



# Wilmington Montessori School



## WEDNESDAY WEEKLY

### WMS Launches *Community of Giving* Annual Fund

Each year, families, alumni, grandparents, faculty, staff and other friends contribute to the WMS Annual Fund, providing important operations support for our school.

#### They give:

- ... to a community dedicated to the full enrichment of children;
- ... to curricula guided by the proven success of the Montessori educational philosophy;
- ... to hands-on experiential learning;
- ... to exquisitely prepared classrooms;
- ... to thoughtful and observant teachers, informed in the latest educational practices;
- ... to caring and experienced assistants, who ease transitions for children throughout the day;
- ... to Extended Day staff who provide creative outlets for those students whose day begins before the morning meeting or doesn't end after dismissal;
- ... to maintain a 25-acre campus and 67,000 square foot building designed for Montessori education;
- ... to **Wilmington Montessori School.**

Independent schools like Wilmington Montessori rely on charitable gifts to enhance each student's educational experience and actively fundraise each year to build annual and other funds. As an important component of our operating revenue, gifts to the Annual Fund touch every child at Wilmington Montessori. Last year, 63% of parents contributed to the Annual Fund. This year, we seek to grow our *Community of Giving* to at least 70% of all parents participating and raise more than \$80,000 through our Annual Fund.

An easy way to make a gift to the *Community of Giving* Annual Fund is to go online at [www.wmsde.org/howtogive](http://www.wmsde.org/howtogive) (also available behind the Parent Portal!), or look for the *Community of Giving* envelopes around school or in your mail. Have questions about how to make a gift to WMS? Contact Jenn Burns, Director of Advancement, at [jennifer\\_burns@wmsde.org](mailto:jennifer_burns@wmsde.org).

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Dec. 2            Simplicity Parenting Book Group  
Room 4
- Dec. 6            Montessori Monday  
Tell a friend!  
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Contact: [theresa\\_conaty@wmsde.org](mailto:theresa_conaty@wmsde.org)
- Dec. 7            Diversity Advisory Committee Meeting  
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Library
- Dec. 8            WMS Open House  
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
R.S.V.P. at the Front Desk
- Dec. 13           Montessori Monday  
Tell a friend!  
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
Contact: [theresa\\_conaty@wmsde.org](mailto:theresa_conaty@wmsde.org)
- Dec. 15           Diversity Advisory Committee Storytelling  
3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. in the Great Room
- Dec. 17           Five-Day Preschool Concert  
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in the Gym
- Dec. 22           5-9 Program Holiday Concert  
9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. in the Gym
- Dec. 23–Jan. 2   Winter Break - Classes resume Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### 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.





Congratulations to Marina Garagozzo, a student in the 7-9 year old program, who will appear in her dance school's production of "The Nutcracker" on December 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> at the Scottish Rite Theater in Collingswood, New Jersey. While Marina's dance school performs "The Nutcracker" every year, this will be her first year in the show, with appearances in two scenes.

Visit <http://www.triciasloandance.com/> for more information and [www.tix.com](http://www.tix.com) for tickets.

### American Montessori Society (AMS) & Middle States (CES-MSA) Reaccreditation Visit

Pat Felton, Chair of the AMS/Middle States visiting team, gave a brief summary of insights from their visit to WMS and outlined the next steps moving toward re-accreditation.

"You have every reason to have a big piece of cake," she said, pointing at our celebratory treat at the back of the room. "You were prepared....we were enamored."

The Team commended WMS for its dedicated staff, enthusiastic Board of Trustees, collaborative decision-making process, facility designed with Montessori best practices in mind, effective communications and a demonstrated commitment to keeping the child at the center of all decision-making. Thanks to everyone for a job well done!

The Team is now finalizing a 25-page report on WMS which will be delivered to AMS and ultimately a Commission Member. That Commission member will review our self-study and the Team's report before making a recommendation regarding re-accreditation to the AMS Board, which is the entity that ultimately reaccredits schools. We anticipate having a decision on reaccreditation by next summer.

### Parent Portal



#### Where can you:

- See videos of students at work?
- View songs to practice at home?
- Learn about upcoming events?
- Catch up on classroom notes?

Try visiting "French With Fabienne" in WMS's new Parent Portal! It's a great resource for parents with kids taking French at WMS, or just getting a taste of this dynamic and enriching program taking place at our school. Make sure to take a look! For information on getting to the portal, email: [familyrelations@wmsde.org](mailto:familyrelations@wmsde.org).

### "Montessori Mondays"

December 6<sup>th</sup> & December 13<sup>th</sup>

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Free!

Know someone who is interested in the WMS toddler or preschool program? Invite them to join us! Parents get a chance to talk with a Wilmington Montessori teacher while their child explores the materials and experiences a Montessori classroom environment.

Contact Theresa Conaty  
([theresa\\_conaty@wmsde.org](mailto:theresa_conaty@wmsde.org)) for more information  
or to R.S.V.P.

**Tell a Friend!**



HAPPY HANNUKAH

Have something for the Wednesday Weekly? Send an e-mail to [Wednesday-Weekly@wmsde.org](mailto:Wednesday-Weekly@wmsde.org) by **COB Friday** each week for publication the following week. **Note: Submissions may be modified for space constraints and/or content clarity.**

## WMS Receives Generous Grant From Longwood Foundation



The holidays came early for WMS when the Longwood Foundation awarded a \$200,000 grant for facility enhancements. Specifically, the Longwood Foundation grant will help WMS embark upon the following capital projects:

1. New Roof. Since beginning as a “little Red Schoolhouse,” the WMS facility has grown in three phases, the most recent completed in 1999. Over time, and particularly after last year’s record-breaking snowfall, our flat roof has degraded and cannot be maintained efficiently with patching. While the roof over the most recent addition is only 10 years old, the roofing over the remaining two-thirds of the school needs to be replaced. We also anticipate realigning some gutters to improve drainage and runoff problems.
2. Electrical Pole Removal. WMS plans to bury all above ground wires and take out electrical poles, removing a safety hazard, an eyesore and long-term expense since thousands of dollars are spent each year on weather-related impacts to above-ground power and telephone lines.
3. Outdoor Lighting. WMS will enhance our outdoor lighting so that families picking up children at the Extended Day Program or who return to school for evening events can see clearly even in the far reaches of our parking lots. In keeping with our goal to minimize our environmental footprint, we will explore solar options and designs that minimize light pollution.

Facility improvements like these – which cover literally, the roof over our heads – enhance the educational experience of our students and strengthen the school for years to come. While the full budget necessary to complete all of the projects has not yet been raised, the Longwood Foundation’s gift allows us to take on much of the work outlined above. **We sincerely thank the Longwood Foundation for their support!**



## Thanks to everyone who participated in the WMS Grandfriends Days!

View more photos at the Parent Portal!

