



MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EDGEMONT MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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BRIONY CARR-CLEMENTE
Principal

October 20, 2023

Good afternoon Edgemont families,

As tragic and traumatic events continue to unfold in Israel and Gaza, we are saddened by the violence and effect on the lives of the many innocent victims. In times of conflict and uncertainty, nurturing a sense of compassion, empathy, and understanding in our children is important. With the current conflict in the news, our children might be asking questions or expressing concerns. While this topic may be difficult to discuss, if your child expresses their needs to you, it can be helpful for you to approach it in a sensitive and age-appropriate manner. As a result, we wanted to share some information that may be helpful as you support your child.

Within the school setting, we will continue to create a safe and nurturing environment where children can learn and grow. We remain committed to providing support and guidance to all children. In our schools, we are equipped with clinicians, mental health providers, and child study team members who are readily available to provide this support.

Below, please find some considerations when discussing these recent events with your child:

Age-Appropriate: In considering children's understanding, it is important to provide simple and age-appropriate explanations that focus on concepts they can understand.

Reassurance: Emphasize that your child is safe and that there are people in charge of ensuring everyone's safety. Remind them of the support system they have, both at home and at school.

Nurture Empathy: Encourage your child to think about how conflicts affect people's lives and their communities. Discuss the importance of empathy and understanding.

Monitor Media Exposure: Be mindful of the news and media your child is exposed to and make decisions about what you believe they are comfortable with at their developmental level and age.

Maintain Daily Routine: Maintaining a consistent daily routine can provide a sense of security and normalcy for your child during uncertain times.

It is our collective responsibility to reduce fear and anxiety during these difficult times. We are including resources from the **NJDOE**, **NASP**, and the **Child Mind Institute**.

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- [Trauma-Informed & Healing-Centered Practices \(NJDOE\)](#)
- [Helping Children Cope \(Child Mind Institute\)](#)
- [NASP Supporting Youth Affected by Violence in Israel and Gaza \(NASP\)](#)
- [Talking to Children About Violence \(NASP\)](#)
- [How to Talk to Kids About Violence, Crime, and War \(NASP\)](#)
- [Resilience in a time of war: Tips for parents and teachers of elementary school children](#)

The Edgemont team is here to support our families. Our team is available to support your child with any concerns or questions they may have. If your child seems troubled by the conflict or exhibits changes in behavior, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

The Montclair Film Kids Art program took place again this year, and many of our current 4th and 5th grade students participated in the project. You may have already seen the posters hanging in the windows of businesses all around town! Please visit the link to find locations for Edgemont <https://montclairfilm.org/festival-information/montclair-film-kids-art/>

Our 2nd grade and 3rd grade classrooms have field trips planned over the next few weeks. Please make sure to check your email and your child's backpack for permission slips and information.

The Montclair Public Schools Board Of Education Announces [Strategic Planning Community Forums](#). Please see the flyer and [register to attend](#).

There are [Free Health Services](#) for all Montclair residents at our Community Schools, Hillside and Glenfield. Please see the [fall schedule and details](#).

The Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence is hosting free community events: Workshop on [Mindfulness and Compassionate Parenting](#) on October 26 and [Sabor Montclair](#) takeout fundraiser on October 28.

The Montclair Branch of the NAACP Education Committee Literacy/Dyslexia Task Force, in partnership with Montclair Public Schools, is presenting a [free screening of "The Right to Read,"](#) Thursday, November 2 at 6:30PM at Glenfield Middle School. Discussion to follow. Registration is required.

Remember to check the Montclair Public Schools [Digital Backpack](#) often! A lot of information is posted here often.

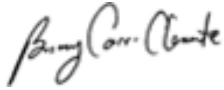


School Lunch Application can be found here: <https://www.nlappscloud.com/>

Lunch Menu information can be found here: <https://www.fdmealplanner.com/>

Merchandise can be found here: <https://edgemontessori.memberhub.com/store>

Take care,



Briony Carr-Clemente
Principal

Important Date/Reminders:

Our doors open at ***8:10AM***.
Drop-off takes place between ***8:10AM-8:20AM***.
Dismissal is at ***2:35PM***.

October 25- Abbreviated day, 1:10PM dismissal

October 26- Abbreviated day, 1:10PM dismissal

October 28- Halloween Mash

