



Wilmington Montessori School



WEDNESDAY WEEKLY

5-9 students purchase farm animals for families in need

This winter, students in Rooms 15,16 and 19 learned that the best gifts are ones that keep on giving.

In 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.

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 asked sponsors to pledge a flat dollar amount or dollars per book or per hour to encourage their reading through the end of January. The classes collected a combined total of \$1,666!

As a group, the children discussed the benefits of giving different animals and decided their donations would go toward the purchase of a water buffalo; flocks of chickens, ducks and geese; a goat; a sheep; a llama; a pig; three rabbits; bees, worms; trees and bait for fishing, along with shares of a heifer and camel.

Visit www.heifer.org to learn more about Heifer International.

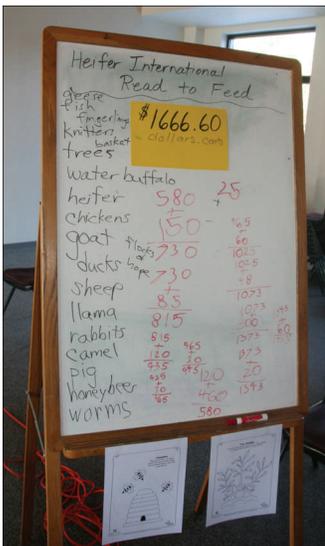
Mark Your Calendar

February

- 15 **Parent Education—Positive Parenting**
7-9 p.m., Part 2 of 5
- 16 **MTAD Parent Workshop—Dr. Joyce Pickering**
7 p.m. *See page 2 for details!*
- 17 **All Staff Professional Day**
No classes and no childcare.
- 20 **Mid-Winter Break**
No classes.
Pre-registered childcare only—e-mail Cass_Winner@wmsde.org to sign up.
- 22 **Parent Education—Positive Parenting**
7-9 p.m., Part 3 of 5
- 24 **The Journey**
8:30 a.m.-noon, Meet in the Lobby
More info: www.wmsde.org/parenteducation
- 28 **Dads Day**
Featuring speaker Dr. David Mandelbaum on "The Impact of the Father on Child Development."
Mark your calendars—full itinerary coming soon!
- 29 **Parent Education—Positive Parenting**
7-9 p.m., Part 4 of 5

WANTED: Your Toiletries

This month, Helping Hands is collecting toiletries for the patients of Westside Family Healthcare. It would be much appreciated if you put items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant and foot powder in the marked bins by the front desk. For more information, please contact Amanda Lewis at aamlewis@hotmail.com. Thanks so much for your generosity, and thanks to Betsy's class for the wonderful posters decorating WMS's halls!



All Children Learn Differently

Join Dr. Joyce Pickering for an interactive workshop that will help you identify and understand your child's unique academic strengths and challenges.

Find out how a strong connection between home and school can help your child reach his or her potential.

Dr. Pickering, a mother of five and grandmother of 12, is a 40-year Montessorian, speech and language pathologist, and learning disabilities specialist.

When: Thursday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. **(tomorrow!)**

Where: Wilmington Montessori School

Price: \$10/person or \$15/couple. Please submit your check, written to MTAD, at the Front Desk.

Registration: Register online at www.wmsde.org/mtadevents, email events@wmsde.org or call 302-475-0555.

This workshop is presented by the **Montessori Teachers' Association of Delaware (MTAD)** and is open to the public, so please extend this invitation to friends!



Delaware's First Lady visits WMS

On February 10, Delaware's First Lady Carla Markell visited WMS. She toured the school and was introduced to students and staff.

Above, Mrs. Markell (right) is pictured with Head of School Linda Zankowsky (center) and Board Member Mark Conces (left).

Join us on **The Journey** this February

What is The Journey?

The purpose of The Journey is to provide parents with an understanding of WHY and HOW Montessori works by enabling them to see the classroom, first as an observer, then as a participant with the materials and lessons. During this experience, you will discover, much as a child does, the beauty of Montessori.



When and where is The Journey?

The Journey will be held on:

**Friday, February 24
8:30 a.m.—noon**

We will meet in the lobby, then travel throughout WMS.

