



JBS NEWS

FROM THE DESK OF JULIA BROWN

When Wilbur and Orville Wright finished their flight at Kitty Hawk, Americans celebrated the brotherly bond. The brothers had grown up playing together, they had been in the newspaper business together, they had built an airplane together. They even said they “thought together.”

These are our images of creativity: filled with harmony. Innovation is often thought to be something magical that happens when people find synchrony together. It’s why one of the cardinal rules of brainstorming is “withhold criticism.” We want people to build on one another’s ideas, not shoot them down. But there is some evidence to suggest that is not how creativity really happens. And the Wright brothers are an example of this.

When the Wright brothers said they thought together, what they really meant is that they argued together. One of their pivotal decisions was the design of a propeller for their plane. They squabbled for weeks, often shouting back and forth for hours. “After long arguments we often found ourselves in the ludicrous position of each having been converted to the other’s side,” Orville reflected, “with no more agreement than when the discussion began.” Only after thoroughly decimating each other’s arguments did it dawn on them that they were both wrong. They needed not one but two propellers, which could be spun in opposite directions to create a kind of rotating wing.

The skill to have a good argument that doesn’t become personal — is critical in life. But it’s one that few children are taught. We obviously want to give children a stable home, so we stop siblings from all quarreling and we have our own arguments behind closed doors. Yet if children never get

CALENDAR

January

1/15 - CLOSED

1/16 - Prospective K and JR Meeting in **SS** at 5 pm

1/17- Prospective K and JR Meeting in **CO** at 5 pm

1/23 - Prospective K and JR Meeting in **OL** at 5 pm

1/24 - Prospective K and JR Meeting in **LA** at 5 pm

TBA - Observations of K and JR classes for prospective parents

February

2/2 - Re-Registration packets sent home to current students

2/5 - First day to return Re-Enrollment forms

2/19 - CLOSED

March

3/1 - Conferences begin

3/6 - 5pm - LA- Share Your Class Night

3/7 - 5pm - SS- Share Your Class Night

3/13 - 5pm - CO- Share Your Class Night

3/14 - 5pm - OL- Share Your Class Night

3/23 - Spring Celebration

KEY:

LA=Laurel CO=Columbia

SS=Silver Spring OL=Olney 1

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exposed to any sort of disagreement, we could end up limiting their creativity.

It turns out that highly creative adults often grow up in families of a bit of tension. Not fistfights or personal insults, but disagreements. When highly creative architects and scientists were compared with their technically skilled but less original peers, the innovators often had disagreements in their families. As the psychologist Robert Albert put it, “the creative person-to-be comes from a family that is anything but harmonious, one with a respectful ‘wobble.’”

If we rarely see a spat, we learn to shy away from the threat of conflict. Witnessing arguments — and participating in them — helps us grow a thicker skin. We develop the will to fight uphill battles and the skill to win those battles, and the resilience to lose a battle today without losing our resolve tomorrow. For the Wright brothers, argument was the family trade and a fierce one was something to be savored. Conflict was something to embrace and resolve. “I like scrapping with Orv,” Wilbur said.

The Wright brothers weren’t alone. The Beatles fought over instruments and lyrics and melodies. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony clashed over the right way to win the right to vote. Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak argued incessantly

while designing the first Apple computer. None of these people succeeded in spite of the drama — they flourished because of it. The most creative ideas in Chinese technology companies and the best decisions in American hospitals come from teams that have real disagreements early on. Breakthrough labs in microbiology aren’t full of enthusiastic collaborators cheering one another on but of skeptical scientists challenging one another’s interpretations.

Children need to learn the value of thoughtful disagreement. Sadly, children are frequently taught that if they disagree with someone, it’s polite to hold their tongues. It disrespects the other person’s ability to have a civil argument — and it disrespects the value of your own viewpoint and your own voice. It’s a sign of respect to care enough about someone’s opinion that you’re willing to challenge it.

Instead of trying to prevent arguments, we should be modeling courteous conflict and teaching children how to have healthy disagreements. Four rules that will assist in developing this are:

- Frame it as a debate, rather than a conflict.
- Make the most respectful interpretation of the other person’s perspective.
- Acknowledge where you agree with your critics and what you’ve learned from them.

★ *“Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future.”*

REMINDERS

INCLEMENT WEATHER – JBS makes every effort to remain open during inclement weather. However, we also want everyone to arrive and depart safely. Days when inclement weather has occurred or is pending, please use the following two methods to check our status:

1. Our website, www.juliabrownschools.com where a message will be posted on the main page in the early hours of the morning.
2. You may call our weather hotline at 401-730-0992 where you will hear a recorded message with our status.

If weather conditions change and become inclement throughout the day, please allow extra travel time for your evening commute to assure that you are on time.

WINTER APPAREL- We make every effort incorporate outdoor play into each day. Please dress your child appropriately with a labeled set of gloves, hat, etc.

Winter boots are not permitted. The children will not utilize the playground while it is snow covered to the point that boots are needed.

JUNIOR AND KINDERGARTEN MEETINGS- Our annual meeting for prospective Junior and Kindergarten students will take place this month at each location. Please see the calendar for dates.

If you have a child who will be eligible for either Kindergarten or First grade in the 2018-2019 school year, please plan on attending the meeting.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Walker is a Primary Director at our Laurel location.

She came to JBS with her Bachelor Degree and spent time as an Assistant at our school in Columbia. It is there that she realized how special Montessori is and decided to study the method.

Ms. Walker now holds her Primary Montessori certification and has completed all of the 90 hour courses as well.

If you see her in her classroom in Laurel you will notice she is fully devoted to her students. She has endless patience and a calm, nurturing presence that transcends to her students. Her classroom is beautiful and the students take much pride in their work.

FROM OUR JUNIOR CLASS

COURTESY OF OUR JUNIOR CLASS IN OLNEY.

We're happy to be back from the relaxing Winter Break so we can continue our fun learning at school.

We finished the 2017 year with a play, "Three Little Wolves and a Big Bad Pig". The production of the play was filled with humor and hard work.

Now we can't wait to start working on our book reports.

As we continue our studies we would like to tell you about one of our favorite materials in the classroom, which is the Montessori Checkerboard.

"The Montessori Checkerboard is used for multiplication. It's a very special work that leaves quite an impression on a young child. Our students can't wait to have a lesson on a checkerboard!", says JR Directress, Ms. Burkhard.

Before using it they have been introduced to basic operations and hierarchal materials through the use of the Golden Bead Material, the Bead Cabinet, Bead Frames and the Stamp Game.

The Montessori Checkerboard allows the child to multiply large numbers while skip counting the beads. With practice, multiplication math facts are mastered.



SPELLING TEST DATES

1/5 - Lesson 11
1/12 - Lesson 12
1/19 - Lesson 13
1/26 - Lesson 14
2/2 - Lesson 15
2/9 - Lesson 16
2/16 - Lesson 17
2/23 - Lesson 18
3/2 - Lesson 19
3/9 - Lesson 20
3/16 - Lesson 21
3/23 - Lesson 22
4/13 - Lesson 23
4/20 - Lesson 24
4/27 - Lesson 25
5/4 - Lesson 26
5/11 - Lesson 27
5/18 - Lesson 28
5/25 - Lesson 29
6/1 - Lesson 30
6/8 - Lesson 31*
6/15 - Lesson 32*

This is opposite to conventional wisdom that says a child may not do multidigit multiplication without memorizing the multiplication tables.

"Checkerboard is great if you're learning how to multiply big numbers", says Brianna

"This material is fin for kids who are learning multiplication . It makes you more intelligent", says Emma.