



The Summer Edition

Wilmington Montessori School

Issue 1

www.wmsde.org

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Kudos to Co-op!

Here are some highlights of the MANY things that were accomplished this year thanks to parent participation through the Co-op Program.

Our families provided refreshments and support for numerous events, including the Family Picnic, International Children's Day, The Journey, special meetings, Community Coffees, the Book Fair, the Rummage Sales, the Vendor Fair, Grandfriends Day, Moms Day, Dads Day, Alumni Pizza Party, Sixth Grade Fundraising events, Golden Gala and Auction, Board Visitation Day, 5K/Wellness Fair, Graduation Breakfast, Field Days and the Camp Picnic.

The talents of our families brought WMS a new mural in the Diversity Corner, coordinated the yearbook, distributed the Wednesday Weekly, supervised the school store, purchased and distributed supplies, maintained the Lost n' Found center and assisted with student birthday cards.

Music, Art, French, PE and Extended Day programs were supported with event prep, after school programs and teacher assistance.

Maintenance support included landscaping and gardening assistance, painting, cleaning, repairs and re-organizing.

Teachers and their classes benefited from parent support with communication, parties,

Mark Your Calendars:

August 22: WMS Family Picnic
Bellevue State Park, 6pm

September 4: First Day of School!

September 11: Back-to-School/Curriculum Night
Infant, Toddler & 9-12 programs
7pm

materials making, special visitors and projects, field trips, shopping and so much more!

Administrators, office staff, and the school nurse appreciated parent assistance with mailings, copying and collating, picture day and special testing days.

Committees and groups such as the Board of Directors, Diversity Advisory Committee, Marketing & Admissions Committee, Grant Writing Committee, Parent Ambassadors and Homeroom Parents made great contributions to WMS.

WMS parents are so involved in the school community that it is impossible to recognize all of their contributions. If we left something out, we apologize! Your interest and support are, as always, much appreciated!

New Faces at WMS:

Leanne Alexandrini, Director of Early Childhood Program - Leanne is an accomplished Montessorian; in addition to her degrees in psychology and education, she has Montessori certification from birth to age 9. Leanne has held positions as a preschool and 6-9 teacher at Montessori Corner in NJ. Prior to that, Leanne worked at the Children's Harbor Preschool in NY as a teacher and Director. Leanne is currently teaching at the Hudson County Community College where she is a tenured instructor teaching courses in psychology, special education, literacy, infant and toddler curriculum and classroom management. She will officially assume her new role on August 20th.

Beth Reaves, Admissions & Community Relations Director - Beth has significant marketing experience, both in the corporate framework and as an outside consultant, and an appreciation for education. Recently, Beth served as an adjunct faculty member of the Marketing Department at Rowan University and is currently pursuing her doctorate in business administration. Beth also has a clear understanding and passion for Montessori – her daughter is a graduate of the Children's Montessori Schoolhouse in Woodbury and Beth has spent significant time sharing her talents with that school on a volunteer basis. Beth's first day will be August 20th.

Junque-N-Treasures...

Get ready to set "Sale" on November 3rd

We've sold everything from rakes and shovels to designer gowns and jewelry. You never know what you're going to find at one of our sales!

The WMS Junque-N-Treasures Rummage Sale will set "sale" once again on Saturday, November 3rd (pre-sale on November 1st!) and have already received a windfall of donations. The POD arrives on August 22nd, so bring us your donations – please, only your best "junque" (new, like new, or in "gently used" condition).

If you have any items you wish to donate, contact Nancy Sakaguchi (302/475-4162 or nansak@yahoo.com) or Jennifer Burns (jennifer_burns@wmsde.org). PLEASE let us know **before** you drop off since the POD will need to be unlocked.

See you in the fall... your treasure awaits!



WMS Family Picnic
Bellevue State Park
Wednesday, August 22
6 pm

(in the picnic area between the parking lot
and the track)
6-7:45 pm (park closes at dusk)

*Reminder: there is an entrance fee to the park
\$3.00 per car (DE); \$6.00 for out-of-state cars*

*Families should bring their own dinners and
desserts;
WMS will provide beverages.*

Visit with teachers and old friends!
Make new friends!

Preparing WMS Students for the Technology Age

Thanks to the generosity of the Laffey-McHugh Foundation, the Crystal Trust and the Marmot Foundation, Wilmington Montessori School has launched the first phase of our technology initiative. By unifying our technological capabilities, we will improve the educative experience of our students and strengthen the school as a whole.

As you walk through our hallways this fall, you will see signs of our technology initiative. You'll notice that all classrooms are now equipped with digital cameras. We've added 26 new laptops to our inventory so far, replacing many of the computers in elementary classrooms and redeploying those that could be used elsewhere in the school. In addition, we've created a portable learning lab of 18 laptops for classroom projects that require greater simultaneous access to computers. These will be a shared resource for the entire school community. Our teachers have received enhanced training and we have made critical improvements to our technology infrastructure.

Increasing our technological capabilities will allow WMS to enhance the educative experience of our students, exposing them to new ways to research, gather, analyze, and share information in the local and global community. Through increased access to technology, children will advance the academic and cognitive skills that have traditionally been fostered at WMS. In addition, children will acquire specific critical technology-related skills, assuring that they are well-suited for the Technology Age.

And this is just the beginning! We have more enhancements planned as we seek additional funding for this initiative, including more computers, software, another learning lab and incorporating projection technology in more classrooms. In addition, we will build a technology endowment to provide ongoing support for training, maintenance and enhancements. For more information on our technology initiative, please contact David Shilt at david_shilt@wmsde.org.



Helping Hands

The WMS Diversity Advisory Committee will once again collect much needed items for families served by the Westside Health Clinic in Wilmington.

The theme for September is "school supplies," so while you are shopping for backpacks, pencils and such for your child, please consider purchasing some extra things to share with children who might otherwise have to do without. There is a collection box in the front lobby.

For more information about Helping Hands, please contact Amanda Lewis at aamlewis@hotmail.com. For more information about the Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC), please contact Leslie Bastianelli at leslie@bastianelligroup.com.

Wilmington Montessori School is a collaborative learning community rooted in Montessori principles, inspiring the joyful discovery of self and a passion for learning and independent thinking. We empower children to be knowledgeable and responsible contributors to the global community.

The community of Wilmington Montessori School develops each individual's human potential to be a responsible contributor to the global community by focusing on the development of character, leadership, thinking skills, knowledge, life management skills, creative and artistic abilities, and social responsibility through the model of C.A.R.E.S: Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self-Control.