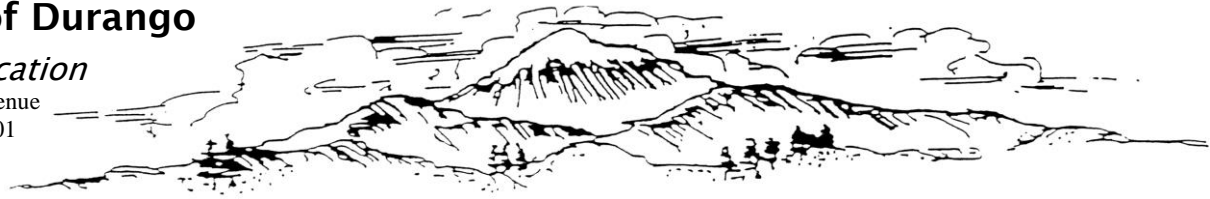


Children's House of Durango

Montessori Education

1689 West Third Avenue
Durango, CO 81301



Monthly Newsletter: September 2022

We would like to welcome everyone for the 2022/2023 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 came on as Director in the fall of 2009. Stacy earned her B.A. in Psychology from FLC, her M.A. in Child Development from Tufts University, and has completed her A.M.S. Montessori Certification through the New Mexico Center for Montessori Education. Stacy will be starting the school year teaching in the Rainbow Room as well as teaching Kindergarten Cultural Studies.

Katy Howell came to teach at Children's House in 2017 and has been Assistant Director since the summer of 2018. 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 fourth 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 graduated from Athens Technical College with her Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education. Kait will be teaching in the Rainbow Room with Ms. Stacy and will also be teaching the Kindergarten Language classes.

Ronnie Hesse is returning to be our cook for her second school year with us, providing the children with delicious homemade lunches. Ronnie has enjoyed revising recipes as well as adding several new meals that have the students have happily received!

Emma Ditzler is returning to Children's House for her fourth year as an afternoon teacher. And will also be teaching in the Blue Room with Ms. Katy on Friday mornings. 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 has started her freshman year at Fort Lewis College this fall. We are lucky Anna has chosen to stay local for college and she will be working with us two days a week.

Caroline Araiza will be joining our teaching team this year as an afternoon teacher and the Kindergarten Spanish teacher. Caroline has her B.A. in Journalism and Media Communication with a minor in Spanish from Colorado State University. She began subbing with us last year and we are very excited to have her join us on a more regular basis!

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 5:
Closed for
Labor Day

September 6:
First Day of
School!

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

September 20 &
21:
School Photos

FYIs and Upcoming Events:

Morning Drop-off:

7:30-8:30 everyone will drop off in the kitchen.

8:30-9:00 Blue Room drop offs in the kitchen, Rainbow Room drop offs through the back gate.

We ask that one family drops off at a time. If someone is in the kitchen or the back gate please be patient, we do our best to help each student enter school as calm and smoothly as possible.

Afternoon Pickup: Please enter and exit through the back gate so the teachers see you and can help your child gather their items to take home.

Only staff and students are allowed inside the school at this time.

For the safety of the students and the school the front door is locked any time we are all out on the playground.

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 **Thursday, September 15th 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 will take place on **Wednesday and Thursday, September 20th and 21th.** Please note, orders are placed online after photos are taken – there are no envelopes sent home.

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, small, after-lunch treat may be brought in for this occasion. Suggestions include fresh fruit with whipped cream, bite-sized cupcakes, or small cookies.

Katy will be in touch in the month of your child's birthday with more information.

Reminders:

Sharing – On Thursdays and Fridays at 9:00 a.m. the students have sharing time in their class. The purpose of this time is for our students to practice public speaking and using descriptive words to describe items.

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.

Our list of dates and themes is attached in the welcome email, posted in the kitchen, uploaded on both our website and on Shutterfly. We ask that only appropriate items be brought in, no toy weapons please. **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 (only for students enrolled past 3:00pm). 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.**

Each student needs a water bottle to keep 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.

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!

