



As we come to the end of our weekly notes, it seems appropriate to also end with the topic of the development of the sixth year student. We have four fabulous graduates that are at the end of their Second Developmental Stage and are ready to leap into the next developmental phase Montessori called the Third Plane of Development.

Montessori observed that there are unique developmental characteristics that appear in the young child between the ages of 6-12. She, and possibly yourself, will have seen your child become interested in the social dynamics and like a moth to a flame, will do all that it takes to interact with their peers. This is the reason the prepared environments invite the child to work with others.

This is also the time when the child will look outward for heroes. In the Elementary curriculum, we have lots of stories about the unsung heroes that helped make our lives better. The children hear about the abiotic and biotic life that helps keep the earth in harmony such as the earthworm that helps to irrigate the soil or the work of water as it carves impressions into the earth's crust. They listen to stories about human beings that have paved a path of bravery that may inspire today's youth to become peacekeepers of our future.

One of the most prominent characteristics that are observed in the Elementary child is the development of justice and moral rights and wrongs. It begins in the first year of elementary as, "That is not fair!" to the end of the sixth year with, "How can I help save the planet?" or "We need to stand up for what we feel is right for this community." The result for this 6th-year student is one that wants to promote harmony for the greater good of the whole society. This can only develop once the child has been allowed to explore social interactions, collaboration, and cooperation freely. It is a great sense of comfort to see that The Montessori School has supported these young adults with love and care, and now it is their turn to set off into bigger adventures. We wish them well.

With Gratitude,

*Lisbeth and the Elementary Team*