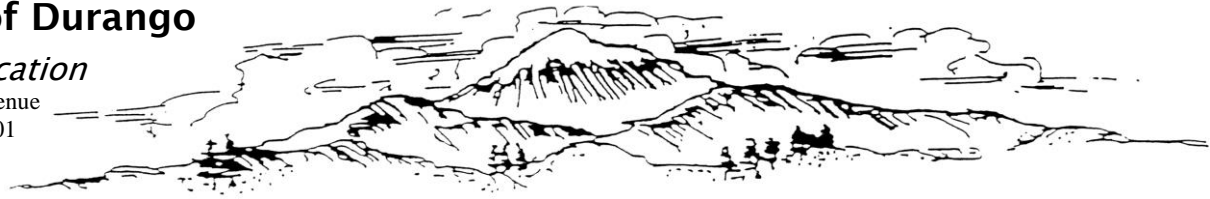


Children's House of Durango

Montessori Education

1689 West Third Avenue
Durango, CO 81301



Monthly Newsletter: September 2021

We would like to welcome everyone for the 2021/2022 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 twelfth 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 mentoring Rainbow and Blue Classrooms as well as teaching Language and Cultural Studies with the Kindergarteners.

Katy Howell came to teach at Children's House in 2017 and is entering her fourth 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 third year. Kait moved to Durango in early 2020 from Denver where she was working at a Reggio Emilio school and has also had experience in STEAM schools. Kait will be teaching in the Rainbow Room with Ms. Gwen and will also be teaching the Kindergarten Language classes with Ms. Stacy.

Gwen Schmidt-Arenales is entering her second year at Children's House now as a Lead Teacher in the Rainbow Room. Gwen received her Bachelor's Degree from Lewis and Clark College and worked for the Colorado Outward Bound School and Naturalists at Large in California before moving to Durango. Gwen will be teaching with Ms. Kait in the Rainbow Room as well as teaching Foreign Languages with the Kindergarteners.

Clarissa Soto is returning to be our cook for her third school year with us, providing the children with delicious homemade lunches. Clarissa has given our lunch program new energy with revised recipes as well as several new meals that have the students have happily received!

Emma Ditzler is returning to Children's House for her third year as an afternoon teacher. Emma offers a kind and attentive nature to our students and we are happy to have her continue with us for the school year.

Anna Newman started working at Children's House in 2019 is excited to continue as an assistant teacher with our team for this school year. She is beginning her senior year at DHS and will be working with us three days a week.

Izzy Tedeschi is starting as our Afternoon/Closing teacher this school year. She has work in the Outdoor Industry as well as Colvig Silver Camps and we are excited to have her on our team!

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

For Your
Calendar

September 6:
Closed for
Labor Day

September 7:
First Day of
School!

September 15:
Open House
(5:30-6:30pm)

October 6 & 7:
School Photos

FYIs and Upcoming Events:

We are requesting that each student keep a water bottle in their classroom throughout the school year. We want to ensure that your children are staying hydrated throughout the day, while at the same time encouraging independence. 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.

Our Annual Open-House will take place on **Wednesday, September 15th from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** This year we will be doing a semi-open house to limit the number of people in the building at a time. A GoogleDoc sign-up sheet will be sent out to emails shortly with 15-minute visit increments. **Masks are required for everyone.**

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 will take place on **Wednesday and Thursday, October 6 and 7.** Photos will be taken outside and the staff from A/M Photography will keep their distance and follow all guidelines set forth by the CDC and State of Colorado. Watch your email for additional information. Orders are placed online after photos are taken – there are no envelopes sent home.

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 for your child's homeroom and afternoon snack (if applicable). Snacks are added to our stock 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. **Cashews and Pistachios are not allowed in the school.**

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.

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.

Welcome back to school!

