not receive yours, or misplaced it, contact Ms. Grace: [Grace.Moon@keysschools.com](mailto:Grace.Moon@keysschools.com)

November 17th- Field Trip Permission Slips are being sent out Tuesday, November 9th for the Studios of Key West. There is no cost to you, just sign the permission slip and return. Due the 17th, Trip the 20th.

### **News You Can Use**

As I sit and reflect on my own Montessori practices, I encourage you to read through the following and see where your child flows through this Second Plane of development. Some students may fall in between these "typical" behaviors and that is okay. We want to meet them where they are, but provide enough guidance to ensure they are still on a path to reaching the goal of independence, abstract thinking, and the feeling of self-accomplishment. We want to work together to provide the necessary support our children need.

I will be providing more information each week on Montessori Philosophy and ways you can bridge the Montessori and Home environments. If you are interested in any specific topic, please let me know!

## Montessori Planes of Development: Upper Elementary Characteristics in the Second Plane

### **Characteristics of Fourth Graders**

The average fourth grader has abundant energy. They enjoy rough and tumble play and are becoming interested in team play. They are easily motivated and enjoy trying new things. While they are growing and maturing at different rates, fourth graders need a careful balance of adult guidance and independence. Fourth graders...

- are energetic
- are daring
- are interested in clubs, teams, fan clubs
- ask "Why?"

- are untidy
- like to work and be with members of their own sex
- daydream
- have a strong sense of humor
- giggle and make noise
- have a strong sense of justice and injustice
- want pets
- have collections of “things”
- have rapidly changing interests

### **Characteristics of Fifth Graders**

Fifth graders are happy and generally friendly. They are truthful and have a positive approach to life. Self-confidence begins to build again and they are building more acceptance of others. This is the beginning of “cliques” as they are learning where they belong. Feelings are hurt as earlier friendships dissolve and they begin to exclude others who aren’t like them. Fifth Graders...

- tend to be obedient
- have a wide variety of interests
- readily identify with TV characters
- are developing increasing independence
- form good personal relationships with teachers and adult role models
- tend to have messier handwriting than they did in 4th grade
- are quick to anger, but forgive just as quickly
- are good problem solvers
- are good listeners
- are talkative and like to explain things
- are voracious readers
- have increased ability to think abstractly
- like rules and logic
- are moody and sensitive
- argue; talk before thinking
- are proud of their academic achievements

### **Characteristics of Sixth Graders**

The average sixth grader is heading toward adolescence and needs the skills to handle transitions. They are developing interpersonal skills as well as the means to handle peer pressure. They have a wide range of emotions and can be moody and easily frustrated. Girls experience growth spurts with most reaching puberty. Boys soon follow. Sixth graders...

- have high energy and can be “wiggly” if they sit for extended periods of time
- are developing their adult personalities
- are self-aware and insightful
- can initiate their own activity
- find peers more important than teachers
- are more tolerant than they were in 5th grade
- can set realistic, short-term goals
- can see both sides of an argument; like to debate
- enjoys higher intellectual humor including word play and double meanings
- tends toward sarcasm and put-downs – can be cruel
- have advanced research and study skills abilities
- may show an aptitude toward a particular skill or subject area
- are interested pop culture, materialism, current events, social justice

***Montessori teachers and parents can help children in the late Second Plane of Development by providing:***

- a secure and understanding environment
- a well-organized day

- recognition for efforts and accomplishments
- a sense of belonging
- outdoor play time and help in developing physical skills such as batting, throwing, kicking, and catching balls, etc.
- opportunities to excel
- choice in activities and decisions
- encouragement to try new activities
- encouragement to finish what they start
- opportunities for community service
- opportunities to form same-sex friendships
- opportunities for quiet activities
- plenty of healthy food and adequate rest (The average upper elementary student needs between 9.5 and 10 hours of sleep per night!)

The journey from childhood to adolescence is a joyful experience when it is guided by adults who understand the developmental characteristics and needs of children. The Montessori environment, both the classroom and the home, provides a safe, nurturing opportunity for children to grow and become confident, independent, productive citizens of the world.

(Taken from <https://montessoritraining.blogspot.com/2010/01/montessori-planes-of-development-upper.html> )

Thank you all so much for your continued support while we progress through the year. So much growth is happening with all the students and they are all finding ways to show their individuality while also being one with the group. I enjoy the time with your children and learn something from them everyday. Thank you for giving us your trust to help them grow.

~It takes a village!~

*Sandy McCoy*

Upper Elementary Lead Guide

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