



# HIMS

## Monthly News

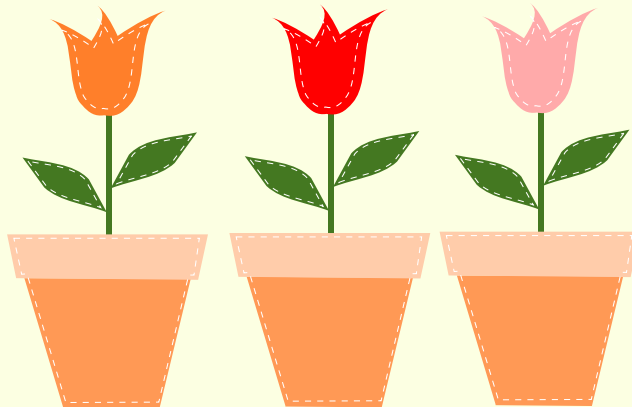
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**ARTICLES, EVENTS, PHOTOS, & MORE!**

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**April 2023**

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# Backstage & Behind the Scenes!

And once again this afternoon while commuting home from work I found myself singing... "There's trouble in the air at the University. It's rash and ill-advised, oh the impropriety. Instead of in her place safe and sound within the home, A GIRL has been admitted to the U of Rome!" I bet I'm not the only one with this tune stuck in my head as it's a favorite from *Maria Montessori the Musical*. Last week we held our auditions and all I can say is we have an amazingly talented group of students. We've been joking that we should change our name to Harbor Montessori School of Drama (but good drama only, please!). This is the first time in sixteen years that we are putting on a musical performance of this caliber. My first year at HMS we did a musical and I got roped into assisting with it. This time I'm the one roping people in! I'm so grateful for our highly talented and very committed co-directors, Miss Alene and Senor Carlos who take their jobs very seriously and are really making the magic happen! That first musical back in 2007 ended up being an incredible joy, but only came together with the help of our parent community. This time is no different as we will certainly need your support. Along with running lines with your children and listening to the soundtrack of *Maria Montessori the Musical* on repeat, we will also need help with costume acquisition and design, material transportation to the venue, and backstage support for both our dress rehearsal and the big show on May 19th. We just can't wait! Stay tuned for a volunteer sign up after spring break.

While it wasn't intentional to have such a star-studded theme to our spring, it's pretty fun that we have one foot in Broadway and another in Hollywood. As I'm sure you know, it's auction season at HMS- *Lights! Camera! Auction!* We are going Old Hollywood! We have such a fun evening planned for our parent community on April 22nd at McCormick Woods Clubhouse in Port Orchard. There are still tickets available and we would love to have you join us. Our evening is sure to be special thanks to the hard work of those behind the scenes-our auction committee led by co-chairs Sarah Baker and Melisa Parish, as well as staff support from Brittany, Nikki, and Lisa. And lots of help from Parent Grove and our generous HMS families at both campuses.

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And speaking of goings-ons behind the scenes, we have some big and positive changes coming next school year. I'm pleased to share that we will be hiring an Associate Head of School. As we continue to lean into our strategic plan and grow as a community, the support of an AHOS is essential. We are currently in the interview process and have met with some truly excellent candidates. If you're wondering where on Earth we are going to house our AHOS, don't worry, we have a plan for that, too! We will be reconfiguring part of Building A this summer to create both a space for our newest team member and a small multipurpose space for our students.

We are also still in the midst of a feasibility study to determine whether or not we can purchase the Montessori Farmhouse property. And, of course, we will keep you informed as the process continues.

There's so much going on at HMS. There are things you see every day and things that are quietly happening "backstage." I'm proud of our school and so grateful to work with such an amazing cast of characters every day!

I can't wait to celebrate HMS with you on April 22nd!

Warmly,  
*Aimee*



# Around Campus



# Upcoming Events

**April 10th-13th** Spring Break  
*(Infant & Toddler regular schedule, EC-Jr.High Unlimited Childcare Only.)*

**April 14th** Last Day to purchase Auction Tickets!  
*(Buy your ticket by clicking [HERE](#))*



**April 17th-23rd** HMS Online Silent Auction

**April 22nd** Lights! Camera! Auction!



**May 2nd** Early Childhood Make & Take Night

**May 4th** Elementary Make & Take Night

**May 19th**   
BOOK, MUSIC & LYRICS BY MARK WOODWARD

**May 29th** School Closed - Memorial Day

# Finding Freedom in Routine

By Jeanie Bree, Alder Room Teacher



*"One of the first essentials for any adult who wishes to help small children is to learn to respect the different rhythm of their lives instead of trying to speed it up, in the vain hope of making it synchronize with ours."*

