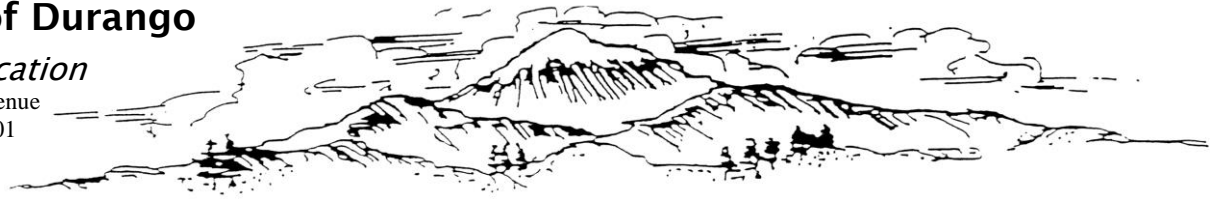


Children's House of Durango

Montessori Education

1689 West Third Avenue
Durango, CO 81301



Monthly Newsletter: September 2020

We would like to welcome everyone for the 2020/2021 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 eleventh 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. Stacy will be teaching in the Rainbow Room this year with Ms. Kait as well as Language and Cultural Studies with the Kindergarteners.

Katy Howell is returning for her fourth year at Children's House and third 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. Katy will be teaching in the Blue Room with Ms. Becca as well as teaching Kindergarten Math.

Becca Rodman has been teaching with us since 2006. She has an Art degree from Fort Lewis College and consistently provides our students with a creative and fun atmosphere in which they can explore and create. Becca will be teaching in the Blue Room with Ms. Katy as well as teaching the Kindergarten Art Program.

Kaitlyn Bosveil is returning to Children's House for her second year. Kait moved to Durango from Denver where she was working at a Reggio Emilio school and has also had experience in STEAM schools. Kait will be working in Rainbow Room with Ms. Stacy and helping teach the afternoon Kindergarten classes.

Clarissa Soto is returning to 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 taking over our Spanish program and teaching the Kindergarteners.

Gwen Schmidt-Arenales is joining our Children's House team as the afternoon teacher this year. Gwen received her Bachelor's Degree from Lewis and Clark College and has worked for the Colorado Outward Bound School and Naturalists at Large in California since then. We welcome her to our team!

Emma Ditzler is returning as an aid to our classrooms this year. Emma has been helping us for the last year and is beginning her senior year at DHS. Emma offers a kind and attentive nature to our students and we are happy to have her back for the school year!

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 7th:
School closed for
Labor Day.

August 31st:
First Day of
School!

September 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 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.

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. *At this time we are only allowing one parent inside the gate for pickup and will help get your child ready to go for a speedy transition.* There is an iPad in the kitchen and in the backyard for signing your child in and out.

School photos will be scheduled at the end of September and we will let you know that date as soon as possible!

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.

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 and is able to fit in their personal bin for the rest of the 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 are only able to accept pre-packed snack at this time.*

Birthday Celebrations - On your child's birthday, a special Montessori-influenced celebration takes place after lunch in their homeroom. In this ceremony, the child holds a globe and walks around the "sun" (candle) for each year of his/her life. 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. *At this time we can only accept pre-packaged treats and are not able to invite families to join the celebration.*

Welcome back to school!

