



Potential of Childhood

We had a lovely discussion about the Absorbent Mind (a book by Maria Montessori) last month. We have spoken with some of you about having another one in the spring semester, so stay tuned for information and we hope this may give more parents an opportunity to read this book!

While the first half can be a slog, it does help put the more relevant, later chapters into perspective, but if it makes the reading less daunting, we recommend reading from Chapter 18 until the end to get the main points!

The overall takeaway from this reading is the largely untapped potential of early childhood. There are many, inevitable misunderstandings between adults and children, due primarily to the vastly different functioning of our minds.

When adults take the time to put themselves, as closely as possible, into the perspective of young minds, it can ease many of these misunderstandings. It is important for adults to remember that mistakes are actually opportunities.

It helps to see development in general, and in early childhood in particular, as a series of rebirths. 0-3 is seen as an embryonic period for the mind, with 3-6 being when individuals are ready to practice their mental skills with the physical capacity to consciously control their actions.

This leads into a discussion of great interest to most parents: the relationship between will and obedience. Contrary to the typical adult understanding, which separates the will and obedience, this framework discusses obedience as the final stage of a developing will. Through themes such as harmonized opposition and friendly feelings toward error, this framework walks adults through the immense work required for children to find a level of independence which will allow them true freedom.

We hope that this partial summation sparks interest in reading this certainly outdated, though still incredibly valuable reflection on the potential of humanity made manifest through a scientific approach to early childhood education.

Seasonal Shift - Heading towards Winter

We are excited to be entering our sixth cold season operating an outdoor preschool program in this county. We feel confident in keeping your children safe and happy in this environment in the colder months, but need your help to ease their transition.

Having your child come to our program prepared with proper layers, warm options for hands, feet, and heads, and rain gear are of course essential aspects, but our adult attitudes about the cold/wet are just as important. We ask that you do your best to get the buy-in of everyone that will be dropping off your child. Our positivity spreads to the children and if you are nervous they can also absorb that.

During this seasonal transition especially, dressing your child in layers is important. Short sleeves, then long sleeves, then a warmer layer on top is the best method for them to be able to de-layer easily as the morning warms up significantly.

If it would help for us to provide more resources or answer any particular questions, please let us know. Please check out and share the November '18 newsletter with two important topics on the front page: [Attitudes about the Cold and the Benefits of Outdoor Play in Winter](#).

One of the biggest benefits of choosing an outdoor program for your child is for them to understand their role in controlling their comfort as well as experiencing this environment in all weather. For those families who are entering their first cold season with us, please reach out to other families who have done it before! We suggest mittens over gloves, especially for the younger students, to assist in their autonomy of being able to put them on and take them off. Sometimes it may be easier for us to assist your child in putting on their jacket or boots and we are happy to help with that at drop-off.

As an outdoor program please remember that there will be days when we have to be closed while the county is open and also the opposite, when we can be open while the county is closed. Please use your discretion in deciding whether to send your child to school or not but also know that the safety of your children is always our top priority.

Stone Soup

It's almost time for our longest standing tradition, our 6th annual Stone Soup, and we hope you are able to join us!!

Who: Plsgh Collective students, staff, and their families!

What: Come together and celebrate community with a shared meal, good company, and some storytelling!

When: Wednesday, November 30 from 3-6 p.m.

Where: The field in front of the barn!

Check out the [2020 virtual story](#) featuring PC students!



LABELING + LOST & FOUND

With an increase of items coming to and from the barn this time of year, it is extra important that you label (and re-label) their layers, gloves, hats, etc! Also, please check the lost and found regularly and always feel free to inquire about missing items.

FALL SONG

Do you see the leaves,
Colors are changing
What does it mean?

Fall is here!

Do you see the leaves,
Falling from the trees
What does it mean?

Fall is here!

Important Dates

- CLOSED: Fall Break
October 10-14
- Fall Fundraiser!
Saturday, November 12
Join us at Ecusta Brewing Co. from 2- 6 p.m. for a family friendly fundraising event! Save the date and tell your friends and family!
- CLOSED: Thanksgiving Break
November 21-25
- Stone Soup
Wednesday, November 30
- Last Day of Fall Semester
Afternoons: Thursday, Nov 17
Mornings: Friday, Dec 16
- FUNDFest 2023
Saturday, April 29

Fall Payment #4 Due:
Wednesday, November 9
(morning sprouts & afternoon seedlings)

Fall Payment #5 Due:
Wednesday, Dec 7
(morning sprouts only)