

Newsletter

October/November 2009, Volume 10, Issue 2

McMinnville



Note from the Board

Dear Families,

I'd like to thank our staff for hosting Parent night, and thanks also to those families who attended. Parent night is always a great opportunity to hear directly from our teachers about how the classroom is structured and how your child works and thrives in this environment. If you were not able to attend, or have questions about the classroom, the curriculum, the routine or anything else, please feel free to ask our teachers directly. Teachers are generally available just before and after school hours, or you may email them directly, or call and they can return your call when they have a break from the classroom.

Also a big thanks to our Parent Organization for organizing the outing to the Pumpkin patch – always a favorite of kids, look for more outside school events each month, the Parent Organization is trying to schedule an activity for each month. Contact Sue Delventhal if you have any ideas or questions about social activities.

One of the changes that we have made this year has been with our Fundraising organization. This year, we have Andrea Bauer working specifically as our fundraising coordinator, with Jessica Grell as her assistant. In this way, they are fielding the bulk of the contact and organizational aspect of the events that the school will be conducting. The board and staff made this decision in order to free up some of the time consuming commitment and (frankly) boring aspect of fundraising. We would like our families to participate in our fundraisers enthusiastically, but without feeling that they get burned out on either the details or the enormity of the events. It is with this new arrangement in mind that I ask you to start thinking about who you would like to bring to our Valentine's Dinner and Dance – please mark the date down on your calendars now, and think about who in the community you would bring to this showcase event. We hope that you will

Calendar of Events:

Pumpkin Patch	Oct 24
Board Meeting	Nov 4
Parent/Child Tea	Nov 6
No School	Nov 11
Bowling	Nov 14
Winterhawks Night	Nov 15
No School	Nov 25-27

show your support for the school in our community in the strongest of ways, with your presence at our premier event. In this economic downturn, we have been able to NOT raise tuition, and we hope that with successful fundraising this school year, and a tight budget, we will be able to keep our costs and expenses down. Andrea and Jessica are also working on a spring plant sale sometime in May, as well as a firework tent sale next summer. Of course we have other smaller fundraisers spread out over the year – including the current one of Sally Foster. Remember that all fundraising profit goes directly to support the school.

The playground got a boost, new monkey bars thanks to the hard work of our Parent organization last year – Yeah!

The board meets the first Wednesday of each month at the school, beginning at 5:30pm. Generally, meetings last 2 to 3 hours. Parents are always welcome to attend. We always have a place on the agenda for parent issues or concerns. Issues or questions aside, we like to have parent input. If you are unable to attend meetings, you can always contact any board member with your ideas or comments, and we always appreciate hearing from you.

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

Beginning next month, all newsletters will be available on the school website. One hard copy will be posted in foyer.

MMS wants to make every effort in reducing the use of paper. Please visit the school website frequently to keep up-to-date on what's happening at school.

PRIMARY – from Leslie

When writing for the newsletter, it's always a challenge as to where to begin.....so.

This year's class is meshing into a very cohesive group. Our new students are having an easier time of transitioning from home to school. They are gaining confidence in the structure of the school day.

The returning students have become excellent mentors who model beautiful classroom behavior.

As a whole we have been learning about bats and spiders. We have also been noticing the change of the season. We have had some wonderful autumn leaves for sharing.

Speaking of sharing, the children have been bringing some very interesting rocks, shells, drawings and books. Remember as a parent, if you have an interesting hobby or specialty that you could share with us, please let me know.

The Extended Day has been exploring the parts of the plant and the elements of lists, stories and reports. We are reading Charlotte's Web. They have also taken on a larger role in the care and up keep of the classroom.

ELEMENTARY –from Maria

If you peek into the Elementary classroom you will find a place that is buzzing with activity.

The children are exploring the different areas of the classroom, working hard on the lessons they have had or working together on projects or reports.

The Upper Elementary is working on making a timeline about the Cenozoic Era together with Mike Full. Another group has completed an in-depth report about the Fungus kingdom.

The whole class is working on botany, learning about parts of the plant and types of fruit.

The children are responsible for keeping the class room in order, clean the bathrooms, help with the dishes, fold and put away the school's laundry. They do a great job and I hope you as parents, utilize their help at home.

This week we started swimming lessons. The children do a half hour of lessons and half hour of free time.

We would like to start serving salad again on Fridays. If you are interested in bringing in salad please let me know.

There have been several cases of the **FLU VIRUS** circulating school. Common symptoms include fever, cold-like symptoms, and upset stomach. PLEASE REMEMBER, children must be symptom free for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school.

“The child becomes a person through work.” -- Dr. Maria Montessori

News from the Parent Organization

Dear Families,

Hope you are all getting outside to enjoy the beautiful colors this fall! This is the perfect time to take a walk, collect leaves, and make a collage with them. We have several at our house.

The Parents Organization is looking for ideas for our “Winter Social Event”. The event will be in early December or early January. This should be an enjoyable event that both primary and elementary children and their families can participate in. Please share your ideas with the PO officers (our email addresses are listed on the last page of this newsletter). We would like to start planning the event soon.

Thank you,

Sue Delventhal
PO President



**Any and all school
closures will be posted
on the school website.
School Closures are
also announced on our
local AM radio station
1260 KLYC**

**Please remember, no Halloween
costumes or Halloween candy at
school.**

**Please use email or snail mail,
rather than parent folders for Party
invitations.**

Sally Foster: Gift wrap sales are now ongoing. The school receives 50% of all the sales from this catalog. In addition, if your friends and family use the www.sallyfoster.com website to order directly, our school will also receive 50% of their purchase.

At the website, put in our school code #62086. Any purchases made during the school year will benefit the school.

***MMS invites you to
Parent/Child Tea Friday,
November 6th, 6:30-8pm
at the school. This is your child's
opportunity to show you some very
special classroom work. Come
explore your child's world together.
Additional information and a sign-up
sheet for times will be posted in each
classroom's foyer window. We also
need families to sign-up to bring
refreshments/finger foods (i.e.
veggies, cheese & crackers, fruit) for
the tea. A sign-up sheet has been
posted in the foyer for your
convenience.***

McMinnville Montessori

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**Cultivating the Desire
to Learn**

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

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Parent Organization Officers:

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Staff:

Maria Eustrom eustrom@yahoo.com
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School email: learning@mcminnvillemontessori.com

Easy Fundraising Programs:

1. **Box Tops and Soup Labels:** We collect the 10 cent box tops and Campbell's soup labels all year long, collection boxes are in the foyer. Also, if you shop online, you can go the website first, and then click on your retail choice, a percentage goes to the school when you sign up.
<http://www.boxtops4education.com/>
2. **Ink Jet Cartridges:** The school receives \$2 per empty ink jet cartridge that we send in, as well as keeping those containers out of the landfill! Collection box in the foyer.
3. **Amazon.com:** Start at our website www.McMinnvilleMontessori.com and then click to fundraising/Amazon – a portion of your sale goes to the school, no strings attached, doesn't cost you extra. This is a great way for friends or family outside of the community to help support the school – don't forget your holiday shopping this way too!
4. **Escrip.com:** Start at our website www.McMinnvilleMontessori.com and then click to fundraising/Escrip – a portion of your sale goes to the school, no strings attached, doesn't cost you extra. This is a great way for friends or family outside of the community to help support the school – don't forget your holiday shopping this way too!