Many are familiar with Dr. Maria Montessori as a brilliant figure in education who developed a method for teaching children that is still widely used and respected today. Her methods have truly stood the test of time, and in recent years have been shown to align even with the most current research in child development.

There was far more to Maria Montessori however, not only was she an educator and a physician, but she was a champion for peace and equal rights.

For her efforts, Montessori received three nominations for the Noble peace prize in 1949, 1950 and 1951. Not only did she revolutionize education, but also she worked to further the rights of children, of women and of all mankind. She trusted in the human ability to create a better, more peaceful society. And her work, not only in education, but also in the growth of peace, remains relevant today.

Montessori believed education was the most powerful and universal way through which to reconstruct society and transition from war to peace.

While the curriculum teaches about peace it cannot by itself result in peace. As Montessori teaches we must create an environment that will promote the development of a peaceful individual.

Since peace is a broad topic, it is necessary to develop a simple but holistic framework that can be easily

### Montessori and peace

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inside</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thanks to our donors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor Appreciation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event on Oct. 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Cecelia Choir to perform, plus tours of our new portable buildings…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News from Upper Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students incorporate Peace into their daily routine and learning…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace Day Photo Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photos from the SPEMS Sept. 19 Peace Day Celebration…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News from Primary 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some ideas for Montessori-style learning in your home…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Averting war is the work of politicians, establishing peace is the work of educators”.  
-Maria Montessori
Framework for Peace  continued from page 1

incorporated into daily practice. We set the framework for the understanding that all living creatures are important and interconnected in these three areas.

**Individual awareness and centering** are in practice each day. Students are actively engaged in self-awareness activities. For the young child the “Silence” game allows for centering and a quiet moment. The older child is given time for personal reflection and growth. Students take responsibility for establishing and reaching achieving personal goals.

**Harmony and interrelationships** are nurtured each day through a sense of community and interdependence. Children develop trust and feel comfortable with their peers. Children work cooperatively with each other. They develop skills to resolve conflicts peacefully. The young child strives for independence while developing inner self-awareness. The elementary student continues on this path with heightened awareness of working together socially and establishing lasting relationships.

**A global vision of peace and harmony** is established as the children realize their own inner peace and relationships with others. Students learn about other cultures through exploration, research projects and celebrations. Children are also encouraged to participate in community projects for the benefit of those less fortunate than themselves.

**Preservation of Resources** The wonders of life and its many forms are experienced with a sense of awe, wonder and beauty. Importance is always placed on care of the natural world and all living things. Taking care of gardens and recycling are experiences of this.

We are bombarded daily with news of violence and war…it can be hard to imagine a world of peace and harmony. However as students gathered at the pavilion to celebrate International Peace Day we saw, as Maria Montessori wrote, “The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind.”

Some suggestions for further reading:
*Nurturing the Spirit of the Child* by Aline Wolf
*Peace and Education* by Maria Montessori

DON’T FORGET:
*Choral Evensong & Blessing of the Animals*
*St. Paul’s Episcopal Church*
*Sunday, Oct. 6 at 4 p.m.*

Thanks to our generous donors

- George W. Brackenridge Foundation
- Ewing Halsell Foundation
- Flohr Family Foundation
- Lazarus Foundation Fund
- National Association of Episcopal Schools
- Myra Stafford Pryor Trust
- San Antonio Area Foundation
- The Smothers Foundation
- St. Mark’s Episcopal Outreach Fund
- Marjorie T. Walthall Perpetual Charitable Trust
- Herbert A. and Adrian Woods Foundation
- And special thanks to our many individual donors!

SPEMS will honor donors with a special appreciation event on Wednesday, Oct. 23 at Lambermont.

The St. Cecelia Choir will perform and everyone in attendance will have an opportunity to tour our new portable buildings.
News from Upper Elementary

Elementary students found several ways to incorporate peace into their recent research into foreign countries.

Discussions on the topic of peace found expression in carefully illustrated cards featuring student-generated thoughts about peace written in cursive. A few examples were as follows:

Peace is my bed with three blankets and my stuffed animal lion. - Grace

Peace is going outside and hearing the sounds of nature. Peace is being peaceful. - Deandra

Peace is not fighting, Peace is reading, Peace is love, Peace is family, Peace is rain, Peace is kindness. - Zofia

Peace is not being mean. Peace is being nice, loving and caring. - Eleanor

Students read these aloud at our Sept. 19 Peace Celebration. The cards were then assembled into a collage and sold as one of our “priceless” pieces at the recent St. Paul’s Fall Fete & Art Auction.

Student research into countries also offered children an opportunity to learn more about the planet we share. Extensions of the study included beautifully drawn flags and map tracings.

Peace is not fighting, Peace is reading, Peace is love, Peace is family, Peace is rain, Peace is kindness. - Zofia

Peace is not being mean. Peace is being nice, loving and caring. - Eleanor

Food and fun activities for children, plus a big sale of furniture, clothing, office supplies and more.
News from Primary 1

Your Primary 1 children are busy exploring and learning from an incredible collection of materials and activities in their Montessori classrooms. Parents often ask how much of the special learning materials they should purchase for their child to use at home. We answer: None! Children need other activities to complement what they are doing at school.

Montessori is a way of life. It is a philosophy about how human beings might live their lives and treat one another. It is an attitude of respect and encouragement for each human being, no matter how young or how old. Rather than power and authority, it is a sense of partnership.

So Montessori-style learning has less to do with our well-designed learning “materials” and more to do with Maria Montessori’s belief that children can learn by themselves. They needn’t be led or taught by adults, but merely guided on their own journeys of discovery. So what can we, as parents, do in the home to help provide our children with such an environment?

These tips may help:
• Give your child his own little broom or small vacuum to help with house-cleaning
• Hang a feather duster on a hook for your child to use in helping you dust around the house.
• Provide a hamper for your child’s dirty clothes. Regularly ask him to carry clothes to the laundry.
• Help your child make her own lunch.
• Create an “Art Cabinet” or “Art Drawer” filled with art and craft supplies for your child to use. (Encourage your child to organize the cabinet and create things with items from within it.)
• Provide a tiny table, eating utensils, a small pitcher for pouring, a small vase of flowers and seating for both children and adults – a place of warmth and calm for sharing meals.

Our role as parents is to help our children learn to live in peace and harmony with themselves, with all people, and with the environment. We work to create a home in which our children can learn to function as independent, thinking people. To succeed in our role as parents, we need to treat our children with tremendous respect as full and complete human beings who happen to be in our care. Our children need to feel that it is okay to be themselves.

-Maria Montessori