—E. M. Standing, Maria Montessori, Her Life and Work

## **The terms Schedules and Routines are often used interchangeably, however:**

- Schedules represent the big picture—the main activities to be completed daily
- Routines represent the steps done to complete the schedule

## **Schedules and Routines are important because:**

- They influence a child's emotional, cognitive, and social development
- They help children feel secure
- They help children understand expectations
- They help reduce behavior problems
- They can result in higher rates of child engagement

One of the features of a Montessori classroom is the consistency of an established routine, which promotes what Maria Montessori called normalization. The normalization of children depends to a large extent on their security of knowing what to expect. When children know the plan, they feel secure and are subsequently free to concentrate. If we provide these predictable patterns for the children, they become more self-confident and inner-directed.

## **How to establish a daily routine:**

In the Montessori classroom, the flow of the day is dictated by the daily routine for each age group. This routine provides a predictable and consistent pattern of activities throughout the day, including: learning time, meal times, rest time, and outdoor play. However, the most important aspect of the daily routine is that it provides children with the time and space to meet their needs and explore their interests.

In the home environment, a similar structure can be established; however, it is important to remember that home and a structured learning environment are diversely different. As such, don't expect that your child will fall into routine overnight, or that every day is going to go to plan. The most important things to remember are to follow your child, establish a routine that works for your family, and to prepare a work space where your child can let their interests take the lead.

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## Tips for establishing a home routine:

- Set realistic expectations and take each day as it comes
- Observe the general patterns and routines of everyone in your household throughout the day and use that as a base
- Don't expect a routine to fall into place overnight
- When it comes to learning, take advice from Maria Montessori, and "follow the child"
- Set consistent times for: waking up, meals, rest or quiet time, outdoor play, family time, bath and bed
- Set up dedicated work spaces for everyone in the house
- Set up a clearly defined space for resting and quiet time
- Break your day into chunks of dedicated work time, family time, and mingled work and family time
- Set up your own dedicated work space and create a 'yes space' for your child to work alongside you with a rug and age appropriate activities
- If you are working from home with an infant, work on the floor with them, and rotate treasure baskets of activities
- Set up a Montessori workspace with trays or containers of activities on a coffee table, shelf, or whatever you have so that your child can follow their interests
- Embrace the opportunity to have your child engage in family work such as meal preparation, folding laundry, dusting, making beds, feeding pets, and gardening
- Look for ways to encourage independence and practical life skills in everyday tasks
- Set up accessible areas around your home i.e. accessible self-care baskets with a toothbrush and toothpaste, a step stool, and an accessible snack and drink table
- Use cooking as a mathematics lesson for older children by having them assist with measuring quantities
- Make time to read with your child every day
- Create a routine that works for your family

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—  
~ E.M. STANDING

*Carrots  
are  
Orange*

# Board Corner

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It's APRIL and you know what that means? It's AUCTION time! Raise those paddles, get your bid numbers ready & support our children and the fabulous staff of Harbor Montessori School.

I want to give a shoutout to Sarah Baker & Melisa Parish, our co-chairs of this year's auction. They have been working tirelessly around the clock, procuring exciting items, booking the venue & DJ (get your dancing shoes on), figuring out themes and decorations – just to name a few.

Our HMS community has stepped up too, donating baskets, sewing lessons, birthday parties, painting parties and don't forget that Seattle Sounders package. Plus, we have all the student art, which are big competition amongst the families. Now mind you, this is just a teeny bit of all the amazing items coming your way.

Now let me count the ways of how you are helping HMS:

1. Financial Assistance. By your giving, you are helping families who might not have been able to attend our school. We all know that our children get the best education in the area. Now we can share that experience with others. It's such a WIN for everyone.
2. Staff Training/Professional Development. Whether they are jetting off to Boston for the AMS conference or staying local with classes from NWAIS, the HMS staff can always stay up to date with the most current Montessori and independent school teachings.
3. Materials and Supplies. These items are the extras that enhance classroom projects.

As an auctioneer would say, "Don't hesitate, participate!" Get your tickets now before they sell out.

I look forward to seeing you all on April 22. It is going to be such a spirited, fun & rewarding evening!

With gratitude,  
Wendy Holt  
HMS Board of Trustees Chair





# Around Campus

