



# Montessori Monthly



---

## Nature's Playscape

"With landscape, it's much more engaging, and you're giving the child ways of expressing what's within." – Sebastiano Santostefano

Located just to south of the Elementary Building and to the north of the Primary Building, is the designated site for our MSCU Nature's Playscape playground. It is apparent that the concept of Nature's Playscape is a departure from the traditional playgrounds we typically see within an educational environment, it is composed of organic materials rather than the traditional equipment composed of iron or metal. The concept of Nature's Playscape originated with directresses and board members (some former students). This planted the seed and further discussion ensued. Research and input from the University of Illinois Landscape Architecture Department provided ideas that could be utilized for a final design as well as visits to other natural playscapes were made such as a trip to the Anita Purves Nature

Outdoor play within natural landscape is essential to proper holistic development of the child – neurologically, physically, and spiritually. Our learning comes from doing, making, and feeling within nature, and effective decision-making involves the proper management of feelings and self-regulation. Healthy risk and adventure is needed back in the lives of children. Our children need the allowance to take risks, get messy, and be creative with the physical environment. Our children come home with boots caked with mud or splatters on their clothing, and sometimes with an occasional bruise or cut, but their demonstrated contentment and resolve experienced is a reassurance that we are providing more to them beyond the classroom that is essential for their learning and adjustment throughout their ongoing development.

## Events Calendar

Sunday, May 5 - SPRING FUN RUN,  
BURWASH PARK, 3:30PM

Center. The Physical Plant Committee, headed by Scott Davis, also proposed some various design ideas that could be implemented in stages with the intent of merging both playgrounds.



Right now, the goal is to further expand our Nature's Playscape, but we face drainage issues in front of the Elementary building and these need to be addressed before we can proceed forward. The Physical Plant Committee is working on bids to address this, and once this is resolved, a winding path is planned from the Elementary centered between the parking lots with area for the students to cultivate gardens on each side. There are also plans to add a large hill with a tunnel underneath and a climbing wall on one side and a long slope on the other. Landscaping would be added at the edges by the concrete to present a natural barrier. We hope to install a walking bridge at the end of the path with various other landscaping surrounding.



Sunday, May 5 - SPRING PICNIC,  
BURWASH PARK, 4:00PM-6:00PM

Monday, May 6-Friday, May 10 -  
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Thursday, May 16 - MSCU  
PRIMARY/ELEMENTARY SPRING  
CONCERT

Tuesday, May 21 - MSCU BOARD  
MEETING, 6:30PM

Thursday, May 23 - KINDERGARTEN  
CELEBRATION, 6:30PM

Wednesday, May 29 - MSCU LAST DAY  
OF 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR

