

# Newsletter

March 2010, Volume 10, Issue 5



## Note from the Board

Dear Families,

We welcome Stewart Stout to the Board as a new member. Stewart is now a parent alumnus, but had his two children at the school in Primary and Elementary for over ten years. We are glad to have his experience on the board and thank him for participating.

We give a standing ovation to Andrea Bauer for planning, organizing and creating our Valentine's Day event. It was well attended by the community, beautifully arranged and a successful evening. In particular we would like to specially thank Del Smith and Evergreen International whose great generosity made our event possible. We also would like to thank Diane McMillen for using all her contacts to get us wine, Sue Delventhal for tirelessly finding hotels, Jorge Chavez for his Bergstrom donation, Bergstrom Winery, Peggy Hoageland from Venables Art, Heather Frost, Archery Summit, Sol et Soleil Winery, Linda Mason, A to Z Wine, Coeur de Terre Vineyard, Scott and Lisa Neal, and so many other families who contributed time, wine and other items. Many thanks for your help and donations.

The evening importantly showcased our school in a wonderful way, as a vibrant part of the local community. The McMinnville Montessori School is over 25 years old, 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

## Calendar of Events:

Parent Night	March 11
Spring Break	March 22-26
Board Meeting	April 7
No School, In-Service	April 16
No School, P/T Conferences	April 30

next school year. We have a draft version and plan to finalize it in the next month. Parents are always welcome to attend 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 7th. Generally meetings run about 2 hours long.

Also upcoming is Parent Night, on Thursday, March 11th.

Many thanks,  
Kim Sapunar  
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**Daylight Savings Time**  
Sun 3/14/10.  
Set Clocks 1hr forward.



## News from the Teachers

Since the beginning of the school year, Michelle Finley, as been an assistant in the Primary classroom. Recently, she accepted a new position as our Primary After School Care Teacher. Michelle joined our school with a degree in Early Childhood Education and was a Nanny for several years. We are excited to have her as the Primary ASC Teacher with new, creative ideas for craft projects. Please give a warm welcome when you see her.

## FUNDRAISING

With our Valentines Day Dinner behind us we have raised 1/4 of our \$25,000 goal. Our upcoming fundraisers are a ***Bullwinkle's*** family fun day on ***April 10th***, a ***plant sale*** extravaganza where everything will be below retail on ***May 1st and 2nd*** and the ***fireworks fundraiser the week before July 4th***. More information will be coming on each of these individual fundraisers but please mark you calendars!

***Please remember to have an extra change of clothes (or more as needed) at school for your Primary child. Please take into consideration the changing weather conditions.***

***To ensure you child is protected from the sun, at school during outside play, you may apply sunscreen at home prior to the start of school. Sun hats are also a great form of protection.***

## Parent Night

Parent night is hosted directly by our teachers. Our teachers present materials, routines, and examples of some of the principles of Montessori teaching methods.

In addition, we have a guest speaker.

Topic:

"Safe Kids; Child Abuse Prevention"

**Thursday, March 11th,  
6:30 to 7:30 pm**

Childcare will be available and will be limited to 15 children. The sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

## SOCIAL EVENT

### Cirque du Soleil; KOOZA

All are invited; family, friends, etc.

Discounted tickets for Cirque du Soleil - If you would like to attend, please sign-up and prepay no later than

**Wednesday, March 17th.**

Cash, check, and credit accepted (Visa, MC, Discover). Payable to MMS.

Group rate sales are for **Friday, May 7th, 4pm** showing  
(No School-P/T Conferences)

**LEVEL ONE** Ticket Prices for 20 or more:

\$57 Adults (reg. \$75-\$85)

\$41 Children (2-12, Under 2 free) (reg. \$52-\$59)

\$52 Students (13+, school ID required) (reg. \$67-\$76)

\$52 Seniors (65+) (reg. \$67-\$76)

**THANKS TO KISHORE PATHIAL FOR THE DONATION WE RECEIVED FROM WILAMETTE MEDICAL CENTER. THE DONATION WILL GREATLY BENEFIT OUR SCHOOL.**

"The elementary child has reached a new level of development. Before he was interested in things: working with his hands, learning their names. Now he is interested mainly in the how and why..... the problem of cause and effect." -- Dr. Maria Montessori

### What makes our school unique?

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.

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### *Parent Organization News*

The Parents Organization would like to thank Andrea Bauer and Jessica Grell for the wonderful Valentine's Dinner and Dance. We appreciate their hard work and dedication in putting on this fundraising evening for our school. We would also like to thank the parents that assisted with envelop stuffing, poster and rack card hanging, donation calls, silent auction item organizing, ticket sales, and the event set-up and take down. For those of you who attended the event thank you for your support. It was a very special evening.

We encourage families to sign up to attend Cirque du Soleil/KOOZA at reduced ticket prices (with a group of twenty or more individuals). The event is on Friday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm in Portland. Please pre-pay before March 17<sup>th</sup>, so Tammy can reserve the seats for our school at the discounted prices. This will be a show your family will be talking about for some time. Known for their fabulous costumes and sets, amazing theatrics and acrobatics, and wonderful music - you will not be disappointed. We would like to thank Kimya Nguyen for suggesting this idea for a new social outing for our families to participate in.

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**Cultivating the Desire  
to Learn**

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*Please contribute to future newsletter issues.  
Contact Kim Sapunar with your ideas and  
articles.*

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