



dubuque **montessori** school

The Sandpaper Letter

April 2010

Dubuque Montessori School
A Not-For-Profit,
Parent-Run Organization

2605 Pennsylvania Ave.
Dubuque, IA 52001

PHONE:
563-556-5101

E-MAIL:
dmschool@qwestoffice.net

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.dubuquemontessori.org

DMS Mission Statement

The mission of Dubuque Montessori School is to bring together children of all social, economic and cultural backgrounds in an atmosphere that encourages children to develop to their fullest potential, using proven, child-directed Montessori methods and materials in a warm, nurturing, safe and loving environment.

Message from Our Director

Dear Parents,

In the Montessori prepared environment, the materials we use are scientifically designed and grouped with regard to the needs of the child.

The child establishes a direct bond between himself, the Montessori material and the environment, thus assuring his mental development. A child is extremely fascinated with the world he sees before him; consequently, he gathers knowledge with all of his senses from absolutely everything that surrounds him. A sharpened sensitivity of a child's senses enables him to observe, perceive and understand the environment in which he lives.

The Montessori method of exercising the senses is extremely important to the child's intelligence and assists him in learning to differentiate size, weight, color, form, texture, softness,

musical notes, odor, taste, etc... This is why Maria Montessori has so appropriately named the Sensorial material---the "keys to the universe."a It is not possible to introduce the child to the entire world, but it is of immense importance to give him the keys which will help him to open up that which will be necessary.

The Sensorial materials created by Dr. Montessori are not extremely impressive to look at, as are the Montessori educational materials, consequently, it is important to understand the rationale behind the materials---their psychological purpose. In short, they were designed to present the child not with many new experiences, but rather to enable him to sort out and digest the large number of impressions already in his possession and to assimilate those being added daily through life's experiences.

A child occupying himself systematically with the sensorial materials builds a wide foundation for ensuring intellectual activity. There is nothing in the intellect, which has not first come through the senses.

The benefits that children derive from attending a Montessori school can be greatly enhanced if parents apply corresponding methods at home. Whenever possible, allow your child to do things for him/her self. You may wish to provide your child with a child-size pitcher of juice or water on a low shelf in the refrigerator and an easily accessible cup so that they may pour their own drink. (Be sure to also provide a sponge for spills.) You may also wish to invite your child to help with the laundry, sorting into piles of light and dark. Children also love to dust, sweep and wash windows.

(Continued on p. 2)

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Regularity and order should also play an integral part of the child's daily life. Meals and bedtime should be at approximately the same time each day. Other routines can also help such as a bedtime routine--bathe, brush teeth, read a story and say prayers. This rhythm becomes part of the child; you will notice that struggles over eating and going to bed will cease. Participating in a daily sequence of events gives your child a sense of security and makes his daily life flow with minimum friction.

Our purpose as parents is to nurture our children's development while avoiding any obstacles to it. As much as we

wish to avoid obstacles to their development, they do occur so easily because of our rushed pace of life. It is so important to remember that as we find ourselves constantly rushing, running from here to there. Our tension, fatigue and stress, are reflected in our voices, faces and in our behavior. Our children notice these things either consciously or unconsciously and can be greatly affected by them. As often as possible it is beneficial to the children to slow our pace.

Give your child(ren) developmentally appropriate chores as part of your daily routine and allow them the time needed to perform, repeat and repeat the task again if desired, thus mastering the task.

Take time to notice and to point out the beautiful things that surround us like the sound of the wind as it brushes through the trees or the beauty and the fragrance of a flower.

We are so excited to see that so many of our students will be returning next year. This ensures us the opportunity to continue to introduce Montessori methods and to do what we love, interact with life's greatest gift, the children!

Most sincerely,
Beth S. Gilbreath
Director

GREEN Vision: Set up a rain barrel.

Reduce the amount of storm water that runs off your property and into an overburdened sewer system. And if you save that runoff, you and your children can use it to water your plants, lawn or garden. You will be both conserving a valuable resource and saving money on your utility bill. This is also a great way to explain and show children that water is one of our greatest resources.

Dear Parents,

*You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monday, April 26th, 2010 6:45 p.m. at DMS*

Take this opportunity to see the DMS board in session. You will also have the opportunity to watch and learn as the teachers give presentations using the Montessori method and materials. The Board of Directors, our Director, and the entire teaching staff, (classroom and extended-day alike), will all be present.

RSVP to Beth is requested only to ensure we have enough adult size chairs on hand.

Have you ever thought of joining our Board of Directors? Dubuque Montessori School is a parent-run, not-for-profit school. Your talents in finance, education, parenting or other areas could be effectively put to use by joining the Board of Directors.

As a member of the board, you are required to attend monthly board meetings, serve on at least one sub-committee and attend those meetings as deemed necessary. You will also be required to attend all "special nights"-open house, orientation and parent nights.

