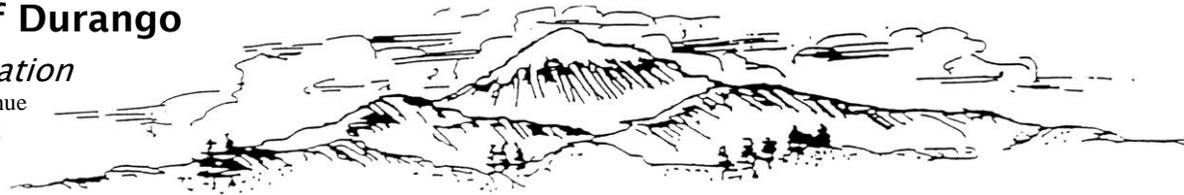


Children's House of Durango

Montessori Education

1689 West Third Avenue
Durango, CO 81301



Monthly Newsletter: September 2019

We would like to welcome everyone for the 2019/2020 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 tenth 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.

Katy Howell is returning for her third year at Children's House and second year as Assistant Director. Katy completed her B.A. in Environmental Education from Western Washington University and worked in outdoor education for many years before returning to the indoor classroom.

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.

Maira Loera is entering her second year at Children's House as Kindergarten Coordinator. Her degree is. She obtained her B.A Family Studies and Human Development at Colorado State University and is currently in a Montessori Certification program.

Anna Newman is excited to join our team for the school year after helping us consistently over this past summer. She will be assisting the teachers two days a week

Ahna Yar is happy to be returning to Children's House after living in San Diego for the past 8 years. In that time she obtained her Montessori Certification as well as her B.A. in Family Studies and Human Development.

Cielo Vida is joining our team after working at the Salida Montessori Charter School for the last 3 years. Cielo is also a freelance writer and previously taught at Children's House in 1995-1996. She is happy to be returning to Durango and our school.

Natasha Yazzie will be joining our team as an Afternoon Teacher. She is coming to Children's House after working in several schools and childcare centers around the region including the Campbell Child Development Center and Needham Elementary.

Clarissa Soto will be our cook this school year, providing the children with delicious homemade lunches. Clarissa also worked in a preschool for 10 years and is looking forward to being back in a school setting.

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

For Your
Calendar

September 2nd:
School closed for
Labor Day.

September 3th:
First Day of
School!

September 11th:
Open House
(5:30-6:30 P.M.)

**September 24th
and 25th:**
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 ask parents to please label your child's bottle and take it home once a week for washing.

Please only send water in water bottles.

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.

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.

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.

School photos are scheduled for Tuesday, September 24th and Wednesday, September 25th

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 on Shutterfly 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.