



dubuque **montessori** school

The Sandpaper Letter

December 2009

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,

It always seems the holidays are upon us before we know it and most often, in my case, before I am ready! Even so, it is my favorite time of year and I am looking forward to the magic of the season. This year will be especially fun in my house with the addition of a soon to be eight-year-old to our family!

A key element to the Montessori Method of education is to respect children as different from adults and as individuals who are very different from each other. Children themselves are born without bias toward people of different cultures, race, gender or disabilities. It is such a beautiful thing and it is our job as adults to counter society's messages of bias and to reflect the unique cultural backgrounds of all human beings.

At Dubuque Montessori School we strive to guide the children the way that Maria Montessori had imagined. We are committed to helping our children grow up confident in their own identity and equally as important to be respectful of others and to be aware of the rich diversity of our community. We welcome you to share your heritage and traditions with us. Bring in foods, artifacts, games, pictures and stories that reflect your heritage and family history.

May we all join together to make this the most meaningful season ever. Spread good cheer to everyone you encounter by showing them love and respect in spite of any differences.

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to work

with your precious gifts of life. We have great faith in the children and we believe that they are our future. It is our hope that they will bring about peace, harmony and equality to all people on earth.

May you be blessed with time to spend with those you love!

With love and appreciation,

Beth S. Gilbreath
Director

Kids Care Club

Donations of food for the annual Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by Donna Ginter each year came pouring in to Dubuque Montessori School.

Once all the donations were received, the

children of James and Jenny's afternoon class sorted, boxed and hauled all the goodies to Miss Beth's car. We sure had some good little helpers and we couldn't have done it without their help.

Dubuque Montessori School has the best children and the best families. Thanks for your generosity!

Christine Walleser-Ripperger and Beth Gilbreath

Scrip Corner

We hope you had a great Thanksgiving!

Thank you to all the families who have been ordering Scrip! We are still setting up families for standing orders if you would like to participate.

We had a great "Christmas" order. Thank you to all who have helped make this a huge success and a big help to Montessori. We truly appreciate it!

If you still need scrip gift cards, I have a lot on hand. These also make great stocking stuffers.

- HyVee
- McDonald's
- Panera
- Walmart
- Sam's Club
- Kohl's
- Subway

- Bath & Body
- Gap/Old Navy/Banana Republic
- Starbucks

You may still purchase scrip for Christmas on December 13th. Our guaranteed delivery was this last scrip order. This is due to bad weather. However, if we have bad weather or if school is delayed, I will arrange a time for you to pick up Scrip at your convenience. So if you forgot to order something, you may still order.

Please Note: Star Theater is no longer participating. They are removed from the website. I will remove them from the paper form.

Please remember: Molo Companies would like to announce the return of Conoco cash cards. These cards can be used outside at the pumps for gas purchases. The old Big Mart cash cards will expire on December 31, 2009. Please use these first.

As of December 2, 2009, DMS has raised \$1713.47. Our Next Scrip Order date is: December 13.

Thanks for your participation,
Laura Leibfried

Please remember to write a separate check for scrip. Do not include scrip payment in with tuition and/or extended day payments.

Green Vision Updates

Dubuque Montessori plans to go paperless for lunch menus and newsletters beginning in January or February of next year. This information will be available on the website; however, families will always have the option to receive information in paper form. A note will go out in mailbags soon on which you can indicate how you would like to receive this information.

GREEN Reminders: Talk to your child about every piece of packaging that comes into your home and recycle as much as possible. This is especially important to keep in mind as the holidays approach.

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) Day, Alexandra – *Any Carl Title*
- 2) Ehlert, Lois – *Feathers for Lunch*
- 3) Fox, Mem – *Zoo-Looking*
- 4) Galdone, Paul – *Any Title*
- 5) Henkes, Kevin – *Owen*
- 6) Johnson, Crockett – *Harold and the Purple Crayon*

Items Needed at DMS

Please check this section of the newsletter each month for items that Dubuque Montessori School would appreciate being donated. Thank you in advance!

- 1) DMS could really use silverware. Beth does not want anyone to purchase it - unless it is from Goodwill - but just in case you have abundance in your home you do not need, DMS can use it.

