

## Dates to Remember

### MARCH

Wednesday, March 2  
Wacky Wednesday  
Celebrate Dr. Seuss!

Monday, March 7  
Father's Night, 6:00pm–7:30pm

Sunday, March 13  
SCRIP Orders Due, 12:00pm  
[www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)

Friday, March 18  
Teacher Inservice, School Closed

Monday, March 21  
Board Meeting, 6:45pm  
All Parents are Welcome

Sunday, March 27  
SCRIP Orders Due, 12:00pm  
[www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)

### APRIL

Thursday, April 7  
Parent Education Night,  
6:00pm–7:00pm



Sunday, April 10  
SCRIP Orders Due, 12:00pm  
[www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)

Monday, April 18  
Annual Board Meeting, 6:45pm  
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

Please visit our school website for the complete 2010-2011 calendar.  
[www.dubuquemontessori.org](http://www.dubuquemontessori.org)

## A Message from Our Director

### Work In Progress

Dear Montessori Families,

With registration for the 2011-2012 school year in full swing, I want to take a moment to thank all of our families for your support— past, present and future.

We celebrate our unique role in the community and the now generations of children who have experienced the exceptional Montessori learning environment which we have provided since 1968.

The question I am most often asked by parents and visitors is “how will my child adjust to a traditional school after being in a Montessori environment?”

The answer I give most often comes from 20 years of experience as a Montessori educator, as well as from personal experience as a parent of three “Montessori graduates”. The Montessori experience is a preparation for LIFE. Children master skills in concentration, independence, sequential thought process and order. The Montessori experience cultivates highly motivated children with a true love of learning and children who have a positive attitude toward school can be motivated to learn in any environment. The skills that children learn at Dubuque Montessori can be applied anywhere. And while it has been proven that children who have the opportunity to attend a Montessori preschool generally excel in areas of academics, it is also important to note that **this is not the primary focus**. Montessori schools are very different from traditional preschools not only because of the materials and daily lessons in areas of Geography, Science, Mathematics and Language, but because of the skills that are taught in the areas of Practical Life.

Learning how to work and play together with others in a peaceful and caring community is perhaps the most critical life skill that Montessori teaches. Everyday kindness is a vital Practical Life skill. Lessons in grace and courtesy teach everyday social skills such as how not to disturb another's work, how to ask if you may join in an activity, how to graciously decline an invitation and how to offer an apology. As a staff, we strive to model a peaceful and caring behavior on a daily basis.

**Respect** is a fundamental aspect of the Montessori philosophy. Montessori children come to understand and accept that we all have responsibilities to others and we are all connected. Lessons of the heart which the children learn at Montessori last a lifetime.

As always, thank you for giving us the opportunity to do what we love.

Most sincerely,

Beth S. Gilbreath  
Director





## Green Vision Education Tips for Spring Cleaning

Cleaning can be hazardous to your health – and to the environment. When buying and using cleaning products, here are some things to keep in mind:

- Read labels carefully to make an informed environmental decision regarding your purchases.
- If you are concerned about the safety or environmental impacts of certain products, contact the manufacturer for more information.
- When cleaning, remember to use no more than the recommended amount.
- Use a scourer or rub harder on problem areas, rather than overusing cleaners.
- Do not mix products unless instructed to do so by label directions. This can cause unwanted chemical reactions that could harm you.
- Make sure containers are kept dry to prevent corrosion. If a container begins to corrode, place it in a plastic bucket with a lid and clearly label it.

### Do-It-Yourself Green Cleaners

Some of the greenest cleaners are the ones you make yourself. Here are some sample recipes for simple, effective cleaners:

- **Rust Remover:** Use vinegar to remove rust on nuts and bolts and other mineral deposits such as calcium deposits.
- **Drain Cleaner:** Pour a half-cup of baking soda down the sink and add at least a cup of vinegar. Cover the drain and wait a few minutes, then rinse with a mixture of boiling water and salt.
- **Window Cleaner:** Mix two ounces of vinegar with a quart of water in a spray bottle.
- **Silver Polish:** Put a sheet of aluminum foil into a plastic or glass bowl. Sprinkle the foil with salt and baking soda and fill the bowl with warm water. Soak your silver in the bowl and tarnish migrates to the foil. Dry and buff.
- **Brass Cleaner:** Cut a lemon in half, sprinkle it with salt and rub the lemon on the metal. Buff with a cloth.

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

## Fundraising Information



### Trivia Night Update

Thank you to all who supported DMS fundraising efforts by attending Trivia Night. A great time was had by all and almost \$1,500.00 was raised! This money will go directly into the DMS operating fund.

### General Mills Box Tops & Swiss Valley Cash for Caps

We are still looking for a parent volunteer to coordinate the collection and redemption of the General Mills Box Tops for Education and Swiss Valley Cash for Caps fundraisers for the 2011-2012 school year. If interested, please contact the main office.

## 2011-2012 Registration

### Returning Students

Registration for the 2011-2012 school year is well underway! If you have registered your child for next fall, THANK YOU! In April you will receive a packet that will include the school calendar and additional forms. If you have any questions before that time, do not hesitate to ask!

### Spread the Word, Tell Everyone Why Montessori is More!



If you know of a family looking for guidance on choosing a preschool or kindergarten, please share with them the benefits of a Montessori education. Have them call the DMS office and set up a private tour of our wonderful school!

## Parent Education Event, Save the Date

Parents and Caregivers, please join us for an educational evening discussing how to incorporate the Montessori Method at home, presented by Cat Walker, DMS Parent Volunteer and Montessori-trained Associate Teacher in our Mississippi River Room.

