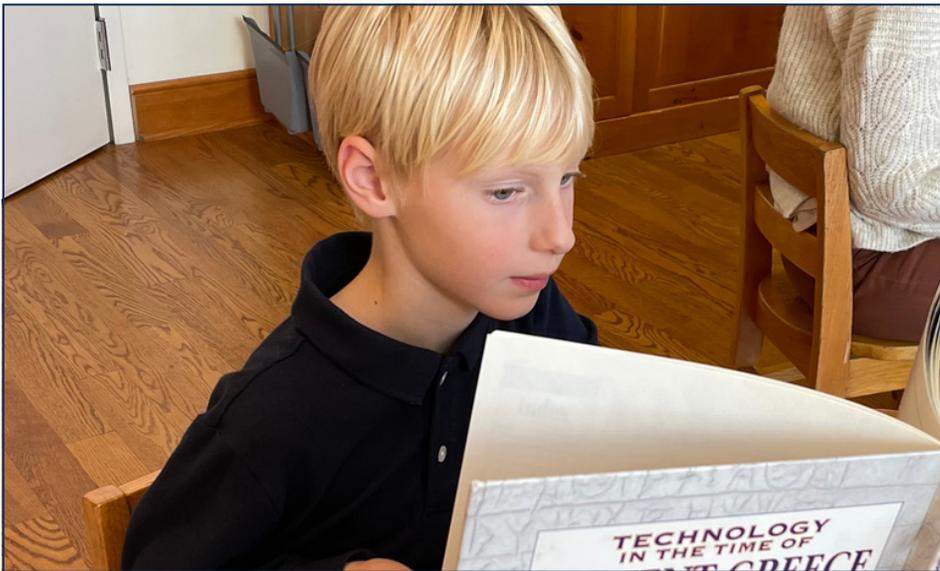


## WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOU!

THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT AND LOVE YOU BRING TO OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF YOU!



### Language & Literacy in Montessori

We hope you were able to join us for our Parent Education session on Language and Literacy, learning about the progression your children make from the beginning of life and throughout their years at Forest Bluff. Research shows that effective language instruction must focus on six key aspects of language: phonological awareness, sound-symbol association, syllables, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Literacy lessons must be systematic and cumulative, explicit, hands-on and multimodal, and diagnostic and responsive.

This scientifically-informed approach to literacy instruction is no surprise to Montessorians. Dr. Montessori, a trained doctor and scientist, used research and observation of children to understand how children learn to read and what materials and lessons they require to do so. Current research aligns with the practices that Montessori teachers have been using for over 100 years. What can you do to support our efforts at school? Read to your child out loud every night for 20-30 minutes, and once they are learning to read, have them look at books and read to themselves for 10-20 minutes each day. With this, you'll be giving them the foundation and love that sets them up for a lifetime of reading pleasure and interesting conversations with others!

### UPCOMING GRANDPARENTS VISITS

On December 20-21, your child's parents and grandparents are welcome to visit your children in their classrooms. Just before our Holiday Break, the YCC has their Grandparents Visit on Tuesday, December 20 from 8:30-9:45 am, and the Primary and Elementary have their visit on Wednesday, December 21 from 9:00-10:30 am. For both, children may leave with their family when they're finished. Dismissal for Holiday Break begins at 10:30 am that Wednesday, December 21! Watch for your invitation and details.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**NOV 15 • 8:45 AM & 6 PM**

*Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius* Book Discussion

**NOV 21**

Thanksgiving Break begins

**NOV 28 • 8:30 AM**

School Resumes



# Children and Choice: What's Appropriate?

HOW A CHILD'S PERCEPTION OF CHOICE AFFECTS HIM



At our last book discussion on chapters 3 and 4 of *Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius*, we shared some interesting ideas on children's perception of choice and sense of control. Research shows that when children perceive they have a choice, they gain a sense of control over their lives, which improves their feelings of well-being. They exhibit higher quality work, better behavior, and easier social relations.

In the Montessori classroom, children are free to make choices throughout the day: what to work on, how long to work on it, where to sit, who to work with, etc. While there are times when the Director intervenes when guidance or direction is needed, the norm and desired goal is for children to be able to choose freely.

At home, you can facilitate this by allowing your child to make frequent choices, while at the same time limiting options. For a very young child, they may choose between two similar options that are both acceptable to you--waffle or pancake, tennis shoes or rain boots. As they grow, they are able to handle choosing between three, four, or multiple options, finally being asked to choose what they will wear to school or pack in their lunch, knowing that they can handle that choice responsibly. When they mature into early adolescence, they should be able to decide how to manage their time, a lifelong skill needed by all adults. Will they choose to read, do homework, talk to their friends, spend time on social media, or help make dinner? Start small, and gradually, your child will be able to navigate the numerous choices they will encounter as they move into high school, college, and beyond.

*"Free choice is one of the highest of all the mental processes."*

-DR. MARIA MONTESSORI

*"The child must learn by his own individual authority...and not be questioned in his choice. Our teaching must only answer the mental needs of the child, never dictate them. He must have absolute freedom of choice, and then he requires nothing but repeated experiences."*

-DR. MARIA MONTESSORI