



dubuque **montessori** school

The Sandpaper Letter

November 2009

**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,
November has a way of reminding us of all we have to be grateful for. With school in full swing and the Holidays right around the corner, it seems there is little chance to catch our breath. Yet it is important to take time to give thanks for all of life's blessings.

Personally I am incredibly thankful to be part of such an amazing school, one that embraces the importance of the Montessori method and the handling of life's most precious gift the children. Dubuque Montessori School has kindhearted and courteous children with devoted parents. It also has dedicated, loving, and committed teachers. I am grateful to come to work each day and work with all of the children, parents and staff!

On behalf of the entire staff, we would like to **thank** you, our parents, for your support. Your support is vital to the strength and growth of our school. From our dedicated board of directors to our parent volunteers who help with maintenance issues and fundraising efforts to those who help in the classroom. We appreciate each and every one of you!

We wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and we truly thank you for giving us the opportunity to grow and learn with your children. It is our hope that peace will

bloom in our hearts, in our homes and all over the world. Happy Fall!

Much Gratitude and Many Blessings to all!

Sincerely,
Beth S. Gilbreath
Director

"To Madame Montessori,

Even as you, out of love for children, are endeavoring to teach children, through your numerous institutions, the best that can be brought out of them, even so, I hope that it will be possible not only for the children of the wealthy and well-to-do, but for the children of paupers to receive training of this nature. You have very truly remarked that if we are to reach real peace in the world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with children and if they will grow up in their natural innocence, we won't have to struggle, we won't have to pass fruitless idle resolutions, but we shall go from love to love and peace to peace, until at least all the corners of the world are covered with that peace and love for which, consciously or unconsciously, the whole world is hungering."

M.K. Gandhi 1953

Creating a Montessori Environment at Home

Everyone at every age is affected by their environment; this is especially true for children. An organized environment reduces stress and aids in the development of an efficient, creative and peaceful mind. Constant preparation and adaptation of the environment to the ever-

changing needs of the developing child is essential. There are two important things to keep in mind in organizing a child's environment in the home.

1. Have a place in each room for the few, carefully chosen child's belongings: By the front door a stool to sit on and a place to hang a coat and keep shoes. In the living room a place for the child's books and toys—neatly and attractively organized. In the bathroom a stool to reach the sink. Think out the activities and the materials for all living spaces and arrange the environment to include the child's activities.
2. Don't put out too many toys or books at one time. Those being used by the child at the moment are sufficient. Always rotate—taking out those books and toys that have not been chosen lately and moving them to storage for a time. As children grow and change so should their environment.

In creating the child's environment consideration of physical safety comes first and then consideration of space for free-movement, exploration, making choices, concentration, and creativity.

Taking these few steps will contribute to the success of your child's growing independence and his abilities to appreciate beauty and show respect for personal property.

Thank You Dubuque Racing Association!

The Board of Directors of Dubuque Montessori School are pleased to announce that DMS was recently awarded \$2,000.00 from the Dubuque Racing Association Grant Award Program.

The money was used to fund the purchase

of a much needed copy machine.

According to Beth Gilbreath, Dubuque Montessori School Director, "We are grateful and appreciative to the **Dubuque Racing Association** for this generous award. This

funding allowed us to purchase a necessary item that we rely on daily for communication with our families."

Scrip Corner

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.

A big THANK YOU goes out to Mariann Weber & family! Mariann won \$50 in her choice of Scrip and has donated the \$50 back to Montessori School. Thanks Mariann! DMS appreciates it!

Remember, if you have run out of or need more Scrip, I do have extra on hand.

- HyVee
- McDonald's
- Panera

- Walmart
- Sam's Club
- Kohl's
- Subway

Please Note: Jimmy John's will no longer be participation in the Scrip Program. Sorry for the inconvenience.

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.

There are many, many bonus deals as well as information regarding

some of the different retailers and there will be more during the upcoming months with Holiday shopping just around the corner. If you are curious, click on the "What's New" tab at the top of the shopwithscrip.com site.

As of October 26, 2009: \$862.12
Our Next Scrip Order date is: November 8th

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.

