



# Wilmington Montessori School



## WEDNESDAY WEEKLY



### WMS Presents its 2011 Artist in Residence

# Tony Vacca

WMS is very excited to welcome Tony Vacca and his World Rhythms as this year's artist in residence. Through the program, the students are experiencing West African culture through music, dance, percussion instruments and storytelling.

The program began on Tuesday, January 25 and runs through Friday, February 4, culminating in an evening concert with Tony Vacca on Friday, February 4 at 6:30 p.m. for the WMS community and general public.

This residency consists of classes with teaching assistants from the DIAE (Delaware Institute for the Arts in Education), facilitated by our own Kelly Rhodunda and the

WMS teaching staff. Tony Vacca will be on site at WMS on February 3 and 4 providing dynamic lessons and presentations to the students ending with the performance on the night of February 4 – be sure to mark your calendars for what is sure to be an exciting and energizing evening!

This program is sponsored by the WMS Diversity Advisory Committee with instructional support from the DIAE.

The program is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

#### January

- 27 Dads Day/WMS 47th Birthday Activities begin at 8:30 a.m.
- 28 & 31 Preschool/Elementary Conferences These classes are closed. Childcare available. E-mail [cass\\_winner@wmsde.org](mailto:cass_winner@wmsde.org)
- 31 Childcare Pool Party – K-6th grade 10:20 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Greater Newark Boys' & Girls' Club Bus departs from & returns to WMS.

#### February

- 2 Transition to Elementary Morning Meet in lobby, 9 a.m.
- 4 Artist in Residence concert featuring Tony Vacca Great Room, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 5 The Journey 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- 8-10 Transition to Elementary Mornings Meet in lobby, 9 a.m.
- 8-9 Class Pictures
- 9 Admissions Open House Library, 9:30 a.m.
- 16 Annual Meeting Great Room
- 17 MTAD Presents Dr. Betty Garner Parent Workshop WMS, 7-9 p.m.
- 18 All-staff professional day School Closed Childcare Closed

# WMS celebrates Chinese Year of the Rabbit



Get your carrots ready! Chinese New Year is February 3 and its the Year of the Rabbit.

Keep your eye on the Diversity Corner. Something different is happening this year.

There will be a quiz/drawing for students and their families — 11 questions will be posted related to the

topic of Chinese New Year and Chinese culture. You can use your own knowledge, the library, the Internet or ask a Chinese friend to answer the questions.

A randomly drawn entry that has all 11 questions correct will win **four tickets to the Peking Acrobats at The Grand Opera House** (Sunday, February 27 at 3 p.m.). One quiz entry per family.

So get your thinking caps on and keep checking the Diversity Corner for the display.

For those of you who would like ideas for celebrating Chinese New Year, feel free to contact Anita Louie at [wong\\_sh@hotmail.com](mailto:wong_sh@hotmail.com) or Oliver Yeh at [ditto@oliveryeh.com](mailto:ditto@oliveryeh.com).

**WMS RE-ENROLLMENT**

**WMS re-enrollment letters have gone home in the mail. Contracts are due back on March 1. Questions should be directed to Theresa Conaty, Admissions Officer, at [theresa\\_conaty@wmsde.org](mailto:theresa_conaty@wmsde.org).**

## CONFERENCE DAY CHILDCARE FIELD TRIP



K-6<sup>th</sup> childcare classes will head to the Greater Newark Boys' & Girls' Club on Monday, January 31 for a pool party! The bus will leave WMS at 10:20 a.m. and will return at 1:15 p.m. Register for childcare that day by emailing Cass at [cass\\_winner@wmsde.org](mailto:cass_winner@wmsde.org).

## MTAD and WMS welcome guest educator Betty Garner

The Montessori Teachers' Association of Delaware (MTAD) is pleased to welcome Dr. Betty Garner to Wilmington Montessori School for both a parent workshop (February 17, 7-9 p.m.) and an in-service teachers' conference (February 18, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.).

During her presentations, Dr. Garner, a Montessori parent, educator and educational researcher, will draw upon her experiences as an art teacher during which she watched intelligent, creative children decide that they didn't "get what it took" to be successful in school.

Dr. Garner explored the work of a variety of educational psychologists and researchers and conducted hundreds of in-depth case studies, much like Maria Montessori observing children, to better understand how children learn and process information.

In the introduction to her book, Dr. Garner writes, "The students taught me to see learning in a new way." As she explored the development of children's cognitive structures, she also developed a philosophy of the "spiritual dimensions of learning."



## Donate to our foreign currency collection

Did you know that WMS has its own international coins and currency collection? The collection currently contains money from more than 60 countries, and we hope to expand our collection to encompass all of the world's major nations.



If you are planning international travel or just have some foreign coins or currency from previous trips, please consider donating them. The collection is available to all WMS teachers, of any age group, and provides the opportunity for our entire community to discover more about world geography, history, exchange, saving, sorting and counting.

