



dubuque **montessori** school

The Sandpaper Letter

October 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

Dubuque Montessori School Year of the Arts

Dear Families,

Studies have shown that exposure to the arts enhances a child's creativity, increases mathematical ability and reasoning skills and helps children develop physical coordination, timing, memory and language skills. For this very reason, your child's teachers are busy planning events for the YEAR OF THE ARTS.

Exposure to the arts can be a tremendous asset to a child's ability to appreciate others as individuals. It is our hope that through this exposure, our children will discover the fascinating people, places and ideas behind the arts. If you indicated on your parent volunteer form that you have talents, we will be contacting you!

Bringing the Arts into the Home

Children of all ages are naturally drawn to music. They learn a variety of skills from musical experiences. Shaking, tapping and beating instruments enhance the child's fine-motor development. Children listening for a beat, various tones and lyrics, are developing auditory discrimination.

Children can experience the emotional effects of music by listening to and creating music that is soothing, exciting, or funny. Music also promotes creative development as children experiment with new rhythms, sounds and movements.

To encourage your child's exploration of music, you do not have to buy expensive instruments; you can

make simple instruments at home.

KAZOO-Decorate a toilet paper tube with construction paper, crayons, glitter, whatever...Put a square of wax paper over one end and secure it with a rubber band. Blow through the open end while humming a tune.

SAND BLOCKS-Sand two small blocks of scrap wood. Glue coarse sandpaper onto one side of each block. Rub the block together to make a beautiful noise!

Sincerely,

Beth S. Gilbreath
Director

Pandemic Plan

The long-range planning committee is in the final stages of completing a Pandemic Plan for DMS. This plan will be on file in the office upon completion.

The plan takes into consideration such

factors as closing the school should there be a large number of sick children or staff.

It is important that you begin to plan how you will provide for your child if you are not able to send them to school or stay home with them

because they are sick or school is closed.

Scrip Corner

Thank you to all the families who have ordered Scrip during the month of September. We had many families sign up for standing orders. Remember you can always add to your order by going to www.shopwithscrip.com or email me anytime at sleibfried@yousq.net.

As always, please contact me with any questions or recommendations.

Congratulations to Mariann Weber & Family! Mariann won the drawing for \$50.00 in her choice of Scrip.

Please Note:
I do purchase extra gift cards for anyone who would like to purchase more scrip

or have run out of gift cards before the next order.

- These include...
- HyVee (coupon books, \$25, \$50, & \$100)
 - Walmart (\$25)
 - McDonalds (\$5)
 - Subway (\$5)
 - Panera (\$10)

If you would like to purchase any gift cards from these retailers, please contact me and I will get that to you.

- Please remember Scrip for any big purchases you may make this year.
- Ellis Appliance (Sears, Best Buy, Lowes, Menards)
 - Computer (Dell, Sears, Staples, Office Depot, Office

- Max, Radio Shack, Sam's
- Travel (Many hotels, Disney, Airlines, Car Rentals, Visa)

We are proud to announce Eagle Country Market has been added to our local retailer list. Gift cards come in a \$25 denomination.

As of October 1, 2009:

- Money raised
= \$268.10 +
121.14 =
\$389.24
- Number of Families Ordering Scrip
= 19
- Scrip order dates: Oct. 11 & 25

Please Note the Following:**Communication with the School**

Parents should **call** school if they need to make changes to their child's schedule. For example, if you decide to pick up or drop off your child earlier or later than originally planned or would like to have your child stay for lunch it is requested you call the school. Staff is only able to check email periodically throughout the day and often important information is not received in a timely manner if email is the form of communication used. Thank you!!

Mother's Night Date Change

Mother's Night has been changed to Thursday, October 29, from 6-7:30 pm. A reminder and more information about the event will be sent home in your child's mailbag.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks for the 2009-2010 school year will be going on sale soon. More information will be coming home in your child's mailbag.

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) Barton, Byron - *Buzz, Buzz, Buzz*
- 2) Bemelmans, Ludwig – *Madeleine*
- 3) Berenstain, Stan & Jan – Any *Berenstain Bears* title
- 4) Bourgeois, Paulette- Any "*Franklin*" book
- 5) Brett, Jan – *The Mitten*
- 6) Bridwell, Norman – *Clifford the Big Red Dog*
- 7) Briggs, Raymond – *The Snowman*

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!

Items needed:

- 1) 52 inch square tablecloths for the school's annual tea party. Please only donate tablecloths that the school can keep.
- 2) Any type of basket to hold Montessori work.

October Calendar of Events

- 2 All Staff Inservice – School Closed
- 11 & 25 **SCRIP** Order Due
- 19 Board Meeting at 6:45pm at DMS.
All parents are welcome. No children please.
- 29 Mother's Night 6-7:30pm at DMS. **Please note this date has been changed from October 26 to October 29. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.**

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

Board Meeting Notes - September

- ❖ The teacher presentations were the highlight of the board meeting. Thank you teachers for sharing the following presentations:

Ms. Judy: Demonstrated how children are creating art from different mediums and then placing their work in mini photo albums.

Ms. Lisa: Students are discovering the relationship between artist and their art. The students then create their own unique version of the same art.

Ms. Beth: Gave an inspirational talk on Maria Montessori and how she developed her methods and went on to create schools and work that continue to have a world-wide influence.

Mr. James: Demonstrated table washing and explained how this work relates to language and many, many other aspects of Montessori work.

- ❖ Thank you to all who were able to make it to the Ice Cream Social. The event was really fun and had a great turnout on a beautiful day. Parent Club reported that they had 124 RSVPs!
- ❖ The board discussed that there are opening in extended day. Since this announcement, many have taken advantage of this great resource. Thank you! Please call the school @ 556-5101 with questions or to schedule.

Volunteer Thank Yous...

- ❖ A big thank you to Judy at Big Apple Bagel for the donation of weekly bagels for morning snack!
- ❖ Thank you to Gil Spence and the City of Dubuque for the new front doors and handicap accessible ramp at the school's front entrance.
- ❖ Thank you to Laura Leibfried and Parent Club for the Staff Inservice Luncheon provided in August.
- ❖ Thank you to Laura Leibfried and Parent Club for hosting the back-to school Ice Cream Social.