Who should participate in The Journey?

When parents understand why and how Montessori works, you are better able to support teachers' efforts, provide consistency at home, and enable your children to get the most out of their Montessori education. WMS strongly encourages ALL parents, especially those new to the school, to experience The Journey.

How do I register for The Journey?

Call or e-mail Theresa Conaty to reserve your spot. You can reach Theresa at 302-475-0555 or theresa_conaty@wmsde.org. Registration is free and you receive **five co-op** hours per family.

Childcare is available by pre-registering with Cass Winner at cass_winner@wmsde.org or 302-475-0555.



Have you submitted your re-enrollment contract yet?

Yes, it's time to start planning for the 2012-13 school year. We're looking forward to another great year of Montessori education at WMS!

Please return your pink re-enrollment form and contract by March 1 to ensure your child's seat for September. Even if you don't plan to return, we ask that you submit your pink form to inform planning for next year. Financial aid applications are still available and should be returned as soon as possible.

We look forward to another fantastic school year at Wilmington Montessori! Thank you for sharing your children with us and giving them the gift of a Montessori education!

Questions? Contact Theresa_Conaty@wmsde.org.



PJ Bingo

by Grant Farabaugh

Each year, the fifth-grade class hosts PJ Bingo to raise money for next year's sixth-grade trip. At PJ Bingo, we play bingo, win prizes, have raffles, and of course there are pizza and drinks.

This year, PJ Bingo will be held on March 2, in the Gym from 6-7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 per person for a family of up to four people, or \$5 for five or more.

We are also looking for small used or new toys to be used for prizes. Please place these items in the tote in front of Room 9 and 10.

Hope to see you on March 2!

Coming soon... Dads Day 2012!

WMS fathers, it's your turn to join us for a special day in your honor! On Tuesday, February 28, 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.

Next, you will be treated to a special presentation by Dr. David Mandelbaum who will share thoughts and engage conversation around "The Impact of the Father on Child Development."

Dr. Mandelbaum has served as psychology professor, Coordinator of Children and Adolescent Services at the Tressler Center of Delaware and currently works in private practice. He is a frequent speaker at schools, churches and conferences on topics related to parenting, child/adolescent development and stress management.

DE Transportation reimbursement forms due tomorrow (February 16)

Recently, information on how to make an easy, important gift went home to more than 80 families at WMS – families who are eligible to receive Delaware's Transportation Reimbursement this year.

To date, nearly half of those families have responded and let us know that they would like to make a gift to WMS's Annual Fund with their reimbursement

or claim it – many thanks to those who have already returned their forms!

WMS must return to the State all reimbursements that are not donated or claimed... so silence is not golden!

If you received a form, please complete it and return to Jenn Burns by Thursday, February 16. Misplaced your form or unsure if you received one? Email Jennifer_burns@wmsde.org.

Support WMS by donating an auction gift



WMS's Masquerade Ball— Gala and Auction

Friday, April 13

Waterfall Banquet Center

We're looking for great gifts for our 2012 Auction and Gala!

Maybe you have season tickets to a local sports franchise and would be willing to offer a single game to be auctioned off. Are your artistic talents noteworthy? Have a great holiday gift that's just not your style and can't be returned? Want to host a wine or dinner party? Know a local establishment that would be happy to donate to our school? We're open to other creative ideas as well. Make your donation by March 2! Visit www.wmsde.org/auction to print your donation form.

There are many ways to get involved! Check out the co-op board for current needs or contact [Jenn Burns](mailto:Jenn_Burns), Director of Advancement.

Looking for co-op hours? How about tuition credit?

Check out our...

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.

The "Building Community" referral program is a way for us to give back to the people who help build our community in this way.

Families who meet the requirements outlined at 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 March 5 or 19; suggest they schedule a private tour by calling 302-475-0555 or emailing admissions@wmsde.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 WMS classrooms and share your 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. To learn more about upcoming admissions events, visit www.wmsde.org/admissionsevents.



Receive live updates from WMS on your computer or mobile device: 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 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.