



# Wilmington Montessori School



## WEDNESDAY WEEKLY

*Dear Parents,*

I write to you today to follow up on the email you received from the Board last Friday. As you know, on Wednesday, April 18, I submitted my letter of resignation to Wilmington Montessori School's Board of Directors. Just as the Montessori education your children receive each day at WMS is a gift, my time as Head of School has been one as well—the magnitude of which is hard to even put into words.

The role of Head of School is one of enormous responsibility and it is very much defined by the individual who holds the position; the opposite is also true. This community has provided me with many opportunities to grow and expand my role as an educational leader while developing my appreciation of the value of a Montessori education for children. Personally, I have struggled to find the wisdom, strength and courage to know when it would be time to leave a place that I love.

This year, with much soul-searching, I realized that time has come. It is time for me to focus on inspiring, creating and helping others see the vision that all Montessorians have for children. It is also time for me to refocus on myself and my family: two wonderful children who were raised at Wilmington Montessori School and a husband who supported me unconditionally as I have given time to the school. This is a decision I came to over considerable time, through numerous discussions with the Board and my family, and one I am very comfortable is the right one for WMS, myself, and the future work I can continue to do to support the growth of Montessori.

In addition to my personal reasons, there comes a time when a new leader must take the reins to continue the forward movement of the organization. As the Board shared in the email, there is much work ahead. It is time for new ideas and fresh viewpoints to help with this work. Many of you have asked me about the process forward. Currently, a Board sub-committee is actively working to identify an interim leadership plan for the 2012-13 school year so that I can devote time to special projects as assigned by the Board.

It is human nature to cling to the familiar, but I am confident that Wilmington Montessori School—a place with teachers who have risen to every challenge I place before them, a place that is alive with children's happy voices and a place with such an amazing group of families and an incredibly professional and hard-working administrative team and Board—is well prepared for this change. I am proud of the work that the staff of Wilmington Montessori and I have done to create an empowering environment based on the CARES statement, one that values the contribution of every staff member, and has resulted in teachers having the freedom to give their personal best to your children each day. Please rest assured that I am not leaving WMS tomorrow; I will simply be serving the school in a different capacity. I know that the next leader of WMS will find a strong community of parents, students and faculty ready to embrace the full array of opportunities for further growth.

I look forward to the future for this wonderful school, and to supporting the Board during this transition to new leadership as this strong community moves forward. I would like to thank each one of you for allowing me to be part of the WMS family and for your kind words of support and appreciation in the hallway this week. This is a special place that has made a profound and positive impact on the lives of many students and families for more than 48 years, and I am confident that it will continue to do so for years to come.

*Linda Zankowsky, Ed.D.*

Head of School



# Support Save the Rain by participating in Spirit Week



Photos are from Spirit Week 2011.

## A message from the sixth-graders:

WMS's Class of 2012 has chosen to raise funds for [Save the Rain](#) this year for their Sixth-Grade Project. Save the Rain is an organization that uses donations to build rain collection systems for villages in Africa. Only \$15 can provide water for one person's entire life and two generations after them! But, every eight seconds someone dies of a water-related disease. Lack of clean water is a serious problem in the world.

### Here's how you can help:

The sixth-graders are hosting a Rain Walk next Wednesday, May 2, to raise awareness for the plight of those in Africa and elsewhere. At the Walk, elementary students will walk carrying buckets of water, just as those in rain-starved countries must do on a daily basis. Parents are welcome to join us to cheer our walkers on!

There will be donation jars at the walk and in convenient locations outside of your child's classroom. We will also host Spirit Week from next week. Monday, April 30, will be Crazy Hair Day. Tuesday will be Clash Day and Wednesday will be Twin Day and the Rain Walk. Thursday will be School Spirit Day.

**Please help us reach our goal of raising \$800 (the number of people in the sixth-graders' families x \$15). Thank you!**



## Mark Your Calendar

### April

- 26 **3-Day Preschool Concert**  
9:30 a.m., Great Room
- 30 **Art Show Begins** (on display in lobby through 5/18)  
**Spirit Week—Crazy Hair Day**  
**Screen-Free Week Begins**  
Turn off your TVs!

### May

- 1 **Spirit Week—Clash Day**
- 2 **Spirit Week—Twin Day**  
**Rain Walk, 11 a.m.**
- 3 **Spirit Week—School Spirit Day**
- 4 **All-Staff Professional Day**  
No classes. Pre-registered child care is available. Contact [Cass Winner@wmsde.org](mailto:Cass_Winner@wmsde.org) to sign up.
- 8 **Moms' Day/French Assembly**  
Begins at drop-off time.  
Details TBA
- 25 **Elementary Field Day**  
9 a.m.

## Camp News

**The first Specialty Camp to sell out this year is Archery, and now we have opened a new session!**

The Archery camp for ages 9-13 will also be offered in Week 10, August 20-24. It will be a half-day, morning camp (9 a.m.-noon). Campers will go to the pool with the Traditional Camp group on Friday, weather permitting, and will also be invited to participate in the Tubing On the Brandywine trip that leaves at 11:15 on Thursday. The cost for this session will be \$215.

Visit [www.wmsde.org/camp](http://www.wmsde.org/camp) to register for Camp Montessori!



## WMS celebrates Earth Day/Arbor Day

This morning, WMS held a joint celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day. The day began with a presentation by EPA Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin. Then, classrooms visited the Peace Park throughout the day, planting perennials (donated by the Flory family) in designated areas (designed by the talented Donya Pletcher).

Be sure to stop by to see their work!



# Staying Safe and Healthy During Tick Season

With the change in weather comes the start of tick season. Our children spend time outdoors every day so please check them for ticks regularly at the end of the day. If you find a tick, it is important to know how to remove it.

To get ready to remove the tick, you should have:

- Fine tweezers
- Gloves or a tissue so that you can avoid touching the tick
- A small jar where you can put the tick (this will make identification easier if your child gets sick)
- An antiseptic to clean the area of the tick bite and your hands after you remove it

As demonstrated in the picture, you should use your tweezers to grab the tick

as close as possible to your child's skin. After using your tweezers to grab the tick as close as possible to your child's skin, you should gently pull it straight up. Be sure to avoid making any jerking or twisting movements as you pull it out, or you may cause the tick's head to break off. If you do notice that any part of the tick has remained embedded in your child's skin, be sure to call your pediatrician for help getting it out.

Remember to use tweezers to remove a tick on your child. You should not try to



remove it with your fingers. Also, when removing a tick:

- Avoid trying to burn the tick off with a match.
- Do not smother the tick with nail polish, Vaseline or other products.
- Mention the tick bite to your pediatrician if your child gets sick soon after getting bit by a tick, especially if he or she develops a rash, fever, chills, headache, fatigue or swollen glands.
- Do not leave the tick's head stuck in your child's skin or squeeze the tick as you try to remove it.

Please contact Nurse Paige ([paige\\_ebling@wmsde.org](mailto:paige_ebling@wmsde.org)) with any questions or concerns!

# 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](http://www.wmsde.org/buildingcommunity) will receive a **\$750 tuition credit or 30 hours of co-op.**

Spread the word and invite friends to schedule a private tour by calling 302-475-0555 or emailing [admissions@wmsde.org](mailto:admissions@wmsde.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](mailto:Theresa_Conaty@wmsde.org). To learn more about upcoming admissions events, visit [www.wmsde.org/admissionsevents](http://www.wmsde.org/admissionsevents).



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.

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