



## During the month of July, our children explored and learned about:

**Various community helpers**, especially teachers, librarians, police officers, fire fighters, medical helpers (doctors, dentists, nurses), mail carriers and garbage men.



Our little ones began to understand what they do, what devices/tools they use, and the importance of these roles. It is heartwarming to witness our little ones' excitement when they dress up as some of these helpers!



We are very grateful for the support from our parents, and a special shout out to **Dr. Vu** (Daniela's father – a dentist) and **Mr. Michael** (Josiah's father – a mail carrier), for their wonderful presentations. Our children loved meeting with them virtually and in person respectively! Children learn concretely, these meetings are conducive to their understanding of those roles.



### Ground Rules

Since our school was re-opened on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, July was the month during which our children came to adapt to our daily and weekly routines and got to know each other. They have been busy familiarizing themselves with the school environment, exploring the various job materials, and getting involved in all



kinds of curricular activities. It has been a productive and enlightening month! Working together they created their own class rules:

1. Indoor voice
2. Walking feet
3. Keep your hands, feet, and body to yourself
4. Be quiet when the teacher is talking
5. Take turns, sharing is caring
6. Use the magic words "Please. Excuse me. Thank you!"

Since they came up with these rules, they are much more inclined to follow them. It is so heartening to hear one child reiterating the rule to another now and then, "Indoor voice!" "Walking feet!" With our rich curriculum, we aim to guide our children to become the best version they could possibly be, physically, mentally and spiritually.



### Character Education - Perseverance

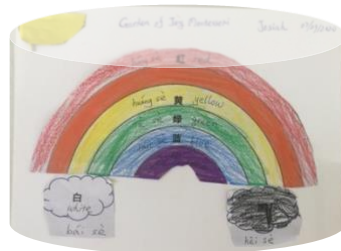
We explored about the trait of "perseverance" – keep trying, do not give up and stick to the end. We read a couple of English books "The Carrot Seed" and "The Little Engine That Could" and a Chinese book "加油，别放弃!" (which means keep it going, do not give up!) In our Montessori classroom, we practice this trait in the following ways:



1. Finish a job/activity/project from the beginning to the end;
2. Keep learning new things/jobs, no matter how challenging they might be;
3. Dream big and stick to it!

### Language Learning

- **Chinese**-We learned about counting numbers 1 to 10 and the 6 rainbow colors (red, blue, yellow, orange, green & purple) as well as black and white in Chinese in July. Our children had a ball mixing the three primary colors into three secondary colors!
- **English**-Since Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup>, we added English lessons to our curriculum, guided by our beloved Grandma. We have learned the initial sounds of "a, b & c" so far.
- **Spanish**-we learned counting from 1 to 10 and simple greetings in Spanish.





## What Are We Up to in August:

“**Back to School**” is our theme for next month, in which we will talk about:

- Self-introduction and Friendship – how to introduce yourself to others and make friends?
- Classroom Rules – why do we need such rules and how should we follow them?
- What is the difference between home and school?
- What items do we need for school and how to use them properly?

### Character Education- Resilience

Resilience refers to the ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.

## Montessori

### Who is Dr. Maria Montessori?



Dr. Maria Montessori was born on August 31st, 1870, in Chiaravalle, Italy. She was a doctor, a scientist, a university professor and an educator. In 1890, when she was 20 years old, she chose to study medicine. Her father was strongly against this idea as he wanted her to become a teacher, to which she refused flatly, “Anything but a teacher!” Interestingly, due to her work as a medical doctor, she got involved in education and has become one of the greatest educators of all times. To learn more about Dr. Montessori, please check out the following video:

[An Extraordinary Woman: Maria Montessori](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXqeTYHn0p4&t=266s)

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### What is the Montessori Method?

Dr. Montessori said, “I have studied the child. I have taken what the child has given me and expressed it and that is what is called the Montessori method.”

Specifically, Montessori education is based on self-directed activity, hands-on learning and collaborative play. In Montessori classrooms children make creative choices in their learning, while the classroom and the highly trained teacher offer age-appropriate activities to guide the process. Children work in groups and individually to discover and explore knowledge of the world and to develop their maximum potential. All materials are carefully designed to strengthen children’s fine and large motor skills, and ultimately to develop their hand-eye coordination, order, concentration, and independence (COCI). Group activities and collaborative plays are aimed for their social and emotional development.





### Montessori Quotes & Manifestations



“We, Montessorians, state that in childhood another and more profound nature exists. It is the one shown by the “converted child”. The characteristics of his nature are quite different. Among them there is love of work upon which the child’s mind concentrates. The concentration takes the form of repeating again and again the same exercises. And there is order in movement. The two go together, for one sees there is meticulous exactness in this movement, which is exerted in actions which are not only continued but repeated. There is one added peculiarity in the fact that this orderly activity, long as it may last, seems to take place without causing the child any fatigue. Another characteristic of this nature is the independence from the adult; the capacity of the child of acting for himself with research for exactness in what he does.

Other phenomena are respect for belongings of others and a love and in interest in external objects, so intense that we have called it “love of the environment”. It is a love inspired by knowledge, however, and not by desire of possession. As a result of this there is no strife among children. Quite the contrary, they develop a calm and loving disposition and thus the possibility of mutual association.”



- Maria Montessori, Citizen of the World: Key Montessori Readings, p. 3



“A child in his earliest years, when he is only two or a little more, is capable of tremendous achievements simply through his unconscious power of absorption, though he is himself still immobile. After the age of three, he is able to acquire a great deal of concepts through his own efforts in exploring his surroundings. In this period, he lays hold of things through his own activity and assimilates them into his mind.”



“As a matter of fact, in these movements the little one is seeking the very exercise, which will organize and coordinate the movements useful to man.”



## Announcements/Reminders

1. A big welcome to William Luotran (nick name Billy) and Elyse Nguyen who have officially become a part of our GOJNIS family! Billy will join us from Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 12 noon, whereas Elyse will join us on Mondays & Thursdays (full day).



2. We plan to take our children to a park nearby occasionally, providing we have the permission of all our parents. It is a big park where normally there is hardly anybody else. We intend to do a nature walk and afterwards play Frisbee and some ball games. A copy of fieldtrip permission is attached with this newsletter, please print, sign and date it if this is something you would like for your child to participate. We will not carry it out unless we have all our parents' permission to do so.

3. Please remember to take your child's temperature before coming to school (we suggest that you do so while your child is having his/her breakfast) and complete your sign in/out on the Google form on a daily basis.
4. August's tuition is due by August 5<sup>th</sup>. To avoid any late payment fees, please make the payment before this date. A copy of invoice will be sent to you soon.
5. We are going to increase our tuition rates in the upcoming school year starting from September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. This increase is mainly based on the following reasons:
  - 1) The quality of our program
  - 2) The high ratio of adult to child, and our intention to keep a small number of children aged from 2 to 6
  - 3) The extra amount of work due to COVID-19
  - 4) The continually increased cost on food, cleaning and other school supplies
6. Our current Admission Agreement will expire by the end of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. We will be sending you an updated one soon. Please read it through carefully, initial each page, sign and date it before taking a copy to school by **August 16<sup>th</sup>**.

