

Volume 1 | Issue 25
February 5, 2021

“The needs of mankind are universal. Our means of meeting them create the richness and diversity of the planet. The Montessori child should come to relish the texture of that diversity..”

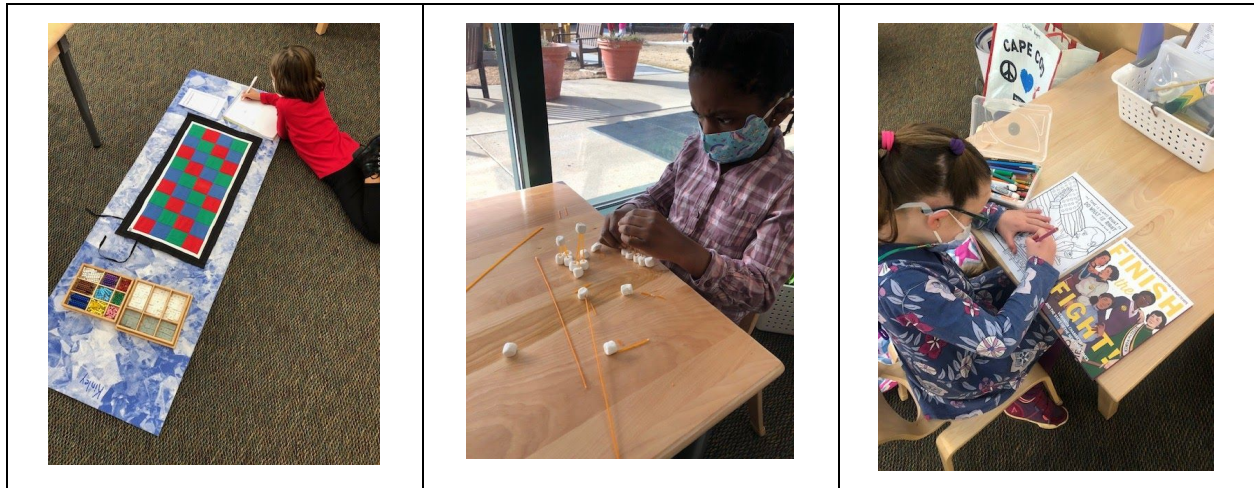
—Dr. Maria Montessori

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February marks the start of Black History month, a nationally-recognized celebration of the contributions Black Americans have made to our country. Sterling students at all levels will incorporate this celebration into their curriculum this month. We encourage you to talk to your students about what they are exploring and learning.



Mr. Michael came up with this fun [trivia game](#) (link) that celebrates Black Americans. See if you know the answers!



“The purpose of education... is to create in a person the ability to look at the world for himself, to make his own decisions.” - James Baldwin

2021 CHARTER LOTTERY CLOSES SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7th!



LAST CALL! Be sure to get your Lottery Application for 2021/22 in before the deadline! All information is available on Sterling's [website](#). **ALL PreK4 families** as well as **any current families with siblings** interested in attending Sterling must fill out an application to be included in the March 1st Lottery. Contact [Wyleen Davis](#) if you have any questions.

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED!

Sterling is in need of committed and caring adults to serve as substitute teachers for our classrooms, from Children's House through Middle School. If interested, please review this [presentation](#) that outlines our substitute program and can get you started on a path to becoming a valued member of our team!

PARENT EDUCATION

Last week we offered two informative Virtual Educational sessions for our community, both of which are archived and viewable on our website:

- **Virtual Coffee Chat** - Danielle Lamb, our school counselor, offered a discussion on the [Zones of Regulation](#) on Tuesday, January 26th.
 - [Positive Discipline](#) - Fay Masterson, our Director of Children's House, introduced **Positive Discipline** to a group of CH families.
-

MY KID IS NOT MOTIVATED - NOW WHAT?

SCREENAGES is an award-winning film that probes into the vulnerable corners of family life and depicts messy struggles over social media, video games and academics and is available for screening [HERE](#).

PARENT FACULTY ASSOCIATION (PFA) BOOK FAIR!



