



dubuque **montessori** school

The Sandpaper Letter

September 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.

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year!!

Message from Our Director

Dear Families,

We extend a very warm welcome to all of our families and we thank you for your patience and understanding these first few days. We also apologize for the inconvenience created by the installation of our new front entrance. The work done was scheduled to be completed prior to the start of school. Unfortunately, we are somewhat at the mercy of the contractors so we had to make the best of it. We are very grateful to Gil Spence and the Dubuque Park and Recreation Department for our new doors and handicap accessible entrance!

The 2009-2010 school year marks the **41st anniversary of Dubuque Montessori**

School and we celebrate by dedicating the year to the YEAR of THE ARTS. In addition to all of the fundamentals of a Montessori experience, this year at Dubuque Montessori School, extra emphasis will be placed on the Arts.

Art is essential in a child's environment. Maria Montessori believed that while we can not "teach" a child to be an artist, we must help him to be "*an eye that sees, a hand that obeys and a soul that feels.*" The children this year will benefit from having a variety of art materials available to them and a space to work, uninterrupted, whenever they are inspired.

As Montessorians, we know the most impressionable lessons a child learns is from first-hand

experiences. This is what the Montessori classroom has always provided children. We invite you to come and share your artistic abilities with the children, be it in dance, painting, music, whatever, please give us a call, we look forward to parent involvement.

Thank you for joining us at Dubuque Montessori School and entrusting us with your very precious children, we truly consider it a privilege.

Sincerely,

Beth S. Gilbreath
Director

Fall Fundraiser Info

The **Fall Fundraiser** materials will be going out in mailbags soon. Personalized baking pans and candles will be available for purchase.

Both make great gifts, so please keep this in mind for holiday shopping. Look for the pans and candles at DMS where they will be on display.

Box Tops & Milk Caps Please remember to clip, save, and COLLECT General Mills Box Tops and Swiss Valley Milk Caps throughout the year for Dubuque Montessori School!

Our school receives approximately \$500 a year through these programs! **AND WE COULD RECEIVE EVEN MORE** if we **COLLECT MORE!** You can send Box Tops

or Milk Caps to DMS at anytime throughout the school year - the teachers collect them in each classroom.

Thank you!

Scrip Corner

Welcome back Montessori Families! This year is going to be a great one!

Our next Scrip order date is September 13. Please place your order online at shopwithscrip.com. The instructions to do this are in the packet you received in your child's mailbag. You also should have received a list of all the local retailers to choose from. However, there is a national list on shopwithscrip.com. If you have any questions or would like to order Scrip using paper form, just let me know. I am happy to help!

Please remember to bring your child's red mailbag back to school every week. You will find your Scrip order in the bag. If the mailbag is not on his/her hook, we will keep your order in the office or downstairs on the podium for you to come in and pick up.

This year we are placing "Standing Orders." This information is in the Scrip packet you should have received. I can place the same order for you over and over again. You don't have to worry about placing your order twice per month. If you place a

"standing order" before the end of September, you will have the chance to win \$50.00 in your favorite Scrip.

Please Notice

If you are ordering Scrip from Westside Fitness, please take note that there is now a listing for Westside Fitness and Westside Salon & Spa. Make sure to order the correct one.

Have a great September!
Laura Leibfried
563-599-7163
Sleibfried@yousq.net

Please be sure to look through the Scrip materials sent home in your child's mailbag.

Board of Directors' Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we'd like to welcome you to the start of a new school year. We are excited that our children will once again be in the nurturing, stimulating environment of Dubuque Montessori School. We are grateful you have chosen DMS for your child's early education and are confident your child will thrive here with the Montessori Method of learning.

As a not-for-profit, parent run school, DMS truly is YOUR school. We encourage you to get involved at whatever level you can. There are many opportunities - attending the fall social and parent events, shopping with SCRIP,

joining a committee, being a father reader, supporting our fundraisers, helping to maintain the building and grounds, or volunteering in the classroom or front office, just to name a few.

However you decide to share your time and talent, we are sure both you and your child will benefit from your contribution to DMS.

All parents are welcome to attend our board meetings which are held the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:45pm at school.