**When:** Thursday, April 7

**Time:** 6:00pm–7:00pm

**Where:** Dubuque Montessori School



More information coming soon!

Dubuque Montessori School  
Presents:



6th Annual  
**SPRING SOCIAL  
& GOLF OUTING**

**Save the Date:**  
**Saturday, May 14, 2011**  
**The Meadows Golf Club**

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

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

**Make plans now to attend the  
Spring Social, Golf Outing or BOTH!**

**Registration information coming soon!**

**We Need Volunteers!**

Here are a few ways you can help:

- Attend the event and invite friends, relatives and neighbors to join you.
- Volunteer to serve on the Planning Committee.
- Ask your employer to be a Corporate Sponsor.
- Sign up to be a Family Hole Sponsor.
- Donate a silent auction package or raffle item.
- All of the above!

Able to Help or Need More Info?

Contact Trisha Hearn at trishamjh@gmail.com  
or 582-2241.

**A Note from the Board of Directors**  
**February Meeting Notes**



\* **"2011 Kids Expo in Dubuque County"**

We will again promote our school at the "2011 Kids Expo in Dubuque County". This family resource fair will take place at Western Dubuque High School (in Epworth) on Saturday, March 26 from 10:00am until 2:00pm.

Parent volunteers are needed to work a shift at the booth! If you are able to help at this event, please contact Jennifer Webber at thewebbers3@msn.com.

\* **SCRIP Update**



Our Scrip fundraising goal for the 2010-2011 school year is \$5,000.  
To date DMS has made \$2,364.60. With a little less than half of the school year left, we need everyone's help to reach this goal!

If you have any questions regarding Scrip or would like to place an order, please contact Jami Slater at 583-1330 or jami8523@aol.com

\* **4 Openings on Next Year's 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 contact Board President, Molly Schreiber, at 542-1168.

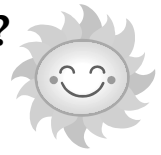
**Thank you Volunteers!**



- \* Thank you Jennifer Webber and Parent Club for the ongoing support of the DMS staff!
- \* Thank you to Jen Hayes, Laura Leibfried and Maggie May for providing desserts and drinks for our staff during Parent Teacher Conferences!



# Looking for some extra Montessori fun this summer?



Well, you are in luck!

This Summer Dubuque Montessori School is offering four sessions of fun Summer Camp right here at the big red barn!

Please join us for one or all sessions! Each session will take place from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Each child is asked to pack a sack lunch for every day of camp. Each session will be a bargain price of \$67.00! Registration is simple! Please fill out the information at the bottom of the page, make your check out to DMS and send to the office by April 1. After April 1 registration will be open to the public through Dubuque Leisure Services so don't delay and sign up today. There are only 22 spots available each session! **If you have any questions, please contact Molly Schreiber at 563-542-1168.**

**Session 1, ages 3-6, May 31 to June 3 (T-F) *Geography with Miss Cat***

Travel to distant lands without leaving the area! We will be cooking and learning new languages as well as hearing stories and doing crafts from various continents around the world. Come discover North America, South America and Africa!

**Session 1, ages 3-6, May 31-June 3 (T-F) *Language Enrichment with Miss Jackie***

Learning letter sounds using the sound buckets. Recognizing letters and letter formation and making individual sandpaper letters.

**Session 2, ages 3-6, June 6-9 (M-Th) *Geography with Miss Cat Part Two***

Travel to distant lands without leaving the area! We will be cooking and learning new languages as well as hearing stories and doing crafts from various continents around the world. Come discover Europe, Asia and Australia.

**Session 2, ages 7-10, June 6-9 (M-Th) *Advanced Map Making with Mr. James***

Children will explore five different types of map; political, climate, resource, environmental and topographic. The children will begin by choosing a continent of interest and go on to create a map each day. The class will end with a presentation of their work.

**Session 3, ages 3-6, August 1-4 (M-Th) *Exploration of the Solar System with Miss Jackie***

Join us as we learn about the planets, stars and moon. We will explore how rockets work, make our own and launch! We will learn about the moon phases and make moon craters! Don't miss the fun!

**Session 3, ages 7-10, August 1-4 (M-Th) *Out of this World Science with Mr. James***

During an exploration of our solar system, the class will learn about the sun, planets, moon and things that are just passing through. Our final class project will be creating a large scale model of our solar system!

**Session 4, ages 3-6, August 8-11 (M-Th) *Fun with 3 Dimensions with Mr. James***

This geometry unit will explore the relationships between two and three dimensional geometric shapes. We will use two dimensional shapes to create three dimensional ones. We will then find them in our classroom and the world around us. Each child will have the opportunity to build a creation of their own using their knowledge of geometric shapes.

**Session 4, ages 7-10, August 8-11 (M-Th) *Exploration of the Skeletal System with Mss Jackie***

Join us as we learn about how the skeletal system works. Learn the function of the types of bones and learn all about our various joints.

**DMS Summer Camp Registration**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed Registration with payment by April 1!**

Child's age at the time of camp: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Session(s) Chosen:

\_\_\_\_\_ Session1, Geography    \_\_\_\_\_ Session 2, ages 3-6    \_\_\_\_\_ Session 3, ages 3-6    \_\_\_\_\_ Session 4, ages 3-6  
\_\_\_\_\_ Session 1, Language    \_\_\_\_\_ Session 2, ages 7-10    \_\_\_\_\_ Session 3, ages 7-10    \_\_\_\_\_ Session 4, ages 7-10

Amount Enclosed (\$67 per Session, make checks payable to DMS): \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact's Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dubuque Montessori School has permission to register my child for Montessori Summer Camp through Dubuque Leisure Services.  
Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_