

Newsletter

March 2008, Volume 8, Issue 6

McMinnville



Note from the Board

Dear Families,

We give a standing ovation to our Parent Organization for planning, organizing and creating our Valentine's Day event. It was well attended by the community, beautifully arranged and a very successful evening. The biggest thanks goes to Andrea Bauer and Leslie Kelley who took care of hundreds of details in the planning and production over the last many months. Many other parents helped including Tammy Wilson, BJ Larmouth, Brad Kelley, Kaarina Beam, Amy Emory, Heather Frost, Stephanie Jensen, Kendal Carter, and Jessica Grell. A big thank you to Mary Stern who single handedly brought in most of the wine donations. We thank you for all your time and effort supporting the school. We also thank the many local businesses and vendors who made donations toward the raffle items. There were over 15 raffle packages ranging from wine collections to weekend travel trips, all worth hundreds of dollars.

The evening made over \$4,000 for the school, but more importantly showcased our school in a wonderful way, as a vibrant part of the local community. The McMinnville Montessori School is coming into its 25th year, having been founded in 1983. We provide a unique and exceptional educational experience for children ages 3 to 12, unlike any other school in the community. All our fundraising goes directly to support the school, in materials, improvements and construction.

The board is currently working on the budget for next school year. We have a draft version and

Calendar of Events:

Parent Night	March 13
Spring Break	March 24-28
Board Meeting	April 2
Parent Org. Meeting	April 7
In Service no school	April 11
Parent Conf -no sch	April 25

plan to finalize it in the next 2 weeks. Parents are always welcome to board meetings, but if you can't make a meeting time, feel free to talk with any board member about ideas or interests that you may have. In general, the board addresses issues about the budget, school operations, long-term goals, and administration, but are happy to hear about any topic.

Board meetings are always the first Wednesday of each month, at 5:30 pm at school, the next meeting is April 2nd. Generally meetings run about 2 hours long.

Also upcoming is Parent Night, on Thursday March 13th. Parent nights are run by the teachers and give you an opportunity to learn more about what your child does every day at school. This spring's meeting will talk about Montessori at Home, and will also have guest speaker Dr. Linda Meloche who will discuss nutrition. Please join us at 7:00 pm.

Many thanks,
Kim Sapunar
971-241-1423
k.sapunar@comcast.net

Parent Night

Parent night is hosted directly by our teachers. The topic at the spring meeting is "Montessori at Home".

Our teachers present materials, routines, and examples of some of the principles of Montessori teaching methods.

In addition, we have guest speaker Dr. Linda Meloche, who will be speaking on nutrition. She is an acupuncturist and works with traditional Chinese medicine. Linda also has a BS in Biology and Human Nutrition.

Thursday, March 13th, 7 – 8:30 pm
Childcare will be available and will be limited to 15 children. The sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

New Siding

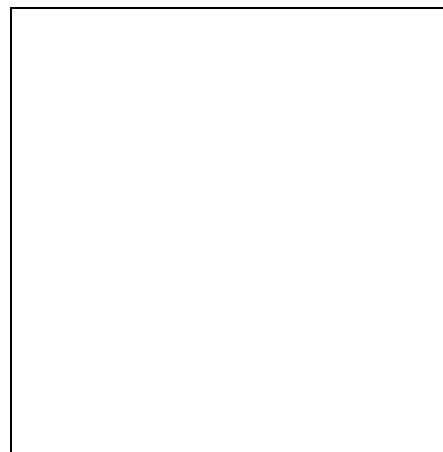
Many thanks again to Steve Beam for providing new siding for the last 2 sides of the school building at cost. We greatly appreciate the Beam's generous donation, which has allowed us some much-needed repairs at a wonderfully reasonable price.

Expansion Update!

The expansion is looking great and coming along nicely! See for yourself!

First Federal Savings:

Each year, First Federal sends out a voting card to its account holders asking which Non-profits to support. If our school receives 10 votes, we get a donation. Please write us in on your postcard.



“We especially need imagination in science. It is not all mathematics, nor all logic, but it is somewhat beauty and poetry.” -- Dr. Maria Montessori

What makes our school unique?

As we enter our 25th year as the McMinnville Montessori School,

Here is an excerpt from the site:

<http://montessorimom.com/> about the heart of Montessori:

The Montessori Method is a way about thinking about who children are. It is a philosophy that respects the unique individuality of each child. Dr. Montessori believed in the worthiness, value and importance of children. Her method does not compare a child neither to norms nor standards that are measured by traditional educational systems. It is founded on the belief that children should be free to succeed and learn without restriction or criticism.

It is also an approach to education that takes to heart the needs, talents, gifts, and special individuality of each child. It is a process that helps children learn in their own way at their own pace. The main concept of Montessori is to promote the joy of learning. This joy of learning develops a well adjusted person who has a purpose and direction in his or her life. Children, who experience the joy of learning, are happy, confident, fulfilled children. In essence, Montessori helps bring forth the giftedness of each child.

Another important skill it teaches is self-reliance and independence. It helps a child to become independent by teaching him or her life skills, which is called practical life. Montessori children learn to dress themselves, help cook, put their toys and clothes away and take an active part of their household, neighborhood and school.

Montessori works in a methodical way. Each step in the process leads to the next level of

learning. When a child plays, he or she is really learning concepts for later learning. Repetition of activities is an integral part of this learning process.

For young children Montessori is a hands-on approach to learning. It encourages children to develop their observation skills by doing many types of activities. These activities include use of the five senses, kinetic movement, spatial refinement, small and large motor skill coordination, and concrete knowledge that leads to later abstraction.

For a grade school child, Montessori encourages a child to proceed at his or her own pace onto abstract thinking, writing, reading, science, mathematics and most importantly, to absorb his or her culture and environment. Culture includes interaction with nature, art, music, religion, societal organizations and customs.

Most of all, Montessori wanted to help free a child's mind to be unfettered to learn without any negative input. It is success oriented in that almost everything is self-teaching and self-correcting. The children learn by doing and by experimentation. The environment is specifically prepared for the children to allow them to interact with it freely and unfettered, everything is child sized, and safe for children to touch and use. In fact, Dr. Montessori called her center "The Children's House".

The main goal of Montessori is to provide a stimulating, child-oriented environment that children can explore, touch, and learn without fear. An understanding parent or teacher is a large part of this child's world. The end result is to encourage life long learning, the joy of learning, and happiness about one's path and purpose in life.

McMinnville Montessori

1101 Brook St.
McMinnville, OR 97128

Phone:

(503) 434-5081

E-Mail:

mcmont@viclink.com

Website:

www.mcminnvillemontessori.com

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.*

Board Members:

Kim Sapunar	k.Sapunar@comcast.net
Bob Suchy	RobertFSuchy@verizon.net
Amanda Marshall	amanda.marshall@state.or.us
Dave Larmouth:	DLarmouth@westernoregonwaste.com
Brad Kelley	kelleyb21@wildblue.net

Parent Organization Officers:

Leslie Kelley	leslie@gflag.com
Andrea Bauer	moku@msn.com
Jessica Grell	jjgrell4@comcast.net
Kendal Carter	kendalcarter@msn.com

Staff:

Maria Eustrom	eustrom@yahoo.com
Leslie Scott	iandiana@embarqmail.com

School email: mcmont@viclink.com

McMinnville Montessori School
1101 Brooks Street
McMinnville, OR 97128