



Dear SSMCS Families,

I am always truly amazed at the resiliency of our children! My day is brightened each Wednesday in the parking lot and when I'm able to join in a virtual class by the kind words, the kind waves of hello, the warm smiles, and the "air hugs" I receive from each of you. These wonderful rays of sunshine remind me of Maria Montessori's quote, "The child is both the hope, and the promise for mankind."

Peace is an integral part of the Montessori philosophy. At SSMCS, we believe peace begins with the individual, who can practice and then cultivate it in the classroom, the school, the community, and the world.

Students practice peace, tolerance, and acceptance through a variety of classroom and home projects. Students also learn peaceful practices through grace and courtesy lessons. These include how to walk around a rug containing a classmate's work, how to ask for help from a teacher or friend or parent or adult, and how to speak respectfully even when you disagree with someone. These and many other polite behaviors contribute to the peaceful hum of the classroom and home while teaching the students valuable life skills.

Geography is another area of the curriculum that inspires students to practice peace. With its strong focus on global cultures, geography work offers age-appropriate lessons and activities for every level, from kindergarten through Middle School.

The broad goal of the Montessori geography curriculum was succinctly stated in a North American Montessori Center blog: "Children are born into a community of family. As they grow, their world and their role in it expand. By recognizing that we are all part of a larger, global community that is interconnected to all life on Earth, we develop the ability to understand that all of humanity must be agents for peace and harmony."

Another peace activity is our annual school-wide sing-a long celebration for International Peace Day. The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace. Montessori schools around the world participate by singing "Light a Candle for Peace" and send that message out to the world. Thank you for sharing your "voice" by sharing your videos of singing. Ms. Alyssa is working diligently to put together a video to share with all of you on Monday.

As Dr. Montessori said, "An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking; it involves the spiritual development of man, the enhancement of his value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live." Dr. Montessori knew, as do I, that our children will find ways to make our world a better place.

Sincerely,

Ms. Denise