

# JANUARY '16 NEWSLETTER

## D.A.V. Montessori

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### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear DAVM families,

Namaste and welcome back... Hope you all have had a wonderful holiday season and an awesome beginning of an exciting 2016!

Preparations have begun as we gear up for celebrating the Indian Republic Day. For that occasion, our kindergarten to 4<sup>th</sup>

grade students have picked a topic and will be giving a speech on Friday, January 29 (although the official Republic Day is on Tuesday, January 26). We invite you all to join us next Friday morning for an hour to see our kiddos in action. We are proud at



DAVM to offer such public speaking opportunities to all our students starting at a young age.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to spending another great year with you.

### NEW YEAR RESOLUTION WITH KIDS



Making resolutions with your little one, even starting at the pre-school age, is a great way to introduce him to the notion of a new year as well as teach him the concept of setting goals.

Read-on for 3 easy steps you can take to help your child get started. But remember, if you are going to talk the talk, you will have to walk the walk! Be prepared with at least one resolution you can make for yourself and follow-through.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### JANUARY 29

##### Republic Day of India celebration

All DAVM families are invited to attend a short program from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Kinder to 4th grade students will be giving a speech and preschool students will sing a song.



#### FEBRUARY 8–FEBRUARY 12

##### Book Fair

Parent volunteers are needed! Please contact [Aparna Joshi](#) (Sriini's mom) and [Sowmya Kadambi](#) (Kriti's mom) if you can help.

#### FEBRUARY 12

##### Book Fair Family Night

Join us for a fun night with your family from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on the last day of the book fair.

## NEW YEAR RESOLUTION WITH KIDS (CONTD.)



**1. The big step:** As parents, you can open up the conversation by asking and sharing with each other what you would like to work on in front of the child. Then draw her in. Praise her for some of the things she

accomplished last year. Help her think about things she could do now as a year older, which she couldn't before. Guide her but do not make the resolution for her. Some useful categories for kids to set goals are a new habit, a skill, a social or a school goal.



**2. Taking many baby steps:** Help your child narrow down his choices to 1-3 resolutions. Simplify it into a simple and measurable sentence. Make him write it and put it up somewhere accessible such as the fridge, his room door or his bath mirror. Some

examples of a written goal: "I will help serve my family by cleaning up the dining table after dinner every day" or "I will learn swimming before Spring break by attending swim lessons 3 times a week." If he isn't a fluent reader yet, use fewer words more pictures to describe the resolution.



**3. The nudging:** Be ready to talk, talk and then talk some more. If your kiddo is anyone like mine, there will likely be endless questions and discussions on the goal and the process to achieve it.

Remind her and help her, but don't make her feel too bad about any lapses. Praise her effort. If she isn't trying, help her get excited about it again. If one way isn't working, help her find another path. If your child set a goal, let's say, to read 3 books every day before sleep time but isn't able to, try a different time or go with 1 book in the beginning. It's important through this process for you to help your child own her resolution so she would want it more than you want it for her.

Once your child has achieved his goal, you can celebrate it by giving him a small token or a reward, such as a trip to the zoo or his favorite ice cream or something else that makes him feel special. Don't make him do it for a reward, but finding a way to appreciate his effort won't hurt. You could even make a 'mission accomplished' scrap book and make him paste his goal sheet in there after he has achieved it.

## FEBRUARY 19

Parent Teacher Conference Day  
Student holiday.  
Child care available for full day students.

## FEBRUARY 26

### Go Texan Day

Bring out your boots, jeans and hats... Regular school when students can dress-up as cowboys and cowgirls.



## IN THE COMMUNITY

Kids and family happenings around Htown for those interested in the arts can be found on the [artshound](#) website.

## LOOK IN A BOOK

Our top picks for the month include books on big dreamers and MLK, such as, "The Story of Martin Luther King, Jr.", "Big Plans", "Cloudette" and "My Name Is Not Isabella: Just How Big Can a Little Girl Dream?" ("My Name is Not Alexander" is the boy version sequel).

## DAVM PERSPECTIVES – WHY MONTESSORI?



- By Ms. Madhu Bangia (Orange B teacher)

Each year, at the time of re-enrollment, parents of children eligible to start Kindergarten have one conflict - whether they keep their child in a Montessori system or send them off to local schools. This article may help you find an answer to your question.



The key concept in Montessori is the child's interest and readiness for work. If a child is not developmentally ready to move on, she is not left behind or made to feel like a failure. The goal is to ensure that whatever she does, she does it well. A Montessori class room has perfectly well-crafted material that allows each child to learn at her own pace. Most Montessori children master tremendous amount of information and skills. Even in rare cases where our

children may not have made as much progress as we would have wished, they would still be moving along steadily at their own pace. More importantly, they would feel good about themselves as a learner and won't be labeled a failure.



In a traditional classroom, all the students are approximately the same age, and the curriculum is prepared for the class as a whole, irrespective of an individual's social and emotional development. Montessori curriculum is characterized by multi-age classrooms. As a 5- year old, a child has many opportunities to teach a younger child lessons he has learned when he was of her age. Research proves that this experience has powerful benefits for both the older and the younger students, the five year old as a tutor and the younger one as a learner. Being the most experienced in the class room, the senior most children grow into the role of a leader, while the younger children are eager to move up to the next level. Same age or same skill grouping in regular schools can often limit such a development in a child.

The prepared classroom environment is an important aspect of the Montessori way. Much different from traditional classrooms, Montessori classroom has child size furniture and materials. Everything is designed around and at the eye level of the child, the learner, instead of the adult, the teacher. The child is able to move freely and learns to become independent and resourceful. The concrete experience gradually allows the child to form a mental picture of how big is a thousand, and what is really going on when we borrow or carry numbers in mathematical operations.



Children continuing in a Montessori environment foster a love of self-learning. Mere academics is not our ultimate goal. Our real hope is that children will have an incredible sense of self-confidence, enthusiasm for learning, and will closely bond with their teachers and classmates. If you want your child to be more competent at the basic skills, enjoy school and feel good about themselves as students, then there is no better place for your child than a Montessori school and that too D.A.V. Montessori which truly is one of its kind in all of North America.