



Wilmington Montessori School



Special Graduation Edition

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY

Mom & Dad,

Thank you for sending me to Wilmington Montessori because...



"I learned to manage my time here."

"I learned all I need to know here."

"I had a home away from home."

"I learned how to learn."

"I just want to say how much I enjoyed being here."

"You are encouraged to try anything at least once. It is safe."

"It is just a great place—you are always a part of it."

Congratulations, Class of 2012!

**Benjamin Connor
Erin Flaherty
Erik Graves
Adele Gulino
Michael Jones**

**Emma Lewis
Ethan Low
Jake Luckangelo
Tyler McGarvey
Alexander Morrison**

**Nathaniel Ruhl
Benjamin Snyder
Samantha Steblai
Alexis Szkotak
Ryan Wolynetz**

On Wednesday, June 6, 2012, the Wilmington Montessori School community celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2012.

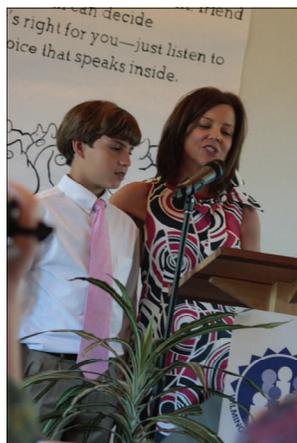
Fifteen sixth-graders, many of whom have attended WMS most of their lives, gathered first for a breakfast with their families in the Great Room. The breakfast's theme, "The Voice" (a poem by Shel Silverstein), was chosen by the fifth-graders, who also baked muffins, chopped fruit and served the breakfast to their graduating friends and their families.



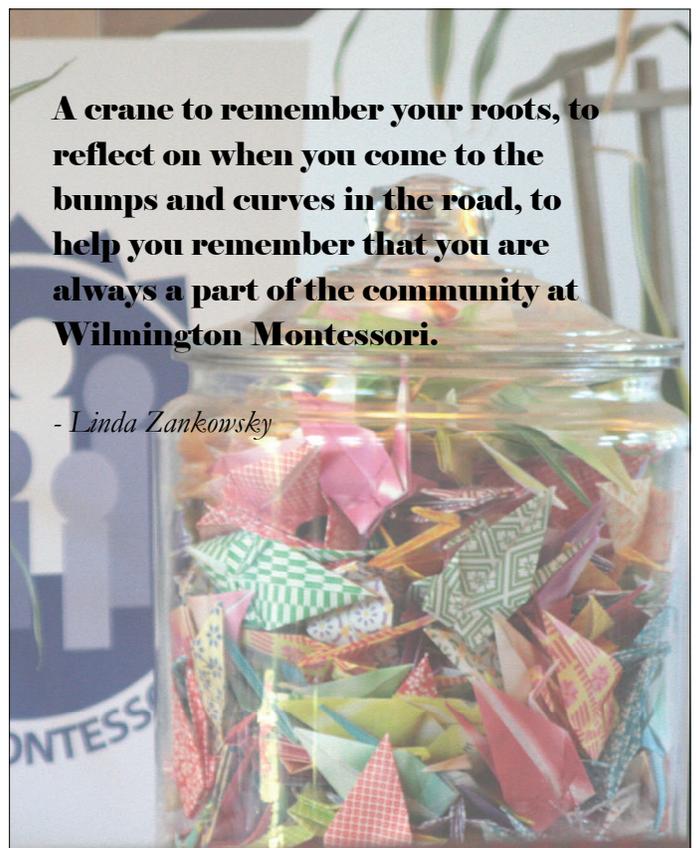
During the breakfast, Liz Madden, Elementary Learning Director, awarded each graduate with a special certificate. The certificates recognized each student for his or her unique gifts, ranging from artistic talent to mathematic skills to the ability to be an outstanding friend. These awards were carefully selected by the 9-12 teachers.



Following the distribution of the certificates, WMS's specials teachers presented graduates with their graduation posters and shared words that described each graduate. In April, staff members thoughtfully designed each poster, creating collages of the sixth-graders' interests, personality, talents and growth during their time at WMS.



As the breakfast drew to a close, Kelly Rhodunda led the group in "This School," and each graduate picked out a paper crane from the jar that was filled during the first assembly of the school year by each WMS student and teacher. "Each crane represents our hope for peace and that each person placing a crane in the jar is an important part of our community," explained Head of School Linda Zankowsky.



A crane to remember your roots, to reflect on when you come to the bumps and curves in the road, to help you remember that you are always a part of the community at Wilmington Montessori.

- Linda Zankowsky

At 10 a.m., the WMS Class of 2012 began to make their way into the gym for the graduation ceremony.

Each sixth-grader received applause from family, friends and WMS staff as he or she entered the gym and walked proudly toward the stage.



After the Class of 2012 was assembled, Linda welcomed the graduates and audience to the ceremony and thanked the graduating class for their contributions to the WMS community:

“You have brought energy to the school with the Save the Rain project, Odyssey of the Mind, Spirit week, and the joy, laughter, and the sense of community between you that is a pleasure for all of us as teachers and adults to watch.

Following her welcome speech, Linda then introduced the Class of 2012 slideshow. There were damp eyes, as well as laughter, as images of each graduate as he or she grew through the years filled the screen.

Next, members of the Class of 2012 took center stage, each reading a poem entitled “Where I’m From.”

