



John XXIII Montessori Children's Center

CGS Atrium Newsletter ~ Pentecost ~ 2008

As another Atrium year draws to a close, we are so thankful for the support of all of you - our Atrium parents. We love our work with the children. But we can only do this beautiful CGS program because you are so responsive to the needs of your children. As our favorite Montessori expert Maggie Radzik likes to quip: "Montessori is for every child; it is not for every parent." Thank you for being among the minority number of adults who truly and deeply respect the needs of God's littlest ones. A beautiful aspect of this part of God's plan is its reciprocity: by being responsive to the needs of children, we open ourselves to learn from them how to become better children of God.
*~ The JXXIIIMCC Catechists
and Assistants*

Atrium Calendar at-a-glance:

April - Pre-registration period for Atrium and Three Morning Primary and Elementary Atrium + academics programs begin – current families given preference until June 1st.

April 23rd- May 9th – Atrium visits for younger siblings. Talk to your child's Catechist to schedule a day and time.

May 14-16th – Pentecost Celebration in the Atrium; final session for the year.

June 1st – Deadline for pre-registration to receive preference as a currently registered family.

Spring Pre-registration is now underway for our current families.

Attached you will find our new Application form for all of our programs for 2008-2009: Atrium and the new Three Morning Primary and Three Morning Elementary. To reserve a spot for your child(ren) as well as to register new 2 ½ to 3 year old siblings, please return the form and fees by **June 1st**. We will be filling Atrium sessions and the Three Morning programs as we receive applications and the \$50.00 sum of application and materials fees for each child. After June 1st, any remaining spaces will also be made available to new families and those on our waiting list. As always, the \$25.00 application fee is non-refundable and will be applied to your first monthly or semester payment. The \$25.00 materials fee portion of this sum is refundable should your schedule or plans change for the upcoming year. Look for email and flyer announcements in the next month or so about an Informational Night specifically about the Three Morning Program. This will be a time to meet our new teachers and ask questions about the content and form of the programs. If you apply for the new programs, we will also be in contact this summer to schedule an interview with our new directresses.

Please note on the new form the days and times that all programs will *likely* be offered next year. Unfortunately, we are not yet able to make these times definite, but will let you know as soon as they are. Please check your preferences where applicable.

Interviews and visits for new 2 ½ to 3 year olds of currently registered families will be

conducted by appointment in the next few weeks in the 3-6 Atria. If you intend to register a new younger sibling for next year, please contact your older child's Catechist in order to schedule a visit for your child. Six and nine year olds may also be invited to visit the next level Atria if they will be moving up next year.

Parent-Child Night at the Atrium

was a success and lots of fun for children and parents alike. The families who attended seem to really enjoy the evening, and there was such excitement shining in the eyes of all the little ones! We are pleased to plan on including this special event in our calendar for the spring of the upcoming year.

Maggie Radzik's Talk about Montessori

was very informative and entertaining. It was great to see even grandparents and senior members of the parish enthusiastic about the new information they learned. "The time went so quickly!" and "Am I too old to take Montessori training?" were some of the comments heard that evening. We are reproducing the DVD recording made of Maggie's talk and will be making copies available for a nominal fee to cover the cost. Please contact Karen Delaney about getting your copy. This is a great tool to use to help friends "get" what Montessori is about; it will be required viewing for all families applying to the Three Morning Programs. We will also put two copies on the Lending Library Cart for Atrium families to check out. ***Due to high demand, please return after just a one week check-out period.***

A Montessori Catechesis and Family Spirituality

course is being offered by the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College this summer in Front Royal. The educational and catechetical theory of Maria Montessori, a prerequisite for further NGDS Catechesis of the Good Shepherd training courses, will be taught by Maggie Radzik from June 23rd- August 1st, Monday and Thursday evenings 6:30-8:50 p.m. The cost for graduate credit is \$298.00; class may be audited for \$105 per credit or for \$74 for Catechists. For more information go to christendom.edu/grad or call (703) 658-4304.

Montessori/CGS Lending Library

We hope all parents have had the opportunity to look over our selection of books and videos available to check out on the topic of Montessori education and religious formation. These books and tapes offer the wisdom and fruits of the life's work of Maria Montessori, Sofia Cavaletti, and others steeped in Montessori's philosophy. They are available for signing out, one or two at a time, for a period of up to a month for the purpose of learning more about how to provide children with an excellent home environment. The CGS books in particular make beautiful spiritual reading, and have application for adults as well as children. The Lending Library book cart is in the hallway before, during and after each Atrium session. Please refer to and use the provided sign-out notebook. We also encourage parents to pick up additional articles of interest placed on the lower shelf of the cart.

Please be sure to return all borrowed books and videos before the final Atrium session, May 16th.