



Wilmington Montessori School



WEDNESDAY WEEKLY

Masquerade Ball Auction & Gala

Friday, April 13, 8 p.m.—Midnight

Waterfall Banquet Center

3416 Philadelphia Pike

Only two days until the big night, so get out your Venetian masks and get ready for a night of fun, friends, fantastic (and plentiful) food, drinks and amazing deals!

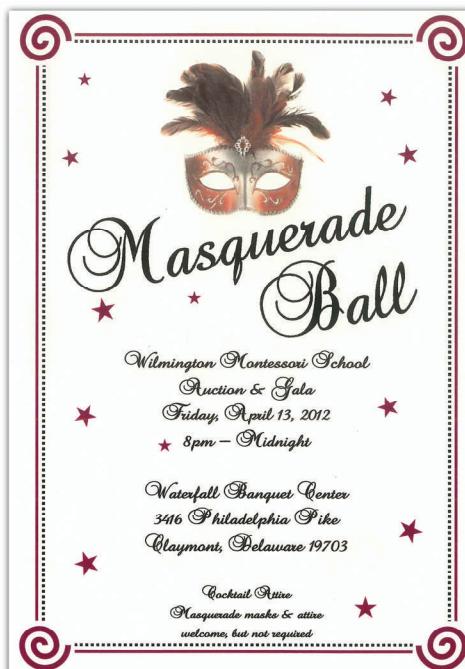
Tomorrow (Thursday) is the last day to purchase advance tickets—prices go up at the door!

It's impossible to highlight all of our great auction items, but here are just a few of our favorites:

- An NFL football signed by the Philadelphia Eagles' own DeSean Jackson.
- Own a piece of sports history—part of the gym floor at Hershey Sports Arena, where Wilt Chamberlain set the NBA single-game scoring record by tallying 100 points for the Philadelphia Warriors!
- The opportunity for your child to be WMS's Head of School for the day.
- A birthday party for your child at Talleyville Fire Company.
- The opportunity to name WMS's street for the 2012-13 school year.
- Unique works of art and photography.
- Gorgeous boutique clothing for girls.
- Gift certificates galore—to salons, restaurants, and more!

- An ElliptiGO—a unique elliptical bike for the outdoor fitness enthusiast,
- The opportunity to support our Odyssey of the Mind team as they head to Iowa for the World Finals!
- Priceless classroom gifts, created by your children!

Check out your auction catalog today, and don't forget that we also have some amazing last-minute gifts that will appear in our addendum on auction night. We hope to see all of you there!



Mark Your Calendar

April

- 11-13 **Childfind Testing**
For rising Kindergarteners
Contact Theresa Conaty for more information.
- 12 **Parent Education: Standardized Testing**
8:30 a.m., More info on page 3.
Infant/Toddler Spring Sing Fling
11 a.m., Great Room
- 13 **Masquerade Ball, Gala and Auction**
8 p.m., Waterfall Banquet Center on Philadelphia Pike
- 16 **Montessori Monday (Admissions)**
9:30 a.m., Meet in Lobby
Tell a friend!
- 16-20 **ERB Testing**
- 23 **The Journey—Last chance this year!**
8:30 a.m., Details on page 2
- 26 **3-Day Preschool Concert**
9:30 a.m., Gym

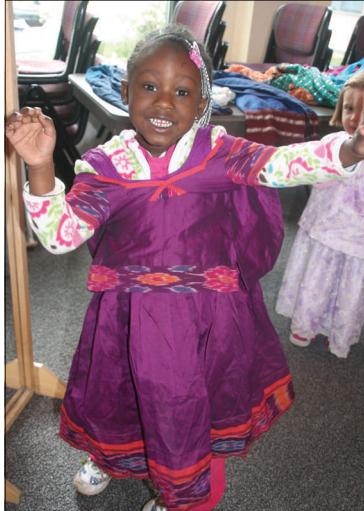
Need co-op hours?

Contact Jenn Burns—we can still use your help preparing for the auction on Thursday and Friday!