Thank You Dubuque County Empowerment

Dubuque Montessori School would like to thank Dubuque County Empowerment for a \$510 grant that the school received. The grant was written to offset the cost of re-certifying staff for CPR/First Aid. DMS would also like to express our deepest appreciation to this organization for their everyday support of our school through tuition assistance.

In the Spirit of the Season

Dubuque Montessori has two families who are experiencing serious financial difficulty. If you are looking to brighten the Holidays for another family please see Beth, Kate or Sherri in the office for a list of needs. The names of the families will remain confidential.

Family Music Concert

Please join us for a winter concert for children sponsored by Dubuque Montessori School on Sunday, December 13, from 3-4 pm at Dubuque Carnegie-Stout Public Library, 360 W. 11th Street. This family event will celebrate the magic of the season with singing, hands-on musical instruments, and movement led by Music Therapist, Abbey Dvorak. Free will donations accepted. For more information call 556-5101.

Save the Dates – More Info to Follow

Jumpin' Janes DMS fun Night *January 24, 2010 4-7 pm*
\$7.50/child over 2 Adults are Free!
Apple Juice is Free! Pizza is available for purchase.

Trivia Night *February 27, 2010*
\$10/adult Teams of 8
Enjoy a classroom art auction! Amaze your friends and family! Categories include Music, Arts, Sports, History...

Golf Outing at the Meadows *May 22, 2010*
\$50/adult 4 person best ball 9 holes and cart
Kalmes' Steak or Chicken Dinner
Silent Auction and Raffle

The Giving Tree

Please check out The Giving Tree that has been put up in entryway at school. The tree is covered with post-its listing supplies that are essential to DMS. If you would like, your family can pick one of these items to donate to our school. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

December Calendar of Events

- 9 & 10 Progress Reports Sent Home
- 13 **SCRIP** Order Due – Last order before holiday break
- 13 Winter Concert for Children, 3pm-4pm, Carnegie-Stout Public Library. A DMS sponsored family event where, Abbey Dvorak, Music Therapist, performs songs that promote movement, hands-on instrumental participation, and singing along. Donations accepted.
- 21-31 Holiday – School Closed

January Calendar of Events

- 1 Holiday – School Closed
- 10 & 24 **SCRIP** Order Due
- 18 Holiday – School Closed
- 18 Board Meeting at 6:45 pm at DMS. All parents are welcome. No children please.
- 25, 26, & 27 Conferences – No School. Extended-day open.

Volunteer Thank Yous and Donations...

- ❖ Thanks to **Matt Pivit, Jake's dad**, DMS now has a recycling bin from Allied Waste. No more dragging the bins to the curb each week. Bless you Matt, just in time before the snow flies!
- ❖ Thank you to **Dale Rader, Ethan's dad**, and the **Dubuque Fire Department** for coming to teach us about fire safety!
- ❖ Thank you to **Angie Grimes, Lily's mom**, for writing out and donating the thank you cards for our staff.
- ❖ Thank you to **Jennifer Webber, Kathy Schwab, Maggie May, Maria Pitt, Trisha Hearn and Tobiaire Utt** for their help with Scrip!
- ❖ Thank you to **Molly Schreiber, Jake and Maria's mom**, for her dedicated service as board president.
- ❖ Thank you to **Publicity Committee** for their help at Kid's Expo.
- ❖ Thank you **PJ Loy, Tucker's mom**, for taking care of the *Small Hands* orders.
- ❖ Thank you to **Teri Link, Chaz's mom**, and the **fundraising committee** for a successful Fall Fundraiser.
- ❖ Thank you to **Parent Club** for providing a bagel treat for the teachers in November.

Board Meeting Notes -

November

- ❖ Be sure to check out the upcoming events sponsored by DMS in the Save the Dates section on page 3.
- ❖ The Pandemic Plan will be on file at school in January. Committees are working on a new 3-year strategic plan to be completed by March.
- ❖ The board enjoyed and was impressed again by the following well-prepared teacher presentations:

James presented the teens board which is a great visual for children when mastering the "teens" numbers.

Beth demonstrated how to use the binomial cube from sensorial. This helps children identify color patterns and shape and builds concentration skills.

Lisa showed color books which are filled with items the color of the book. They begin with the primary colors and use this as a basis for color recognition.

Judy's students are also working on primary colors through color boxes. They start with colored pencils then move on to paint.