



Wilmington Montessori School



SPECIAL GRADUATION EDITION

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY

Congratulations, Class of 2011!



Luke Bastianelli

Hagan Beatson

Deirdre Buckmaster

Christopher Cooke

Jacob Farabaugh

Grant Hartman

Bobby Jeffers

Matthew Kalin

Elena Kirifides

Beatrice Lintner

Juliana Looney

SunHi Moore

Anna Morrione

Alexa Rhodunda

Lillia Schmidt

Ryann Schutt

Becky Siple

Enaas Sultan

On Friday, June 3, 2011, the Wilmington Montessori School community celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2011.

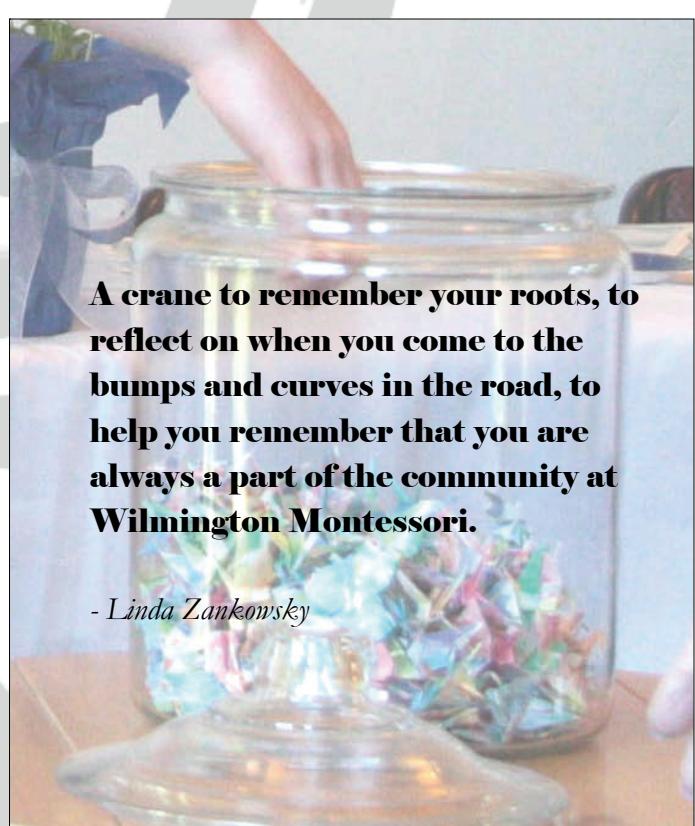
Eighteen sixth-graders, many of whom have attended WMS most of their lives, gathered first for a breakfast with their families in the Great Room. The breakfast's theme, *Hakuna Matata* (a Swahili phrase meaning "No worries"), was chosen by the fifth-graders, who also baked, helped with decorations including the giant silver *Hakuna Matata* symbol that hung on the wall above the graduates as they ate and served the breakfast to their graduating friends and their families.



During the breakfast, Leanne Alexandrini, Director of Educational Programs, awarded each graduate with a special certificate. The certificates recognized each student for his or her unique gifts, ranging from artistic talent to mathematic skills to outstanding knowledge of Harry Potter.



Following the distribution of the certificates, WMS's specials teachers presented graduates with their graduation posters. In April, staff members thoughtfully designed each poster, creating collages of the sixth-grader's interests, personality, talents and growth during their time at WMS.



As the breakfast drew to a close, Kelly Rhodunda led the group in "This School," and each graduate picked out a paper crane from the jar that was filled during the first assembly of the school year by each WMS student and teacher. "Each crane represents our hope for peace and that each person placing a crane in the jar is an important part of our community," explained Head of School Linda Zankowsky.

At 10 a.m., the WMS Class of 2011 began to make their way into the gym for the graduation ceremony.

Each sixth-grader received applause from family, friends and WMS staff as he or she entered the gym and walked proudly toward the stage.

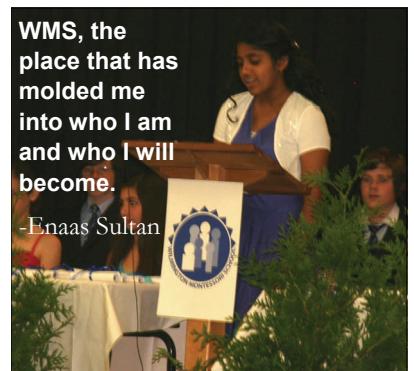
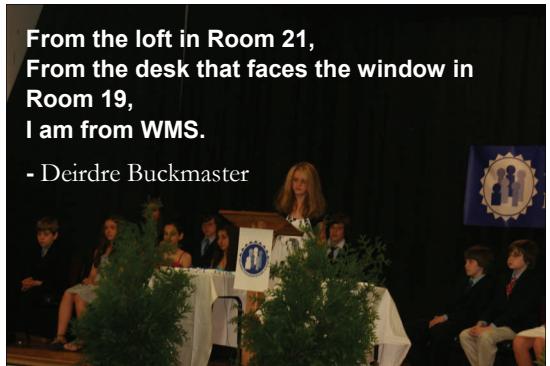


After the Class of 2011 was assembled, Linda welcomed the graduates and audience to the ceremony and thanked the graduating class for their contributions to the WMS community:

"You have brought energy to the school with the Save the Rain project; Spirit Week; your work with Student Council; and the joy, laughter and sense of community between you that is a pleasure for all of us, as teachers and adults, to watch."

Following her welcome speech, Linda then introduced the Class of 2011 slideshow. There were damp eyes, as well as laughter, as images of each graduate as he or she grew through the years filled the screen.

Next, members of the Class of 2011 took center stage, each reading a poem entitled "Where I'm From."



Save the Rain Project

Before diplomas were presented, Anna Morrione and Enaas Sultan shared a few words of gratitude toward the WMS community for their help with the Class of 2011's fundraising project. The class selected Save the Rain as their organization after attending the Global Citizenship Action Project conference in New York and listening to a variety of presentations for non-profits. By hosting Spirit Week, providing a "tip jar" for donations and distributing "vocabulary brackets" for 25 cents each, the six-graders raised more than \$1,300, providing clean water and agricultural education to more than 92 people in African Villages.

"Without your assistance," said Anna and Enaas, "none of this would have been possible."



After the sixth-graders completed their presentations, the moment everyone was waiting for arrived – it was time for the presentation of diplomas...



...followed by the presentation of WMS's traditional graduation baskets by family and friends of the Class of 2011, who joined them on stage!



Reflections

As the sixth-grade class prepared for graduation, Linda had lunch with the group to hear their reflections on their time at WMS. Some of these students have been here since they were infants and toddlers, while others joined WMS during their elementary years. She asked them to complete the sentence: "Mom and Dad, thank you for sending me to Wilmington Montessori because..."

- Everyone is accepted for who they are here.
- You are encouraged to try anything at least once.
- It is safe.
- I learned to manage my time here.
- I learned how to learn.
- I had the freedom to learn.
- I had a home away from home.
- I just want to say how much I enjoyed being here.
- I learned all I need to know here.

And finally – it is “just a great place – you are always a part of it.”

The WMS community wishes the Class of 2011 the best in their future personal and academic pursuits. As Linda reminded us all, "You will always have a home at WMS."

**Members of the Class of 2011
are proudly going on to the
following schools:**

- Cab Calloway School of the Arts
- Garnet Valley Middle School
- P.S. duPont Middle School's Gifted Program
- Springer Middle School
- Talley Middle School's International Baccalaureate Program
- The Tatnall School
- Wilmington Friends School



Our Mission

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.

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