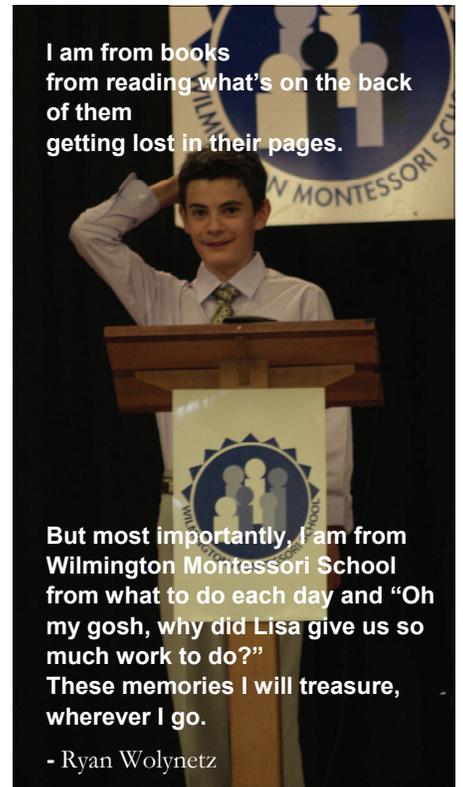


I am from going down by the creek and catching three fish in my net,
To watching “Survivor every Wednesday”

- Emma Lewis

One thing that I’m certain about is that
Wilmington Montessori School is
and will always be,
as the old man that I played this and the
previous year would say,
“My Home Sweet Lasagna.”

- Michael Jones



I am from books
from reading what’s on the back
of them
getting lost in their pages.

But most importantly, I am from
Wilmington Montessori School
from what to do each day and “Oh
my gosh, why did Lisa give us so
much work to do?”
These memories I will treasure,
wherever I go.

- Ryan Wolynetz

Save the Rain Project

Before diplomas were presented, Adele Gulino and Benjamin Snyder shared a few words of gratitude toward the WMS community for their help with the Class of 2012's fundraising project.

The class selected Save the Rain as their organization after attending the Global Citizenship Action Project conference in New York and listening to a variety of presentations for non-profits. By hosting Spirit Week, providing a "tip jar" for donations and holding a "rain walk," the six-graders raised more than \$1,000 for the Save the Rain Project

"Without you," said Adele and Ben, "none of this would have been possible."



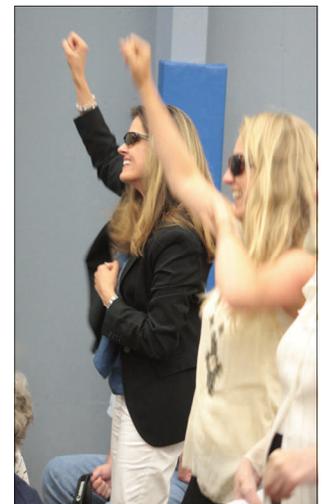
...followed by the presentation of WMS's traditional graduation baskets by family and friends of the Class of 2012, who joined them on stage!



After the sixth-graders completed their presentations, the moment everyone was waiting for arrived – it was time for the presentation of diplomas...



And finally... a surprise parental performance of "Edge of Glory"



Note from the Editor: Photos cannot possibly do this moment justice! Visit www.facebook.com/WilmingtonMontessoriDE to view the entirety of this amazing Graduation Flash Mob!



The WMS community wishes the Class of 2012 the best in their future personal and academic pursuits. As Linda reminded us all, "You will always have a home at WMS."

Members of the Class of 2012 are proudly going on to schools including:

- Garnet Valley Middle School
- P.S. duPont Middle School
- Springer Middle School
- The Tatnall School
- Wilmington Friends School
- George V. Kirk Middle School
- Haddonfield Middle School
- Hockessin Montessori School

Other News and Notes

Along with graduation, there have been many other memorable events during the last two weeks of school. Here's a brief recap...

Heads of School for the Day

Jake and Nick Luckangelo served as Heads of School for the Day on May 25. The honor of being Head of School for the Day is an auction prize. The boys spent the day with Linda Zankowsky, learning about what it's like to be head of school and even took part in one of Linda's favorite classroom activities—reading aloud!

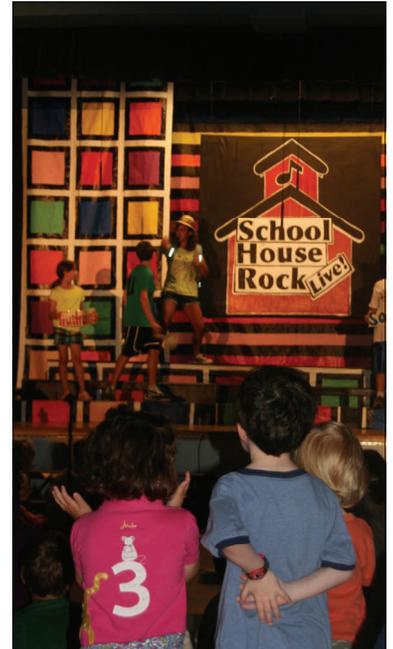
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We look forward to hearing about all of your adventures at the Annual Alumni Pizza Party next January!

Please keep in touch and email alumni news to noel_dietrich@wmsde.org!



School House Rock—9-12 Spring Musical



Family Garden Day

Many thanks to the families and staff who helped with the planting and maintenance of our gardens last weekend!

Letters about Literature



At Tuesday's End of the Year Assembly, several 9-12 students were honored by the Delaware Division of Libraries as part of the state-wide "Letters about Literature" contest. Out of nearly 400 entries, all but one of the state finalists came from WMS! Sixth-grader Michael Jones was presented with his first-place award for his letter to Andrea Warren about her book "Surviving Hitler." Honorable Mention certificates were presented to Rachel Aussprung, Adele Gulino, Zach Siple, Avani Vesudevan, and Ryan Wolynetz. Michael has designated the WMS library to receive the \$100 contribution that was part of his award.

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.

Stay in touch with WMS:

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