

Dear Families,

Yesterday morning I found my self sitting by the doorway of our school in a sunny yet cool fairly ordinary day watching the children arrive and waiting to greet each one. About half of the early arrivals had come and were kicking soccer balls on the grass when an attractive new SUV drove up and stopped by the canopy. Its large side door automatically slid open revealing a grinning tow-haired seven year old boy crouched there in the opening.

“Here I come!” he shouted and he leapt out into our Sacred Now like a lively green frog. What a revelation of spontaneity and pure joy he was to me, an old, time worn Montessorian, waiting there like a lump on a log. I was there still waiting to live, and here into my morning he came already so full of life. He startled me into the truth that there was going to be nothing worth more to me than this new day brought into resplendent being by his clear and passionate cry. “Here I come!” he cried and made me keenly aware of the now that was present to us all – present to us all if we dare join him.

Our fierce existential poet Emily Dickerson told us once in a poem that our “forever” is made up of just such happy “nows.” You and I as educators or parentcators need to keep this in mind, for if we are going to “follow the child” we are going to have to be present there within the child’s ever now. Our past has already been and our future is still out of our reach, but we must take notice that our children are urging us to live with them in their now.

If we in our caring want to be able to provide for their developmental needs, we have to recognize the fact that their future is always beginning in a now. Their yesterdays are old hats, and they never think about tomorrow, but for sure they love the nows of their today. This is why Montessori advised us that if we are to discover the real child, we must dedicate ourselves to observe him or her in this actual now taking place before our eyes.

It is essential for the developing life of every child that we be with them and be for them -- encouraging them and celebrating with them their great passion for that which is so present. No matter where else we look, we shall never find the child anywhere else. It is only into the now that he is jumping and shouting out loud: “Here I come!”

Peace,
Paul