

Encounter
Winter 2010
Montessori West Preparatory School

From the Desk of C.A. Gaabucayan

Winter and Christmas are events in time that are closely interwoven in the story of the unfolding of the child's spirit. Winter ends the season of "letting go" and the beginning of "just being what one is"; of quietly stilling the lessons from one's experiences, allowing them to creatively blend with other thoughts, feelings, and hopes. Christmas is a reminder that amidst this seeming stillness, there is a light that anchors the spirit and a ray of hope that sustains it.

This statement has far-reaching implications to the early education of the child. This is a call for a careful and thoughtful plan that will provide him a lifestyle that is life-nourishing. This is an imperative that is answered by a Montessori experience. At Montessori West, we take the child to a journey that will enable him, through his work, to keep in touch with his natural powers. We empower him with the lessons on the virtues, sciences, and mathematics; animate his spirit and sustain him with a collage of messages in his daily food for thought, art, literature, and music.

Let us all, however, take time to remind ourselves, that the child needs a time to be a child, that he should be unfettered by the many demands and expectations of modern family life. And given the basic life-nourishing experiences of love, work, compassion, and hope, he will flourish and be what he can be.