Happy Holi

Visit [WMS's Facebook page](#) for more photos of your children celebrating this Indian festival of colors!



Join us on The Journey this April



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:

Monday, April 23

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.

What Parents Need to Know about the ERBs

For children in third through sixth grade, next week will be very different from the typical week at WMS. Instead of the typical open classroom time, collaboration, small group lessons and assignments, students will be hunkered down at desks, filling in bubbles that only they will see. Next week is ERB week at Wilmington Montessori School and many parents are wondering two things: "What are the ERBs?" and "How does WMS use standardized tests?"

What are the ERBs?

The ERB (Educational Record Bureau) is a non-profit organization that provides standardized testing for independent and public schools throughout the country. The test our students take is comprised of 10 subtests that measure achievement in reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing mechanics, writing concepts and skills, and mathematics. These subtests measure how well a student is learning the skills in the curriculum.

While it is not a direct match to the Montessori curriculum, the ERBs cover many of the same concepts. It also measures verbal and quantitative reasoning, which gives us information about a child's ability to handle higher-order thinking.

How does WMS use standardized tests?

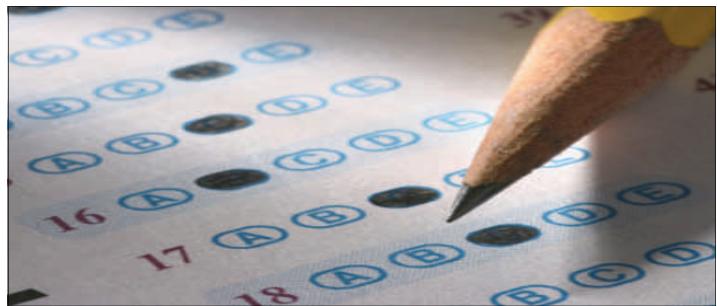
The school as a whole uses ERB results to evaluate how well it is doing in teaching these specific skills to children. As a way to evaluate the school, we look at the whole group of students to determine how the program fares compared to other schools across the country. We look at the data from each of the content areas every year to determine areas of strength and areas of opportunity for our school program. Additionally, standardized tests help teachers determine strengths and needs of the individual students. In the late summer, after the ERB scores have been reported to the school and to parents, our teachers sit down and analyze scores, comparing them to what they know about each individual child's classroom per-

formance, and also comparing the achievement to the reasoning subtests.

One thing to always keep in mind is that the ERBs are only one piece of the puzzle. Classroom work, classroom assessments and teacher observations are all incredibly important in gleaning who a child is as a learner; this is one more piece to the puzzle. The ERBs can serve as another measure to confirm a strength or challenge. When it comes to student learning, more information is better.

The creators of the ERBs caution us to look at information over time. One year's worth of test data is interesting, but it is really patterns over time that are important. The first year of information is used simply as a baseline and to get the children used to taking this type of a test. By the third year, we begin to see trends with children that tend to correlate with classroom performance. As students grow and change, annual testing is one way to help teachers and administrators keep track of that change over time.

So, while the children are thinking about extra recess between the tests and yummy snacks during their break (the two most exciting things about ERB week in the kids eyes), we adults are happy to have one more piece of information to help us learn about the school and the students as learners.



Parent Education: Classroom-Based Assessment & Standardized Testing

Learn more about the ERBs tomorrow, April 12, at 8:30 a.m. in the Library.

- What kinds of assessment tools are used in WMS classrooms?
- What is standardized testing and what do the results mean?
- How do WMS teachers use these results to help ensure that your child gets the best education possible?

Attend this FREE workshop to find out the answers to these questions and more.

Register online today!

For more information, call 302-475-0555 or contact [Liz Madden@wmsde.org](mailto:Liz_Madden@wmsde.org).

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 our **Montessori Monday** on April 16; suggest they schedule a private tour by calling 302-475-0555 or emailing admissions@wmde.org; or consider hosting a Montessori event at 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.

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twitter



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.