



dubuque **montessori** school

The Sandpaper Letter

May 2010

Have a fun and safe summer!

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

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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,

Maria Montessori taught us to nurture the child's natural desire to create and she believed that there are no limits to the avenues of creativity. In a world with considerable emphasis on the "three R's," often little emphasis is left to nurture the child's creative abilities. At Dubuque Montessori, we understand the importance and have gone the extra mile to nurture creative expression within the child in all areas, both in and out of the classroom.

Contrary to popular belief, creativity is not a special talent limited to artists, but rather an extremely vital part of the process of thinking and working which all people possess and every child must be given ample opportunities to develop. Each child's personal journey of creative expression is unique and crucial to his or her development. As educators, encouraging and guiding the creative voice of the learner is at the heart of helping him/her become a problem solver in all of life's challenges.

Maria Montessori believed that when information is processed in some active, musical or artistic way, the knowledge becomes permanent rather than short-term memory data. For that very reason, the staff and board of Dubuque

Montessori School chose to dedicate the 2009-2010 school year as "The Year of the Arts."

In culmination we invite you to join us for a musical celebration featuring Music Therapist Abbey Dvorak. Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 10 at 6 pm, and join us at the Carnegie Stout Public Library in Dubuque. Special thanks to board member Teri Link for writing the grant awarded to DMS by Alliant Energy which made this celebration possible.

Thank you to all who have contributed to our celebration of the arts and to all who attended the Annual Parent Meeting in April. We hope you found the meeting informative and the Montessori presentations of Art enlightening. Special thanks to Miss Judy, Miss Beth, Miss Lisa and Mr. James for sharing your Montessori knowledge with us through your presentations.

As the school year comes to an end, we want to reflect with appreciation on all of the various contributions made by you, our parents. Parent volunteers have been involved in all aspects of the school and we would not function without your involvement. On behalf of

the entire staff, and especially the children, I would like to thank all of you who have given so freely of your time and talents throughout the year. We would like to especially thank our volunteer Board of Directors who works effortlessly behind the scenes supporting the methods and philosophies of Dr. Montessori and our school every day. Molly Schreiber- Board President, Carrie Gehl- Vice President, Mariann Weber- Treasurer, Amy Van Otterloo- Secretary parent board members Christine Ripperger, Laura Leibfried, Trisha Hearn, Teri Link and Jennifer Webber, as well as community members Lugene Berning and Kathy Kordell. Your unbounded support validates our commitment to providing a safe and stimulating environment where the children are respected and nurtured.

Please join me in thanking our entire staff for their constant care and concern of the children and for always giving 100% to ensure that the emotional and physical needs of each child is met. Together, the children, parents and staff of Dubuque Montessori School are what make us so successful.

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One final note of appreciation to all of you, thank you for entrusting us with your beloved children. They truly are a gift and they bring us so much joy every day. Our best wishes

for a happy and safe summer vacation! We will miss you, but we look forward to August and the start of a new year!

Most sincerely,
Beth S. Gilbreath
Director

Many thanks as well to our loving, inspiring, and devoted Director, Beth Gilbreath, who makes our school so special. We love you!

Dubuque Montessori School Presents

Kids Summer Jam

Thursday, June 10, 2010

6-7 p.m.

Dubuque Carnegie-Stout Public Library

360 W. 11th Street

Sponsored through a grant from Alliant Energy.

As you know, Dubuque Montessori School is celebrating the year of the arts and so we are presenting a hands-on music and movement program for children of all ages. This program is free and open to the public and features musician/music therapist Abbey Dvorak. Please come join us as we sing, shake, and skip into summer.

Since this program will take place after school is over for summer break, this is a great opportunity to reconnect with your Montessori friends. Please call the office with any questions, 556-5101.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

GREEN Vision: DMS Earns Litter Patch

To keep our Green Vision school status, DMS worked toward its Litter Patch this school year. We were just notified that we earned this status – congratulations DMS!!! We are so proud and excited to share this with you. The children have worked very hard to be good stewards of the earth and their efforts have paid off. It is our hope that they keep this love and learning throughout their lives. We also thank the parents who keep this knowledge alive by putting their skills to work at home.



Plan to join us in our Annual Brick Campaign

Two years ago, DMS re-introduced a Buy-A-Brick campaign. The personalized bricks are placed in the garden to the left of the front entrance of our school and are a beautiful way for families to share in a lasting legacy at Dubuque Montessori School.

You now have the chance to personalize your own brick! With a minimum gift of \$100, you will allow us to recognize your family, your DMS student, honor a teacher or parent, and create a lasting memory of your family's time at the Red Barn.

