



# Wilmington Montessori School



## WEDNESDAY WEEKLY

### Inclement Weather Information

If you've been outside this week, it's apparent that winter is officially here. Please review the following information regarding inclement weather closings at WMS. **Returning families - Read carefully as there have been changes from previous years:**



On many snowy days, school remains in session at WMS. However, it is occasionally necessary for safety reasons to schedule a late opening or to close for the day. Childcare is open from 7 a.m. through 6 p.m. when classes close, except when there is a state-wide or area closing due to extremely treacherous roads.

#### AlertNow

In the unlikely event of a school closing or delayed opening, WMS will activate the AlertNow emergency communication system, which we successfully tested this fall. AlertNow, our first and primary method of disseminating closing information, allows WMS administration to quickly send out phone messages and emails announcing any closing or schedule change.

Please contact [familyrelations@wmsde.org](mailto:familyrelations@wmsde.org) to update your contact information for AlertNow. You may include multiple phone numbers/e-mail addresses if you wish for these communications to be sent to more than one location.

#### Other Information Sources

Local radio stations typically also broadcast closing announcements for WMS. See the station links below for more information.

- [WDEL 1150AM - Snow Watch](#)
- [WJBR 99.5FM - Operation Snowflake](#)

In addition, information will be posted on the WMS website, Facebook page and Twitter feed unless technological issues prevent us from doing so. **However, our first priority will be to update our families and staff via AlertNow.**

### Mark Your Calendar

#### January 2012

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 6  | <b>Alumni Pizza Party</b><br>6:30 p.m., Great Room   |
|    | <b>Registration deadline for Winter/Spring After-School Specials</b>   |
| 9  | <b>Montessori Monday</b><br>9:30 a.m., Lobby<br><i>Tell a friend!</i>  |
| 10 | <b>Auction Committee Meeting</b><br>9 a.m., Conference Room<br><i>All are welcome—bring your ideas!</i>  |
| 11 | <b>2012-2013 Financial Aid Applications Due</b>  |
| 16 | <b>Martin Luther King Day</b><br>No classes. Pre-registered childcare only. Contact <a href="mailto:cass_winner@wmsde.org">cass_winner@wmsde.org</a> to sign-up.   |
| 18 | <b>Admissions Open House</b><br>9:30 a.m., Meet in Library<br><i>Tell a friend!</i>  |
| 19 | <b>Preschool Transition Morning</b><br>9 a.m., Lobby<br><i>Visit a 5-7 classroom so you can see for yourself what lies ahead for your child at the next program level. You will observe a class in session where children are working and teachers are giving lessons and have the opportunity to ask questions about your child's transition to the next program level.</i> |
| 20 | <b>Preschool Transition Morning</b><br>9 a.m., Lobby<br>See above.   |
| 25 | <b>Parent Education: The Birds &amp; the Bees</b><br>Part 1 of 2—See page 3 for details.<br>7-9 p.m.   |



The entire WMS staff wants to express its gratitude for the generous classroom and specialist gifts this year, as well as your year-end gifts to the Annual Fund.

Sharon Entzminger and Pat Sumner, in particular, asked to express their thanks to a generous, anonymous friend for his or her special gift to them this holiday season. Your kindness is appreciated more than you know!

We wish all of you a happy and healthy 2012!

## After-school basketball begins Thursday, Jan. 5



WMS after-school basketball begins tomorrow (January 5) at 3:15 p.m. for students in grades 3-6. Pick up a registration form in the lobby for details and fee information, or email [Adrianna\\_Cichonska@wms.de.org](mailto:Adrianna_Cichonska@wms.de.org). You may also register at the first practice.

No experience is needed—just enthusiasm. Everyone will participate in Montessori League games (teams formed within the school) and fifth-/sixth-graders will play interscholastic games with other schools. We hope to see many of your children at practice! Go Meerkats!

## WMS students Read to Feed through Heifer International

This holiday season, children in rooms 15, 16 and 19 learned the true meaning of "a gift that keeps on giving."

In mid-December, the students attended an assembly where they learned about Heifer International, a nonprofit organization that works to end world hunger through the gift of farm animals and training. Instead of providing families in need with a non-renewable source of food, Heifer International provides a "living loan" of an animal and extensive training in animal care, community development and earth-friendly farming practices. The family's health and standard of living improves by the many benefits their animal can provide such as milk, eggs, wool, fertilizer, meat and draft power.

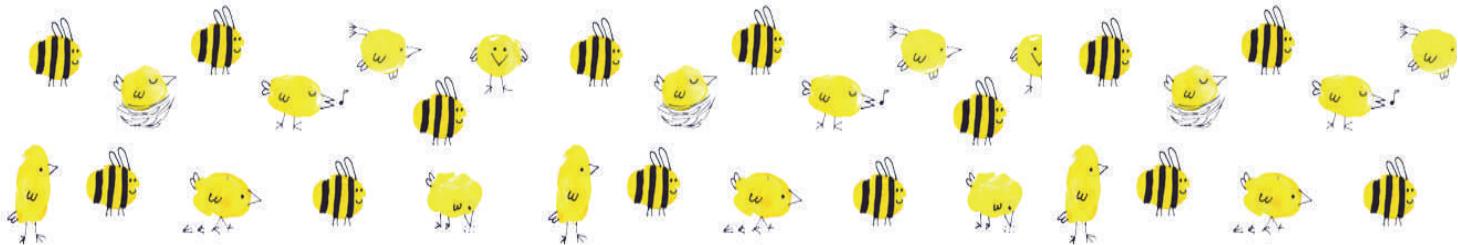
A cornerstone of Heifer International is "passing on the gift." Families who receive an animal repay the loan by passing on one or more of their animal's offspring to other families in need. These families in turn pass on the gift to another family, so one gift multiplies throughout the community.