Parents hold nine of the eleven seats on the board of directors. The other two are held by past parents and/or community members with an interest in Dubuque Montessori School. Regardless of your experience or areas of expertise, the greatest asset you can add to the board is enthusiasm and a desire to keep Dubuque Montessori at the top of the preschools and kindergartens in this area.

If you are interested in joining this group, please submit a letter of interest to the board of directors before the Annual Parent Meeting. The existing board of director's vote in members, based on the response received and vacancies.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, Molly Schreiber at 542-1168 or Beth Gilbreath in the office at 556-5101. You may also contact any of our existing board members.

*Carrie Gehl-Vice President
Mariann Weber-Treasurer
Amy Van Otterloo-Secretary
Kathy Kordell*

*Lugene Berning
Teri Link
Christine Ripperger
Jennifer Webber*

*Trisha Hearn
Laura Leibfried*

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

*Molly Schreiber
President*

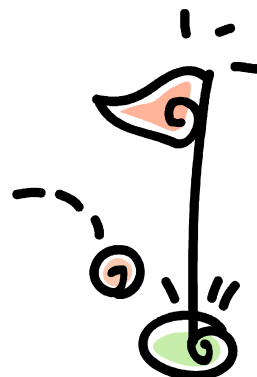
2010 Dubuque Montessori School Classic - Reminder

Get your team together for the 2010 Dubuque Montessori School Classic!

Our 4 person best-shot golf outing fundraiser will be held at The Meadows on May 22. This is a fun event to meet other DMS parents, have a great time golfing, and raise money for the DMS Operating Budget. If you are not a golfer, you are welcome to join us for a steak or chicken dinner catered by Kalmes's. We'll have a huge silent auction and a raffle with prizes from local businesses. Winning golf scores win cash prizes!

We need your support! The planning committee has started soliciting monetary/silent auction/raffle donations from local businesses. DMS families can also put together a silent auction package to donate or be a hole sponsor.

If your family would like to donate or if you know of a business that could donate please contact Amy Van Otterloo (557-1375) or Trisha Hearn (582-2241). Thank you in advance for your support.



April Calendar of Events

- 11 & 25 **SCRIP** Order Due
- 20 Kindergarten conferences
- 26 Parent Board Meeting at 6:45 pm at DMS. Please join us. Teachers will present Montessori work.

May Calendar of Events

- 9 & 23 **SCRIP** Order Due
- 17 Board Meeting at 6:45 pm at DMS. All parents are welcome.
- 26 & 27 End-of-Year Celebrations. More info to follow in mailbags.
- 26 Last day of school for 3 & 5 day classes
- 27 Last day of school for 2 day classes

Volunteer Thank You's and Donations...

- ❖ Thank you so much to Teri Link and family for donating a gift certificate to Creative Catering which catered the staff lunch at the March Inservice. Thanks also to Laura Leibfried who provided drinks and dessert on this day.
- ❖ Thank you **again** to all who donated items so generously to the Haiti Relief project coordinated by Kids Care Club. Because of your help, the children were able to assemble 72 kits.

105 books every child should have read to them

The Youth Services Staff at the Dubuque Carnegie-Stout Public Library has selected 105 books they believe every child should have read to them before they enter kindergarten and we would like to share this list with you. "These books were selected for their content, illustrations, writing quality, and treatment of early childhood concepts and themes."

Look for some of these titles each month in the *Sandpaper Letter*.

- 1) Steig, William – *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*
- 2) Van Allsburg, Chris – *Jumanji* and *The Polar Express*
- 3) Viorst, Judith – *Alexander & the Terrible, Horrible, No-Good, Very Bad Day* and *The Tenth Good Thing About Barney*
- 4) Waber, Bernard. – *Ira Sleeps Over* and *Lyle, Lyle Crocodile*
- 5) Wadell, Martin – *Owl Babies*
- 6) Walsh, Ellen Stoll – *Mouse Count* and *Mouse Babies*

Board Meeting Notes - March

- ❖ The board announced that there are **three open board positions** for the upcoming school year. If you are interested, please feel free to contact Molly Schreiber at 542-1168 or Beth Gilbreath at 556-5101 or submit a letter of interest. This is a great way to meet others and get involved at DMS.
- ❖ **Parent Survey**
Thank you to all who have taken the time to complete this survey. If you have not done so, it is not too late. Please complete the survey asap and return it in your child's mailbag. The Long Range Planning committee will be looking these over at their April meeting.
- ❖ The board would like to invite all parents to attend the **April Board Meeting** on Monday, April 26 at 6:45 pm at DMS. This meeting will specifically take time to inform parents of what the board has accomplished this year. Teachers will make presentations.
- ❖ **\$-a-day Fundraiser**
Thank you to all who have donated to our school through this fundraiser. Donations are still being accepted. Please send to school in your child's mailbag! Again, thank you so much for your generosity.
- ❖ **Trivia Night** was a huge success! Thank you to all who organized and attended this wonderful event.