For a gift of \$10 per student, you will also have the opportunity to contribute to a brick from the student body of the 2009 – 2010 school year which will be dedicated to the teachers and administrators at Dubuque Montessori. An annual list of all family participants will be framed and displayed in the lobby of school.

This is an especially nice way to commemorate your child's years at DMS!

Thank you for your support,
DMS Board of Directors

Box Tops for Education

Thank you so much to Maggie May for collecting and counting box tops for DMS and to all of our families for clipping these and sending them to school. This last time, our school earned \$207.00!

Please remember to clip, save, and COLLECT General Mills Box Tops throughout the summer for Dubuque Montessori School!

DMS Classic – 5th Annual Best-Shot Golf Outing Fundraiser

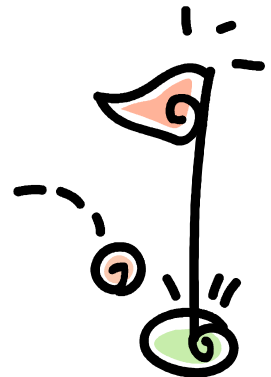
There is still time to sign-up and attend the 5th Annual DMS Golf Outing! Join us at this fun event and support our school! This 9-hole event is open to all DMS families, alumni families and the public. Whether you are a great golfer, a so-so golfer, or just someone who likes to be outdoors and drive the cart, there is no pressure in a best-shot outing. If you want to skip the golfing, that's ok too, because you can just come for dinner! Kalmes' is once again going to be grilling up some amazing chicken and steak dinners complete with all of the fixin's. After dinner, stick around and bid on some of the many silent auction items or try your luck at winning in one of the raffles. Don't miss out on the fun, call your family and friends, get your team together and join us on May 22 at the Meadows Golf Club!

Registrations for golf and dinner will be accepted until **May 10**. Forms are available on the DMS website (www.dubuquemontessori.org) in the "parent mailbag."

We are still accepting family hole sponsorships and donations to the silent auction themed baskets. Please contact Amy Van Otterloo (557.1375) or Trisha Hearn (582.2241) if you can help.

See you on May 22!

Don't Golf? Come for dinner and make it a Girl's Night Out!!



May Calendar of Events

- 9 & 23 **SCRIP** Order Due
- 17 May board Meeting will be closed to the public, only members of the board will meet for the executive session.
- 26 & 27 End-of-Year Celebrations. Info was sent home in mailbags.
- 26 Last day of school for 3 & 5 day classes
- 27 Last day of school for 2 day classes

Reminders

- ❖ If you are interested in contributing toward the Teacher Appreciation Dinner, please do so by May 11.
- ❖ Empowerment Grants are still available for the 2010-2011 school. For more information, please contact Beth Gilbreath at 556-5101.
- ❖ Serving tea pots are needed for the school-wide tea party on May 12. You may send the tea pots to school at your earliest

Volunteer Thank Yous and Donations...

- ❖ Thank you again to Big Apple Bagel for donating bagels throughout the year for snack.
- ❖ Thank you in advance to all of you who helped out and made donations for the Teacher Appreciation dinner and week.

Congratulations to Judy Gard-Vorwald on her 10 year anniversary at DMS! Thank you so much for your dedication to our children and for sharing your creative spirit.

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) Wells, Rosemary – Any "Max" Title
- 2) Westcott, Nadine Bernard – *I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*
- 3) Williams, Vera B. – *A Chair for My Mother*
- 4) Wood, Audrey – *The Napping house*
- 5) Zion, Gene – *Harry the Dirty Dog*
- 6) Zolotow, Charlotte – *Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present*

Board Meeting Notes -

April

- ❖ There is still one **open board position** for the upcoming school year. There are also open positions on many committees (you don't have to be on the board to join a committee). 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. Thanks!

- ❖ **Parent Survey**
Parent Survey results have been compiled and printed copies of the full survey are available upon request in the DMS office.

- ❖ **Teacher Presentations**
were excellent! Thank you to Beth, Lisa, Judy, and James for sharing your lessons with us. The following is a brief summary of what each teacher presented:

Ms. Beth presented the parts of the guitar and explained how the guitar makes music. The children have been studying instruments this year in her class.

Ms. Lisa showed how her students are learning about the parts of the body through puzzles and then tracing their own bodies on a large piece of paper.

Ms. Judy and her class are learning about artists from the past and present. This lesson focused on Michelangelo and explained how he painted the Sistine Chapel. The child then practiced his method by lying on their back and painting a picture on paper taped to the bottom of a table.

Mr. James presented the percussion instrument, the water-glass xylophone.