Through Heifer's *Read to Feed* program, children in these classrooms have asked sponsors to pledge a flat dollar amount or dollars per book or per hour to encourage their reading through the end of January. After all of the money is collected, the students will pool the money together and collectively decide which animals they would like to donate in WMS's honor.

Visit [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) to learn more, or ask a student in one of these classrooms how you can help support this cause!



# The Birds & the Bees: What Parents Need to Know



**Certified parent educator Yvonne Nass returns to WMS for another informative and enjoyable parent education program.**

What do kids need to know about sexuality and when do they need to know it?

This FREE two-part workshop helps parents:

- Gain the knowledge and confidence they need to understand childhood sexual development.

- Impart their values, information and feelings about sexuality to their children.
- Get ideas on how to approach “THE TALK” with your kids (by the way, that happens more than once!).

Join us for two interactive evenings!

**Dates:** January 25 & February 1

**Time:** 7-9 p.m.

**Cost:** FREE!

Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Please register by January 15 to ensure your seat at this popular workshop.

**Note: This workshop is open to families outside the WMS community, so tell your friends!**

For more information, email [events@wmsde.org](mailto:events@wmsde.org) or call 302-475-0555. Register today at: [www.wmsde.org/birdsandbees](http://www.wmsde.org/birdsandbees)

## Register for after-school specials today!

Time to get the kids off the sofa and into enrichment activities for the winter months! Remember to register for after-school specials by Friday. There are still openings in every program, and Gymboree and Tennis both begin next week! *Clarification: Parents are welcome but NOT required to accompany their children in the Gymboree class.*

We now offer the option to register and pay online with a credit card or e-check if you prefer!

Visit [www.wmsde.org/afterschoolspecials](http://www.wmsde.org/afterschoolspecials) for program descriptions and online registration.



## Positive Parenting—Coming this February

Learning the ropes of parenting and need some experienced insight? Been a parent for awhile and feel like you need some additional perspective? This is the course for you!

Join other families who have already registered for this five-week series. Taught by certified parent educator Yvonne Nass, this program will cover skills that will help parents and caregivers create a strong, respectful and trusting relationship with their children. Join us in learning and sharing in a supportive and encouraging setting.

**When:** Wednesdays, beginning February 8, 7-9 p.m.

**Cost:** \$75 per person (includes all five sessions)

**More info & registration:** [www.wmsde.org/positiveparenting](http://www.wmsde.org/positiveparenting)

## 2012-13 Financial Aid Forms Due January 11

Financial Aid forms for the 2012-13 school year are available online at [www.wmsde.org/financialaid](http://www.wmsde.org/financialaid) or at the Front Desk. WMS encourages *all* families who may be in need of assistance to complete an application; returning WMS families are given priority for assistance.

To be considered for the first round of awards, please submit your completed application to Carolyn Fuhrman by January 11, 2012; notification of financial aid awards will be mailed on February 15. Questions or need additional information? Please contact [carolyn\\_fuhrman@wmsde.org](mailto:carolyn_fuhrman@wmsde.org).

## BUILDING COMMUNITY REFERRAL PROGRAM



New families come to learn about WMS every day. One of the questions we always ask is "How did you hear about us?" Most people answer, "from a friend."

We're thrilled that our current families recommend WMS to their friends and help our community to grow.

As a way to give back to those who help build the community in this way, we've brought back the "Building Community" referral program that launched last year.

Families who meet the requirements outlined at [www.wmsde.org/buildingcommunity](http://www.wmsde.org/buildingcommunity) will receive a **\$750 tuition credit or 30 hours of co-op.**

**Spread the word and invite friends to an upcoming Montessori Monday on January 9 or Open House on January 18, suggest they schedule a private tour by calling 302-475-0555 or emailing [admissions@wmde.org](mailto:admissions@wmde.org), or consider hosting a Montessori event at your home.**

As you spend time with your friends and family, we encourage you to explain the benefits that you see in and around Wilmington Montessori School classrooms and to share your own personal WMS story with others.

For more information or to find out how you can help promote WMS, contact Theresa Conaty, Admissions Officer, at [Theresa\\_Conaty@wmsde.org](mailto:Theresa_Conaty@wmsde.org). To learn more about upcoming admissions events, visit [www.wmsde.org/admissionsevents](http://www.wmsde.org/admissionsevents).



Follow us on Twitter  
Receive live updates from WMS on your computer or mobile device:  
[www.twitter.com/wmsde](http://www.twitter.com/wmsde)



Check out our Facebook page for WMS news, photos and event information:  
<http://www.facebook.com/WilmingtonMontessoriDE>

### 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.