

Dear Parents,

The ancient meaning of the word “theater” is describes an invitation for us “to behold” – “to see what we must see” – *to enjoy a special rendering of human life*. Well, the brilliant performance of our student choir and drama groups of “We’re All in this Together” was certainly theater as genuine as it gets. Not only did we as the audience behold an afternoon of well polished singing and dramatic performing, we witnessed the very essence of Montessori education: a family of children acting out for us both individually and then altogether just what human life is all about.

What was most wonderful to observe was the full range of children -- from a little red headed girl of seven up to a mature tall young man of fifteen – and everyone in between (more than fifty of them!) – each expressing his or her lines with confidence, power, and especially with a joy so exquisite the audience became absolutely transfixed and teary-eyed. From the youngest to the oldest, every performer on that stage had not only mastered their lines and the plot of the play but had made it all come alive in a superabundantly human way. For the entire time of the performance, the glory of what it means to be a living person shone forth like sunlight – like moonlight – like starlight! -- and how happy we all became to be so imbued with so much natural brilliance – with so much goodness.

Who needs a school of performing arts when ordinary Montessori students can put forth such a spectacular hit having worked at it within our After School Program! The key magic comes out of the fact that Montessori learning environments foster such extraordinary personal character in children that whatever they take up with their mind/heart/soul turns from lead to gold – from coal to diamond – from dead seed to living blossom – from script and score to a performance worthy of Broadway!

Such a witnessing by us is revelatory and necessary. We need to be reminded every so often of the great potentials there within every child waiting to be quickened by the timely offering of a well prepared learning opportunity. They already have the “right stuff” within – our role as the loving “producers” is to help make it happen – to challenge them to show us what they’ve got. And when we do and they do then the truest form of “theater” happens: we see the great values that reside deep within the human spirit – and we awaken to the happy reality that “We’re all in this together!”

Peace,
Paul