

From: Karthiha Kunasekaran <karthiha.kunasekaran@keysschools.com>

Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 10:42

Cc: Lynn Barras <Lynn.Barras@KeysSchools.com>; Pascale B. Davis <Pascale.Davis@KeysSchools.Com>; Michel Boutin <Michel.Boutin@KeysSchools.com>

Subject: Seahorse News

Good morning, Seahorse Families,

“The love of one's environment is the secret of social evolution.”

— Dr. Maria Montessori

The Seahorses are busy at work and excited about learning new lessons/concepts in our classroom. Their minds are present, and their hands are in action.

Please read the following as I think it is essential to raise our children as healthy and happy human beings. And thank you for taking the time to read.

Focus of the Newsletter— "The Hands"

The most valuable quote from Dr. Montessori about hands is: "The hands are the instruments of man's intelligence." This powerful phrase carries scientific reasoning in it. This quote has become my mantra. When we touch, feel, and work with hands, the signal passes to our brain through the nerve system and helps our brain process the information and store it in our long- and short-term memories.

Hands in action for working

Our students in the Montessori classroom touch to feel the quantity difference between one (one unit bead) and a thousand (one thousand cube). When they do math operations, the real tactile materials help them associate the number (symbol) with the quantity value. Children feel the letters and relate the letter symbol to its sounds. Every material in the Montessori classroom has a valuable developmental purpose behind it and is designed to help children in their development. We encourage our students to leave toys and stuffed animals at home so that they can explore the incredible Montessori lessons in the classroom. Moreover, their focus will be present.

Hands in action for calming

We can teach our kids to use their hands to calm themselves by rubbing both hands, holding their hands together, and opening and closing both hands a couple

of times. It is a good practice to use our hands to calm ourselves or control our feelings before we respond/react to the situation.

Hands in action for numbing the nerve system in our hands and brain

So then, do our children learn through using their hands on electronic devices at this young age? We all know the answer. Research has proven that kids who use electronic devices as a mediator in between our purposeful, fully functioning hands and the brain may struggle with writing and reading. In order to learn to write, kids first have to develop the pincer grip, then trace the letters using a hands-on material (sandpaper letters or numbers), and then use a paper and pencil to practice the writing. So again, "The hands are the instruments of man's intelligence."

Appreciate the usage of electronic devices for meaningful tasks, while recognizing the place (if any, at this age) these devices ought to have in our little friends' hands.

"Within the child lies the fate of the future."

—Dr. Maria Montessori

Monday, February 14:

We are doing friendship exchange within our classroom community. We will create things and write notes to exchange with one another. If you want to participate, please write a note to your child, and I will help them read.

Thank you,
Ms. Karthi