Our next meeting will be September 21, and will include presentations by our teachers.

Please note that there is an error on the school calendar; the Board meeting will be held Sept. 21 not Sept.14! Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Please feel free to contact any of the members of the board if you have questions about anything related to our school. We are looking forward to a great year at Dubuque Montessori!

2009-2010 Directors

Parent Officers

Molly Schreiber,
President

Carrie Gehl,
Vice President

Mariann Kurtz Weber,
Treasurer

Amy VanOtterloo,
Secretary

Parent Board Members

Trisha Hearn
Laura Leibfried
Teri Link
Christine Walleser-Ripperger
Jennifer Webber

Community Members

Lugene Berning
Kathy Kordell

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) Aardema, Verna - *Why Mosquitos Buzz in People's Ear*
- 2) Alborough, Jez - *Fix-It Duck*
- 3) Allard, Harry - *Miss Nelson is Missing*
- 4) Asch, Frank - Any "Moonbear" title
- 5) Aylesworth, Jim - *Old Black Fly*
- 6) Bang, Molly - *Ten, Nine, Eight*
- 7) Barrett, Judy - *Animals Should Definitely Wear*

Kids Care Club

Kids Care Club gives DMS children the opportunity to participate in a project that helps others. Last year, children collected small change for the project "Dimes for Disaster Relief" to aid the Cedar Valley Montessori School in Cedar Rapids which was damaged due to flooding in 2008. Thanks to the children's efforts, Cat Walker and her children, Lorelei and Eddie, were able to present Cedar Valley Montessori with a check for \$200 on behalf of Dubuque Montessori School.

Items Needed at DMS

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

Items needed: 1) metal baking pans - cake

2) can opener

September Calendar of Events

13 & 27 **SCRIP** Order Due

13 Ice Cream Social from 3:30-5:30 at Asbury Park. Please bring your own beverage. Free. All families invited to attend.

21 Board Meeting at 6:45pm at DMS. All parents are welcome; teachers will make presentations at this meeting. No children please.
*****Please note that there is an error on the school calendar; the Board meeting will be held Sept. 21 not Sept.14! Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.**

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.

26 Mother’s Night 6-7:30pm at DMS

Board Meeting Notes -

August

- ❖ The 4th Annual DMS Golf Outing was a great success. There were 73 participants in all. \$6,000 was raised – part of the profits goes to operating expenses and part goes to the building fund.
- ❖ Welcome to new teachers Allie Ross and Pat Wagner in the toddler room and Cat Walker in the 3-6-year-old classroom. Welcome to Sherri Schmitt who will be assisting Beth in the office. Welcome also to our new cook, Becky Booher.
- ❖ The board would like to recognize teachers Beth Duccini, James Vinopal, and Cat Walker who are currently completing the process to become Montessori certified.
- ❖ We look forward to seeing you all at the Ice Cream Social hosted by Parent Club on Sunday, September 13.

Volunteer Thank You...

- ❖ Thank you to Russ Kramer for cleaning our carpets.
- ❖ Thank you to Kate and James Haas who donated and installed the new doorbell. Thanks also to them for fixing the sink in the toddler room.
- ❖ Thank you to Teri Link for hosting the delicious staff/board luncheon.
- ❖ A HUGE THANK YOU to Rocky Junk and Loras Watters for all of their time and talents spent on the grounds of DMS! Rocky helped clean up the grounds by pulling weeds, cutting back bushes and putting down mulch that he so generously donated. Rocky and Loras also fixed the playground equipment.
- ❖ Thank you to Molly, Maggie, Jacob, and Maria Schreiber for pulling weeds and getting the playground cleaned up.
- ❖ Thank you to Teri, Tabitha, and Chaz Link for mowing, weed whipping, and spreading the mulch on the playground.
- ❖ Thank you to all families who helped with grounds clean up. It is appreciated!!

Reminders:

Please remember to turn in the \$10.00 Walgreen gift card for photo development, if you have not already done so. Supply fee, if not already paid, is also due in September. Thank you!

Please plan to attend the Parent Club Ice Cream Social at Asbury Park on Sunday, September 13, 3:30-5:30. Please bring your own beverage. Free!