

September 13, 2019

Dear Parents,

As you know children love to celebrate their birthdays with their friends. This year at Montessori we have adopted a special birthday ceremony that we will celebrate throughout your child's tenure at Montessori. The ceremony is called "The Celebration of Life". This will take place in each class (please see your child's teacher for day/time). In this celebration the teacher or one of the parents tell the story of the child's life through a picture book that we ask you create with your child.

How the celebration works:

The celebration is performed with all the students sitting in the circle/meeting area in their class. A candle is placed on the celebration of life poster and when it is lit, it symbolizes the moment of your child's birth. Someone either the teacher or you will read the story of the child aloud. After each story is read the child walks around the "Earth" to represent a year in their life. At the end of the celebration the child will blow out the candle, take a moment to make a silent wish and then the whole class will sing Happy Birthday.

The Celebration of Life is a very important occasion to celebrate your child. We invite you in to be part of this celebration if you are able.

What we need from you:

You have been given a blank book that will stay with your child throughout their tenure at Montessori.

There are enough pages in each book for each year of your child's life from Pre-K through grade 8. We ask that you and your children take this time to reminisce and have some fun.

For parents of little ones this task will be much easier.

1. You and your child decorate the cover and title it The Story of \_\_\_\_\_ (your child's full name).
2. On the first page – When \_\_\_\_\_ was born on \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ (city, state). He/she had to .... (tell a little snippet of their first year of life). Then add a picture.
3. On Page two – When \_\_\_\_\_ was one year old he/she \_\_\_\_\_ . Then add a picture

You continue on until you are up to the birthday we will be celebrating this school year. At the end of the celebration the teacher will keep the book and send it home again next year for you to fill in. This will go on until 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation where your child will receive the finished book.

If your child's birthday is in July or August, the teachers will set a date to do those celebrations before school gets out.

We thank you so much for taking your time to do this for us and your child. It will be a memory they will carry with them forever.

**For this year, please return the books into school no later than Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Thank you,

TMSA Classroom Teachers