The Battle has Begun! From **February 22nd - March 5th**, not only can you order great books for everyone in the family, you'll be **supporting Sterling** at the same time. But that's not all! You also have the opportunity to **win gift cards to Science Safari and Sister Liu's Kitchen.**

How? [Find all information on PFA's Book Fair here.](#)

STERLING'S 2021 YEARBOOK

You won't want to miss this year of memories! Books can be purchased at www.Jostens.com. The current price is \$50.

MPEAC REMOTE LEARNING TRANSITION SURVEY

The Morrisville Public Education Advisory Committee (MPEAC) is inviting Morrisville parents, caregivers and students to participate and provide input in a community needs assessment survey related to the transition to remote learning. Responses will be assessed by the MPEAC and may guide proposed ideas for action, where appropriate, to the Morrisville Town Council. The survey will be active through Sunday, February 7. To take the assessment, click [here](#).

COVID EDUCATION

These continue to be stressful times for us all NCDHHS has suggestions on managing COVID stress, and these are great reminders for us all!



The SCOOP on Managing Stress

S	Stay connected to family and friends.	Social connections build resiliency.
C	Compassion for yourself and others.	Self-compassion decreases trauma symptoms and stress.
O	Observe your use of substances.	Early intervention can prevent problems.
O	Ok to ask for help.	Struggling is normal. Asking for help is empowering.
P	Physical activity to improve your mood.	Exercise boosts mood and lowers anxiety.

HOPE  4 NC HELPLINE 1-855-587-3463

CHANGE OF DATES FOR ACCESS TESTING

The new test dates for ACCESS Testing for our English Language Learners (ELL) is March 1-19th. Here is the test calendar with the change of dates: [2020/21 Test Calendar](#).

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- **CHARTER LOTTERY CLOSES** - Sunday, February 7th.
- **LHU SPECIAL BOARD MEETING** - Monday, February 8th @ 7:00pm.
- **LHU DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING** - Wednesday, February 10th @ 2:00pm.
- **LHU TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING** - Friday, February 12th @ 8:00am.
- **EC PROGRESS REPORTS FOR LE, UE & MS** - will be sent Friday, February 12th via email.
- **CHINESE NEW YEAR** - starts Friday, February 12th.
- **PRESIDENT'S DAY - NO SCHOOL** - Monday, February 15th.
- **LHU BOARD MEETING** - Wednesday, February 17th @ 6:30pm.
- **PFA BOOK FAIR** - Monday, February 22nd - Friday, March 5th.
- **LE/US/MS PROGRESS REPORTS** - sent via email on Friday, March 19th.

Elementary will provide a brief **Transition Report** for students on February 12th.

See all meeting details on the [Event Calendar](#)

STERLING FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Tom Keeler, Middle School Math Specialist



“Back in 1999, I was telecommuting to my programming job in California. Since my colleagues didn’t show up to work until noon my time, I was able to come in the mornings to Sterling Middle School, (at that time, 11 students, including my younger stepson, in what is now the director’s office), and teach German. I was very impressed by what I saw in the elementary classrooms and wished I had had the freedom to choose what to work on and at what pace to work when I had been in school. When I got laid off from my programming job, I took that as a sign that I should try to give students the kind of education that I wished that I had had. My sister-in-law was the lead teacher in a Lower El classroom in one of the four trailers. She requested me as her assistant, on the condition that I made her lunch every day. For that small price, I got a great apprenticeship in Montessori - which was a good thing, since at the end of the year, my sister-in-law moved back to Maine and I was suddenly a lead teacher. As you can imagine, 20 years of working as a programmer for a German corporation did not prepare me for classroom management. The directors have been generous in evaluating me, but ‘attention to an orderly environment’ always appeared on the list of things to improve. I did not have the skills that my colleagues have in working with children. But the good news that I’ve learned is that if you respect the students, if you are interested in what they have to say, and if you show them that you care about them, they will respond in kind.”

Sterling Montessori Academy & Charter School

202 Treybrooke Drive

Morrisville, NC 27560

919.462.8889 | (F) 919.462.8890

www.sterlingmontessori.org

