

Newsletter

March 2007, Volume 7, Issue 7

McMinnville



Note from the Board

Welcome Spring!

It's nice to see the daffodils blooming in front of school!

I'd like to thank Maria and Leslie for giving us an amazing parent night in March. They covered the sensorial and geometry components of the Montessori method from Primary to Elementary. WOW. Every time I get an overview of one of the curriculum components, I am struck by how profound the materials truly are. The integration of shapes and colors, with ideas and concepts such as patterns, numbers, and spatial cognition is so remarkably thought out, no wonder our kids thrive in this environment. The life of a triangle is multifaceted in a Montessori classroom. I particularly enjoyed seeing how a shape box provides various lessons on geometry for kids beginning at 3 or 4 years of age and continuing in to Elementary. (Personally, I had to look up the terms congruent and scalene after I went home...) If you would like to see these materials yourself, mark your calendar now for the spring Parent/Child tea and get another great overview of geometry – this time, by your child directly. Of course as always, you are welcome to visit and observe the classroom at any time. Please let your teacher know when you would like to come.

The Board met this week and approved next year's budget, and also approved having a commercial appraisal done of our current building for financing the expansion. The school, as a non-profit, operates on a lean budget. We give careful consideration to all expenditures. As tuition is our main revenue, we (as parents obviously) prefer to keep tuition as low as possible. Next year's budget does include a tuition increase based on the cost of living index of the last 12 months. This increase allows us to give our staff a cost of living increase in their pay, as well as cover expenses such as utilities and insurance that also rise

Calendar of Events:

Spring Clean/PO meet	April 14
No School - in service	April 20
Board Meeting	May 2
Conferences - no school	May 3-4
All School Play	May 12

with the cost of living each year. We anticipate the extension to be paid for through our refinance and with the use of some of the fundraising proceeds of the last 3 years. The board also raised the sibling discount to 10%, this was based on a review of what other Montessori schools are offering.

We are also updating the minutes binder in the foyer to make sure all our recent meetings are covered. In general, we also post a copy of the minutes in the foyer after they have been approved. This usually is one month after the meeting as minutes are reviewed and approved each time. We are happy to have parents attend our meetings at any time, whether you have a concern or question, or are just interested in hearing what is being discussed. Board meetings are always the first Wednesday of the month, at 5:30, held at school. If you are unable to attend a meeting, but have questions or comments, please feel free to email or phone any board member. We use email on a regular basis to communicate amongst the board, and to hear input from parents and bring their ideas to the meetings.

Thank you parents for your continued support of our school.

Kim Sapunar

News from Primary

I wanted to encourage all the parents to take a few minutes, and come observe in your child's classroom. It answers so many questions, and in turn might give you others to ask. Here are some things that I observed one day.

Emma has the broad stairs on a rug. She is pretending that two of the thinner prisms are people. She is giving her 'people' voices.

Noah has finished a picture using the oil pastels. He places his picture on the art tray. He returns to the line at Megan's chair, while he is waiting he notices his hands are covered in a lot colors from the oil pastels. He is rubbing his fingers, and notices how the colors mix and change on his hands.

Eli is doing addition with the bead stairs. He is leaning over the beads counting them very carefully. He is concentrating so deeply, he does not seem to notice when another child puts part of their work on his table.

Alex has a water pouring activity at a table. He has a full glass of water in both hands. He is slowly and carefully bending down to reach his bucket. He successfully pour both glasses into the bucket without spilling a drop. As he stands he has a big smile.

Tucker has the moveable alphabet on a rug. He is writing a story about his favorite movie. As his words get close to the edge of his rug, he looks up puzzled. He catches my eye. I come to his rug, and tell him if he needs more room he is welcome to get another rug. He shakes his head in the affirmative, gives an "Oh!". He smiles, and returns to his story to finish making a word.

Sam is working with a color box. While he is removing the items, he notices something on his right hand. He carefully examines it then rubs the spot with his other hand. He seems happy with the results. He then places his right thumb in his mouth for a few seconds before returning to the removal of the color tablets.

I hope to see you in the observer's chair!

I also want to give a big Thank you to Andrew Bauer. He was a well mannered ambassador for our school, and received the privilege of being able to invite the extended day to the very first sneak peak of the new Imax! Way to go Andrew!!

Also, special thanks to Ayla and Mikayla for taking care of our fish during spring break.

Leslie

Fundraising Update

A quick fundraising update for the year:

All fundraisers this year combined have raised close to \$6000 for the year so far. The largest were our Valentine's dinner, raising approximately \$4,700, and our spring plant sale raising \$600.

We appreciate all the hard work and time spent by parents in our fundraising activities, and know that this money goes directly to enhance the school.

“To assist a child we must provide him with an environment which will enable him to develop freely.”

–Dr. Maria Montessori

News of All Sorts

Spring clean up

Come take out your IRS-tax filing day anxiety at our School cleaning on April 14th, Saturday from 9 to 2. We ask our families to try and participate in at least one cleaning each year, here is your spring chance. Some landscaping and general cleanup will be the main tasks.

Play and Parent Organization Meeting:

Immediately following the Saturday clean up will be a Play organization and PO meeting at school. This is the first meeting for parents who signed up and are interested in volunteering for the play. The date of the All School Play is May 12th, and will be held on the stage at Duniway Middle School. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Kelley.

Music

The Elementary class will be singing at Hillside on Tuesday April 17th, at 11:00. Permission slips have gone out to parents, and we can also use drivers. They have been practicing their repertoire of songs, and lyrics have been sent home for practicing. In addition, the Elementary class also attended the Portland Symphony before spring break, on March 2nd — a trip described as ‘awesome’ by attendees.

Taiko

The Sheridan Japanese School Taiko team visited and played their drums for both the

Primary and Elementary class on March 9th. The high school and middle school teams brought 6 BIG drums and performed a number of selections. They also let our students give the drums a try, and ask questions. Thanks Taiko Team!

Washington Mutual

We received \$57.38 from Washington Mutual—this is part of their WaMoola program. If you use a Washington Mutual ATM, they will donate directly to the school every time you use your card. See their website: www.wamoolaforschools.com for more info. Best part, It costs you NOTHING!

Snow Days

No additional school days will be added to the school calendar because of snow days this winter. This is referenced in the Parent Handbook if you would like more information. The Last day of school remains: June 14th.

Swimming

The final swimming session begins for the Elementary class on April 24th. They will swim on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a total of ten sessions. We always welcome carpool help for swimming, please email the school if you can drive, or talk to Maria.

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We are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit

**Cultivating the Desire
to Learn**

Please contribute to future newsletter issues.

*Contact Kim Sapunar with your ideas and
articles.*

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