If you are interested in making a donation or just want to take a look at the existing collection, please stop by the library or contact [elizabeth\\_varley@wmsde.org](mailto:elizabeth_varley@wmsde.org).

## WMS hosts Dads' Day

**WMS fathers, it's your turn to join us for a special day in your honor!**

On Thursday, January 27, WMS dads will be the center of a fun and educational day.

Your day will begin in the classroom (at your child's regular arrival time), where you'll learn with your child. Then, you will be treated to a special presentation by Dr. Lani Nelson-Zlupko who will share her approach on balancing work, life, and family with WMS fathers. Dr. Nelson-Zlupko was the featured presenter at last year's Moms' Day, will be returning to WMS to share thoughts and engage conversation around "Fatherhood in Balance: Raising Kids without Losing Yourself." Dr. Lani Nelson-Zlupko is a therapist and researcher with more than 20 years of experience helping individuals and organizations effectively address challenges, transitions and milestones.

## Play Ball!

WHO? Youths ages 5 to 18 as of April 30, 2011, living in the Naamans LL franchised area.

WHEN? January 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.;  
January 30, Noon to 4 p.m.

WHERE? Saint Mary Magdalen  
Parish Hall, Concord Pike (202) & Sharpley  
Road

Visit [www.naamansll.com](http://www.naamansll.com) for registration details, requirements, and volunteer information.



What makes a WMS education better, especially in the elementary years?

How can I understand what happens in a WMS classroom?

What is the curriculum in a classroom?

How can learning look like so much fun?

Come explore the answers to these questions at...

### *The Journey*

Saturday, February 5, 2011  
8:15 – 3:15 p.m.

Claim five co-op hours for participation!

Childcare provided, no fee to participate. Contact Denise Knoff ([denise\\_knoff@wmsde.org](mailto:denise_knoff@wmsde.org)) to reserve your space.

### PARENT EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

*Surviving the Challenge of Parenthood*  
with Yvonne Nass

Have you ever observed in amazement at how our children respond in a Montessori classroom? Have you wondered how WMS teachers get so much cooperation? Come share and explore how we can:

- ▶ Encourage independence
- ▶ Invite cooperation
- ▶ Have a child learn to listen
- ▶ Set boundaries and become more consistent
- ▶ Create a problem-solver instead of raising a problem
- ▶ Lower the stress within the family
- ▶ Redirect misbehavior and much, much more.

Bring a neighbor, a friend, a co-parent, extended family and whoever might be interested. Contact Yvonne Nass ([mynass@aol.com](mailto:mynass@aol.com)) with any questions.

February 1, 8, 15, 22,  
March 1, March 8; 7-9 p.m.  
\$80 per person (\$130 per couple)  
Register at the Front Desk





### *Learning Together* workshops starting in February!

WMS toddler teacher Holly Knox leads an innovative parenting class that focuses on forming a learning partnership between very young children – ages 3 months to 3 and a half years – and the adults who care for them.

**Learning Together** consists of two-hour classes that meet weekly in a prepared classroom, plus one adult night and one family event. During classes, a “learning team” consisting of a child and adult (parent, grandparent, or consistent caregiver) explore the Montessori environment together. Through thoughtful observation participants quickly learn about these children’s likes and dislikes, personality traits and special qualities that make each a unique individual.

The workshop series, which also welcomes families from outside WMS, begins Friday, February 4. Find a brochure, schedule and registration forms at the information center off the main lobby, at [www.wmsde.org](http://www.wmsde.org) or leave a friend’s address at the front desk and we will mail them a flyer.

## WMS Transition Mornings

Have you ever wondered what happens at the next program level for your child at WMS? Come in and experience it.

Visit a next level classroom so you can see for yourself what lies ahead. You will observe a class in session where children are working and teachers are giving lessons.

You will also have the opportunity to ask questions about your child's transition to the next program level. RSVP to your current teacher or [theresa\\_conaty@wmsde.org](mailto:theresa_conaty@wmsde.org).

#### **Schedule of Visits:**

**Transition to 5-7 program**  
Wednesday, 2/2  
Tuesday, 2/8

**Transition to 7-9 program**  
Wednesday, 2/2  
Wednesday, 2/9

**Transition to 9-12 program**  
Wednesday, 2/9  
Thursday, 2/10

All visits are from 9:15–9:45 a.m. Meet in the lobby at 9 a.m.

## Social Media

follow us on  
**twitter**



Receive live updates from WMS on your computer or mobile device by subscribing to our Twitter feed at [www.twitter.com/wmsde](http://www.twitter.com/wmsde) or texting **follow wmsde** to **40404**.



Check out our new Facebook page for WMS news and event information.

#### *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.*

### WEDNESDAY WEEKLY SUBMISSIONS

Have a submission for the Wednesday Weekly? E-mail [Wednesday-Weekly@wmsde.org](mailto:Wednesday-Weekly@wmsde.org) by **4:30 p.m. Friday** each week for possible publication in the following week’s issue.

Note: Submissions may be modified for space constraints and/or content clarity.