Welcome to Spring!

Event with Paula Lillard Preschlack

On Friday, April 28 from 5-7 pm, plan to come to Gorton for a celebration of Paula Lillard Preschlack's Book Signing Party and Presentation! This is an event for our school, and we hope all our parents are able to attend. Not only is Forest Bluff School highlighted in her recently-released book, *The Montessori Potential*, but there is an entire chapter on FBS and quite a few photos of our school's children. Paula is an internationally known speaker on the topic of Montessori education. In the past three months, she has given virtual talks in Korea, Ukraine, Australia, India, and Prague. Since February, she has traveled to give talks to Montessori schools in Boston, Miami, California, and Washington, DC, and has spoken at four large Montessori conferences around the country. Please come to welcome Paula home and celebrate the success of her book. Get a babysitter, and go out to dinner after the party with your Forest Bluff friends!

PICTURE DAY

This Wednesday, April 19, class photos will be taken by three of our Secondary Level students. Part of Dr. Montessori's adolescent program includes gaining a business sense by taking on projects that they create, budget for, organize, plan, and execute. The students have been learning the functions of a DSLR camera, how to create studio lighting, and how to work with a professional editing software. They created their timeline and order form and will be facilitating the process this week. Thank you for your support of our special program!

UPCOMING EVENTS

APR 18 • 8:45 AM & 6 PM
Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius Book Discussion

APR 19 • PICTURE DAY

MAY 2 AT 6 PM OR MAY 4 AT 8:45 AM
Book Discussion with Paula Preschlack on *The Montessori Potential*

MAY 29 • NO SCHOOL
Memorial Day

JUN 2 • LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
11:30 am Dismissal for All

PLEASE COME TO A BOOK DISCUSSION OF PAULA'S NEW BOOK, *THE MONTESSORI POTENTIAL*, WITH THE AUTHOR, ON MAY 2 AT 6 PM AT THE FRIEDEMAN'S HOME OR ON MAY 4 AT 8:45 AM AT SCHOOL. THIS WILL BE AN INSPIRING AND ENGAGING INTRODUCTION TO THIS BOOK!
The following are some commonly asked questions. Here, we share our answers with you! There is no perfect way to handle every situation that arises, but our ideas may give you a place to start next time you are faced with a challenge.

Q: What should I do when my child refuses to get ready for school in the morning?
A: First, think back to ensure that they’ve had a good sleep the night before. Routine is of vital importance, so check that your dinnertime, bath time, reading-before-bed time, and turn-out-the-lights time are consistent each evening. Once you’re sure the logistics are in place, respond evenly and remain calm. This can be difficult when we ourselves are feeling frustrated. Not to worry! Step away, take a deep breath, and remind yourself how grateful you are for your child, your family, your home. Then, offer empathy and some simple choices to get the morning started. You seem like you’re having a hard time this morning. I’m sorry about that. Would you like a waffle and yogurt or eggs and toast for breakfast? Would you like to wear your blue shirt or your red shirt today? Let them choose the best of two or three good options. If that doesn’t work, pack them up in the car in their pajamas, with their clothes in a bag, and they can get dressed once they get to school.

Q: Should I speak to my child like an adult and allow them to participate in major life decisions?
A: The trend today to treat your child as if they are an adult is harmful for children. They need the safety and security provided when you are warm and loving toward them but also let them know that you as the parents are in charge, not them. They should feel a sense of control in small things, like what job to do first at home, not where they’ll go on vacation or whether or not to move. Allow them to enjoy their childhood and feel safe within your family. Then be confident in your words and actions, so they sense that whatever you’ve said is for the best. This will allow them to walk in to school feeling good about being here, knowing it’s the best possible place for them. They need to feel comfortable knowing we’re all on the same team.

Q: I can’t get my child to do chores around the house (or they don’t want to do what I ask them). Help!
A: In our fast-paced society, it’s a real challenge to slow down enough to feel like we’re getting everything done we want to. When a child is asked to do something they think they don’t want to do, they may resist. Stop whatever you’re doing for a few minutes and do the task with them. Not only will you enjoy your time together, but your child will feel important, not only to you, but also to their family. Wash and prep the veggies for dinner together, or sort the clean laundry into piles of what belongs to each person. They need to feel like they’re a contributing member of the family, doing purposeful work that will help others. This will go a long way!