DMS: Green Vision School

Last year, DMS became the first preschool in Dubuque to be named a Green Vision Education School. The program, sponsored by the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency, "encourages and recognizes schools that practice pollution prevention, recycling, energy efficiency, and waste/toxins reduction."

To maintain this award, this year DMS will work toward a progress patch focusing on the topic of litter prevention. Look for Green Vision Updates in the monthly newsletter.

GREEN Reminders: Please do not let your vehicle idle while waiting to drop off or pick up your child. Carpooling with neighbors when possible is another way to save fuel and be mindful of the environment.

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) Brown, Marc – Any *Arthur* Title
- 2) Brown, Margaret Wise – *Goodnight Moon* and *Runaway Bunny*
- 3) Brunhoff, Laurent De – Any *Babar* Title
- 4) Burton, Virginia Lee – *The Little House* and *Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel*
- 5) Carle, Eric – *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

Other Ways to Give

In the spirit of thanksgiving, Dubuque Montessori School would like to make you aware of two ways you can give back to the school community.

The first way is to remember DMS in your year-end tax planning. Our school is a non-profit that relies on fundraising as a vital part of our operating budget. Any tax-deductible contribution you may be able to give would be greatly appreciated and used wisely.

The second way to give is to donate toward the DMS Scholarship Fund. As you know, the severe effects of the economic crisis are still being felt, and many families are not able to afford tuition costs. It is our goal to offer a Montessori education to as many children as we possibly can, and your contribution to this fund will allow us to do exactly that.

We are very thankful of your continued support of Dubuque Montessori School.

(Please fill out and return bottom portion to school.)

Please accept my tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$_____.

You will receive a tax-deductible letter of appreciation. Please include name and address where letter should be sent.

Name: _____

Address: _____

November Calendar of Events

- 8 & 29 **SCRIP** Order Due
- 10 Kindergarten conferences
- 16 Board Board Meeting at 6:45pm at DMS.
All parents are welcome. No children please.
- 25 All Staff Inservice – School Closed
- 26 & 27 Holiday – School Closed

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

Volunteer Thank Yous and Donations...

- ❖ Thank You to **Bo Harris and his employer, Sara Lee, and Becky**, our cook, for donating lots of bread and buns to our lunch program!
- ❖ Thank you to **Ryan & Dina Robinson, parents of Gianna, and Mario's Restaurant** for the donation of lunch. They have put together a lunch menu that meets all DHS standards that they can prepare in an emergency if our cook Becky is out! DMS had Mario's for lunch in October and it was AWESOME.
- ❖ Thank you to **Mark & Sherri Schmitt & Happy Joes Pizza** for the donation of a case of paper towels! This donation is helping with the supply budget and the ever rising cost of goods.
- ❖ Thank you to **Trisha Hearn, Chloe's mom**, for taking care of the details needed in order to get our new copy machine.
- ❖ Beth Gilbreath would like to thank the **Board of Directors** for all of their continued hard work.
- ❖ Thank you to **Heather Errthum, Owen's mom**, for donating the desert for the staff inservice lunch last month.
- ❖ Thank you to **Mark Slater, Ellie's dad**, for helping with some fix-it jobs around school.

Board Meeting Notes -

October

- ❖ Congratulations to Beth Duccini for completing Phase II of her Montessori Training.
- ❖ Please remember to order extra scrip for the holidays. Scrip dates before holiday break: November 8 and 29 and December 13.
- ❖ Look for the DMS booth at Kids Expo on Saturday, November 7, 10am – 2 pm.
- ❖ Save the Date: The 5th Annual DMS Golf Outing will be Saturday, May 22, 2010, with a new location at the Meadows Golf Course. Look for an expanded silent auction.

Reminders and FYIs:

- ❖ **Yearbooks 2009-2010**
We have received enough orders to make the 2009-2010 yearbook. If you would like to place an order, help with this yearbook, or help create the yearbook in the future, please contact Laura Leibfried at sleibfried@yousq.net or 563-599-7163. It's a lot of fun!!
- ❖ **T-shirt Orders**
Please look for t-shirt order forms to be coming home in mailbags soon.
- ❖ Now that cold weather is coming, please remember to switch out your child's summer extra clothes at school for winter extra clothes.