



## Dates to Remember

### APRIL

Thursday, April 7

Parent Education Night with Miss Cat,  
6:00pm–7:00pm

Sunday, April 10

SCRIP Orders Due, 12:00pm  
[www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)

Wednesday, April 13

Pajama Party!

Monday, April 18

Board Meeting, 7:00pm, All Parents are  
Welcome

Tuesday, April 19

Kindergarten Conferences

Friday, April 22–Monday, April 25

Spring Break, No School

Sunday, April 24

SCRIP Orders Due, 12:00pm  
[www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)

Tuesday, April 26

Snow Make Up Day

Wednesday, April 27

Snow Make Up Day

### MAY

Sunday, May 8

SCRIP Orders Due, 12:00pm  
[www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)

Sunday, May 22

SCRIP Orders Due, 12:00pm  
[www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)

Monday, May 16

Board Meeting, 6:45pm, All Parents are  
Welcome

Wednesday, May 25

Last Day of School for 3-Day Students  
End of Year Celebrations, All Parents  
are Welcome

Thursday, May 26

Last Day of School for 2-Day & 5-Day  
Students  
End of Year Celebrations, All Parents  
are Welcome

## A Message from Our Director

Dear Parents,

Happy spring! I can think of no better way to welcome spring than by celebrating in the joy as a proud momma and daddy eagle of Decorah, Iowa welcome their three baby eaglets to the world! If you haven't already, be sure to tune in. Visit the Raptor Resource Project's eagle web cam via Ustream, [www.ustream.tv/decoraheagles](http://www.ustream.tv/decoraheagles), and watch this amazing event unfold. Situated high in a tree top the eagle cam was put into place specifically to observe these eagles. Since they first built the nest four years ago, the pair of eagles has raised eight babies. This year, the first of three eggs was laid on February 22 and hatched in the wee hours of April 2nd. The second hatched at 5:30am on the 3rd and as of this writing (7:00pm on the 4th), the third has yet to hatch. The camera is equipped with infrared lighting and is on 24 hours a day. Once you tune in, you will find it hard to tune out, I am speaking from experience! This truly is a wonderful educational opportunity to experience with your children.

Because children are biologically prepared to learn about the world around them they become highly engaged when given the opportunity to explore. As children watch this amazing event unfold, with adult supervision and interaction, they are taking in so much knowledge and new vocabulary it is astonishing. Your child's natural interests in science can be the foundation for developing language and literacy skills. It is not enough for children to simply read from a book, the Montessori Method stresses the need for real life experiences!

In our Montessori prepared environment at DMS, 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". 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.

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A Message from our Director, continued from page 1

The Sensorial materials created by Dr. Montessori are not extremely impressive to look at, as are the Montessori educational materials, therefore, 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.

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, and read a story . 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 them 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.

As always, I am grateful to each and every one of you for providing us the privilege of working and growing with your children. They remind us daily, just how precious life is and how fortunate we are to be in their company.

Happy spring,

-Beth



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## **Pajama Party!**

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

Kids, on April 13 there is no need to worry about what to wear to school! Just wake up and come to school wearing your favorite pajamas! Be sure to bring along a favorite blanket and stuffed friend to snuggle with!

Parents, please note that this is the only day during the school year that the children will be permitted to watch a short video (rated G) at school.



EARTH DAY



APRIL 22

## Green Vision Education

### Earth Day Begins at Home

There are plenty of ways you can make every day Earth Day. Improve your own small part of the planet by considering these suggestions for spring-cleaning, garden preparation, and home improvements.

Purchase non-toxic cleaning products. Use natural fiber sponges and cleaning agents that are biodegradable, phosphate-free, chlorine-free, and unscented.

Reduce paper use. Use rags instead of paper towels; cloth napkins instead of paper ones. Buy post-consumer recycled paper and recycle it when you've used it.

Refurbish responsibly. Use water-based or vegetable-based paints, stains, and varnishes. Don't wash paint thinners, household cleaners, oil, or pesticides down the drain or pour them on the ground; use them up, give leftovers to friends or a charity, or dispose at your local toxic waste disposal center.

Repair instead of replace. Reupholster furniture. Resole your shoes.

Replace disposable goods with renewable ones. Buy rechargeable batteries. Use dishes instead of paper plates.

Plant for the planet. Strengthen your garden's resistance to pests by planting resilient plants, by rotating the fruits and vegetables you plant, and by attracting friendly bugs to prey on the pesky ones.

Source: [www.earthshare](http://www.earthshare)

### Kids Care Club News



Our last Kids Care Club project for this year is to collect items for an orphanage in Ethiopia.

One of our own DMS families, Carin and Chris McManus (Kya is in Miss Lisa's room), are in the process of adopting and recently were blessed with the referral of their son Elias from Ethiopia.

Carin and Chris will be making their first trip to see Elias in May. The orphanage where Elias is has needs for new and gently used items to be donated to their facility. Kids Care Club will be collecting a list of items for the McManus family to deliver during their first trip.

We will also ask our children to bring in their own donations of coins, change or small bills to help support shipping of some of the items. We feel very strongly about our children participating in this activity and becoming aware of the larger world around them.

A letter with the list of needed items will go home in mail-bags soon.



## Summer Camp at DMS



Classes will be available for 3-6 year olds and 7-10 year olds from 9:00am to 12:30pm. Pre-registration for DMS families closed on April 1, but you can still register through the Dubuque Leisure Services/Park and Recreation Program. Course descriptions will be included in the Summer Program that will be accessible mid-April via the City's website at [www.cityofdubuque.org](http://www.cityofdubuque.org).



### Our **BIGGEST** Fundraiser of the Year!



#### 6th Annual DMS Spring Social & Golf Outing



**Saturday, May 14, 2011**  
The Meadows Golf Club

**Spring Social:**  
Catered Dinner by Kalmes,  
Silent Auction & Raffles

**Golf Outing:**  
9-holes, 4 person best-shot  
(precedes the Spring Social)

Sponsorship & Volunteer  
Opportunities Available!

Contact Trisha Hearn @ 582-2241

Invitations Coming Soon!

### A Note from the Board of Directors

#### March Meeting Notes



- \* 4 Openings on 2011-2012 Board of Directors  
Have you ever thought about becoming more involved at DMS? Your talents in finance, education, parenting or other areas could be effectively put to use by joining the Board of Directors!

The greatest asset you can add to the Board is enthusiasm and a desire to keep DMS at the top of the list among tri-state-area preschools and kindergartens.

If you are interested in joining this dynamic group, please submit a letter of interest to Board President, Molly Schreiber, at [mandersen21@yahoo.com](mailto:mandersen21@yahoo.com) by Sunday, May 1.

- \* Schwan's Sale Coming Soon – Dine In. Chill Out  
The first Schwan's sale was so popular with our families that we have decided to do it again! More information will be available soon. In the meantime start making your grocery list by visiting [www.schwans.com](http://www.schwans.com).



- \* April 18 Board Meeting and Teacher Presentations  
Make plans now to attend the April 18th Parent Board meeting. Our outstanding DMS teachers will present a variety of traditional classroom Montessori work. This is a fantastic way to experience the Montessori method through the eyes of your child and to learn about the materials they explore each day.

