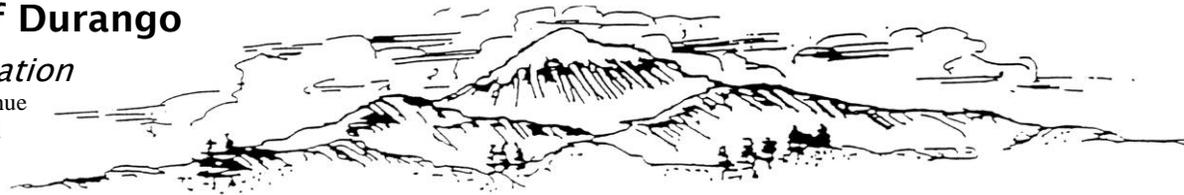


Children's House of Durango

Montessori Education

1689 West Third Avenue
Durango, CO 81301



Monthly Newsletter: September 2018

We would like to welcome everyone for the 2018/2019 school year! We are looking forward to an exciting year filled with new friendships, learning, and fun!

Meet the Staff:

Stacy Zimmerman Ferrell is the Director at Children's House. She started working here in 2004 and is entering her ninth year as the Director. Stacy earned her B.A. in Psychology from FLC, her M.A. in Child Development, and has completed her A.M.S. Montessori Certification through the New Mexico Center for Montessori Education. Along with directing the school, Stacy will also be teaching Language and Cultural on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in the Rainbow Room.

Katy Howell is returning for her second year at Children's House and will be co-teaching Math, Sensorial Skills, and Music Appreciation with Heaven in the Blue Room. Katy completed her B.A. in Environmental Education from Western Washington University. Katy will also be assisting Stacy with administrative work and handling tuition.

Nancy Millet is returning for her sixth year at Children's House and will be teaching Spanish and Practical Life in the Red Room. Nancy received her A.M.S. Montessori teaching credentials in 1998 from the Christopher Academy in Central New Jersey.

Becca Rodman teaches Art in the Green Room. She has an Art degree from Fort Lewis College and has been teaching with us since 2006. Becca will be providing students with a creative and fun atmosphere in which they can explore and create.

Heaven Williamson is returning for her second year at Children's House and will be co-teaching Math, Sensorial Skills, and Music Appreciation with Katy in the Blue Room. Heaven has 5 years of previous Montessori experience in an early primary classroom in Arkansas.

Maira Loera is entering her first year at Children's House as Kindergarten Coordinator and will be teaching in the rainbow room with Ms. Stacy. Her degree is in Human Development and Family Studies. She attended Colorado State University and spent time babysitting while getting her degree. She also worked at a daycare in Fort Collins with children ranging in ages from 1-6 and has worked with at-risk youth as a mentor.

Bryn Joyner will be joining us as an afternoon teacher this semester. Bryn is a Children's House alumna and the daughter of the school owners. She is entering her senior year at the University of Colorado and will be taking this semester online so we are able to have her join our team.

Miranda Martori and Kelly Newman will be our cooks this school year, providing the children with delicious homemade lunches.

Shalley Parmenter and Tom Joyner are parents of three alumni children. They are the owners of Children's House and will be handling repairs and maintenance of the school.

For Your
Calendar

September 3rd:
School closed for
Labor Day.

September 4th:
First Day of
School!

September 12th:
Open House
(5:30-6:30 P.M.)

TBD:
School Photos

FYIs and Upcoming Events:

We are requesting that each student keep a water bottle in his or her bin throughout the school year. We want to ensure that your children are staying hydrated throughout the day, while at the same time encouraging independence. The children will have access to their bottles throughout the day. We encourage parents to please label your child's bottle and take it home once a week for washing. Please only send water in water bottles.

Notice: Peanut Allergy. To ensure the health and safety of all our students, Children's House is a peanut-free school. Other nuts and nut butters are acceptable.

Parent Volunteer Baskets: In the bin room you will notice two wire baskets by the windows. In order to help our teachers manage the amount of prep work necessary to provide rich, exciting environments, we are asking parents to help by prepping some of the classroom works for us. Teachers will provide all of the materials, instructions and/or a completed example, and the date to be returned by in a plastic bag or folder with their homeroom color card attached. These packets can be picked up from the "Outgoing Prep Work" basket at any time and returned to the "Completed Prep Work" basket by the designated date.

Parents may sign-up to have lunch with their child once per month for \$3. Sign-up is in the kitchen.

Our annual open-house will take place on **Thursday, September 12th from 5:30-6:30 p.m.** The teachers will be in their classrooms to introduce themselves, demonstrate some of our wonderful Montessori materials, and answer any questions regarding each subject area. This will be an informative evening and we hope to see you there.

When picking up your child in the afternoon, please enter and exit through the back gate so the teachers see you and the front door remains locked. For the safety of the students and the school the front door is locked any time we are all out on the playground.

School photos are still being arranged and as soon as a date is decided upon we will send information out to all families.

Reminders:

Sharing – On Thursdays and Fridays at 9:00 a.m. the students have "sharing" in their first class. Children may bring something from home fitting into the category for that day. Posted in the kitchen and online is a list of dates and themes. We ask that only appropriate items be brought in, no toy weapons. **With the exception of sharing days, toys are not permitted at school.** Also please note that sharing takes place during circle time promptly at 9:00am. If your child arrives after circle time he or she will miss sharing for that day.

Snacks – We ask that parents sign up once a month to bring in some snack foods. Snack is communal and these snack items may be served throughout a week. Suggestions include yogurt, cheese, fruit, popcorn, bagels, crackers, etc. Homemade baked breads or muffins are always welcome as long as they do not contain any nut products. We encourage non-individually packaged items to minimize waste.

Birthday Celebrations - On your child's birthday, a special Montessori-influenced celebration takes place after lunch in their homeroom. Parents are invited to attend their child's celebration. In this ceremony, the child holds a globe and walks around the "sun" (candle) for each year of his/her life. While walking, his/her teacher or parent will read a short description of an important event for that year. **We ask that parents bring a short list of significant events your child has done for each year of his/her life, such as vacations, learning how to walk, attending school, etc.** A special after-lunch treat may be brought in for this occasion. Suggestions include fresh fruit with whipped cream, bite-sized cupcakes, or small cookies.

Late Fees - **After the fifth day of the month, Children's House will charge a late fee of 1% of tuition due each day. If tuition is not received by thirty (30) days your child may not attend school until past tuition is paid in full.** Non-payment or excessive late payments without prior arrangements may, at the Director's/Owner's discretion, result in canceling the enrollment of the child/children. If you have any questions in regards to this policy please see Stacy, Shalley, or Katy. Thank you.