



Rochester Montessori School

E-Newsletter

Whole Child * Whole World

Volume 2, Number 6

In This Issue

- Chinese at RMS
- PTSA
- Children's House
News from the
Willows
- Specialist News
- From the Director

Chinese Offered at RMS

Chinese is new and exciting opportunity for E1 & E2 students! This class will be offered on Mondays after school from 3-4:30pm, starting March 26th. The emphasis of this class is to learn more about Chinese tradition, culture and the language. Students will practice vocabulary and sentences in order to have simple conversation used in daily living. Art, stories, games and food will be used to learn about the culture and traditions of China.

If you have any questions please contact Joan Lowery, Additional Services Coordinator at lpu@rmschool.org or 288-8725

PTSA

We have many exciting events planned for the remainder of the year. Thanks to all the volunteers who make these events so much fun for everyone. There are many opportunities for you to have fun, get involved, volunteer and fundraise. Find one that suits your fancy and join us!

Upcoming Events

RMS "Garage Sale" April 21, 2007

Save the date and save the goods! The RMS PTSA is planning the 1st Annual RMS Indoor Rummage and Bake Sale on Saturday, April 21st. Please start collecting those CD's, DVD's, golf clubs, toys, children's clothes, and other items in good to excellent condition that you wish to donate and drop them off at school on April 19 or 20. RMS families may attend a pre-sale Friday from 4:00-7:00.

Proceeds will benefit the Outdoor Environment Committee's 2007 projects, the Treehouse Pavilion and In-ground slide. Please contact Nathan Hauber (nhauber@mac.com) or Sarah Field (sfield@ramsp.org) for more information or to volunteer.

Cinco de Mayo Springtime Revelry May 5, 2007

Plans are underway for this fun, festive, fundraising event which will be open to the general public. . It will again include a silent auction, food, dancing and entertainment. Featured will be a regional well regarded Latin Band: The Robert Everest Expedition (<http://www.rkeverest.net>) "a Minneapolis-based Latin-American and Mediterranean influenced group whose music ranges from American jazz to Brazilian funk, Spanish flamenco to Italian folk, Cuban *Son* to Mexican *Huapango*, and several original compositions in many different musical styles and languages.



Events Calendar

APRIL

9 Chinese Class E1
& E2 3:00 – 4:30
9 Discovering
French 3:00 – 4:30
11 Math Masters -
7:30 am
11 French Club –
3:15 – 4:45
16 Chinese Class E1
& E2 3:00 – 4:30
16 Discovering
French 3:00 – 4:30
18 Math Masters -
7:30 am
18 French Club –
3:15 – 4:45
19 PTSA Meeting –
9:00 am
19 Willows Early
Morning Visit at
8:00 am
19 Ginkgos Parent
Awareness 4:00 –
4:30 pm
19 E2 Science Fair
6:30 – 8:30 pm
19 RMS Rummage
Sale merchandise
drop off
**20 Accreditation -
No School**
19 RMS Rummage
Sale merchandise
drop off
20 RMS Rummage
Pre-Sale 4:00-7:00

21 RMS Rummage
Sale
23 Chinese Class E1
& E2 3:00 – 4:30
23 Discovering
French 3:00 – 4:30

This music cannot be classified, and therein lies the magic that the audience experiences. The musicians are united by their exploration into world music and their constant hunger to grow individually and as a group." Invitations have arrived in homes and further information is available in Thursday take-home bags. Contact Marina Ramirez-Alvarado or Lisa-Ann Wuermsler with questions, to volunteer or donate items/baskets for silent auction.

All proceeds from Springtime Revelry will benefit the Outdoor Environment at RMS.

Staff Appreciation Week May 7 - 11, 2007

The Staff Appreciation Committee is again planning a car wash for the teachers during this week to culminate our staff appreciation activities. Contact Nathan Hauber or Michaela Park for more information or to volunteer.

End of Year Picnic June 1, 2007

Just as we welcome in the New School Year, we celebrate the Completed School Year with a "good old-fashioned" picnic complete with hot dogs, brats, baked beans, salads, and baked goods. We are still looking for a coordinator for this well attended event. Contact Sherry Jester or Marianne Couser for information or to volunteer.

Please visit the RMS website PTSA link (<http://www.rmschool.org/ptsa.php>) for updated information.

PTSA Leadership:

Marianne Couser – Marianne@productiveMentality.com 282-2610
Sherry Jester – hcloft@charter.net 536-9492

Children's House News

From Willows Guide, Kate

The Willows classroom just finished a focus on the Human Body. The children learned about the various body parts. They were able to cut out a skeleton in the art area and put together a child-sized skeleton floor puzzle during cooperative work time after lunch. Learning about the 5 senses proved to be quite informative and created lots of interesting discussion!! The extended day children also studied the Body Systems. They learned about healthy foods to eat and where they are located on the food pyramid.

We have now moved on to the study of the dinosaurs and volcanoes, which is always a fun discussion. The children are able to draw and create dinosaurs in the art area. Our science shelves are filled with many different dinosaur puzzles and volcano work. They can build a felt volcano with all its parts, too! We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring and all its promise of "new beginnings".

Asia and Africa are the continents we are currently studying. If you have any sharings from either continent, please send them along with you child.

If anyone is interested in helping coordinate our spring revelry project, just let one of us know.

HAPPY SPRING!!!!!!!

25 Math Masters -
7:30 am
25 French Club –
3:15 – 4:45
25 Board Meeting –
7:00 pm
26 Peace Gallery
Open House
30 Chinese Class for
E1 & E2 3:00 – 4:30
30 Discovering
French 3:00 – 4:30

Specialist News

From Physical Education Specialist, LuAnn

Children's House children are continuing to develop their skills in numerous areas. Each week when the "Bears" come to movement, they have the opportunity to repeat and practice the activities presented, as many times as they wish. In February and the first half of March, jumping and landing; throwing and catching; striking and balancing activities were presented and practiced.. The "Eagles" practiced ball skills that included dribbling, tossing and catching, and playing catch with a partner. They were also introduced to the tag games, Are You Ready? , Fox in the Morning, and Zookeepers.

The Elementary classes have also been working on ball skills. They practiced dribbling, catching, passing and shooting. As always, the skills are incorporated in game situations after being introduced for further practice.

February also included "Muffin Morning." This event occurs before school. Parents are invited to attend "mini classes" in all special areas of Physical Education, Art, Music and Language, with a gathering time for refreshments before the children begin their regular school day. This is a much anticipated event for the children, and it gives parents a glimpse of the special areas.

March has been extremely busy in physical education. Fitness and nutrition highlight the curriculum this month. The children are learning about the food pyramid, serving sizes and the importance of daily exercise. They are also taking part in the school wide collection of non perishable food items for Channel One and MN Foodshare month. Thank you to all that have contributed.

Lastly, the elementary children have had the opportunity to have yoga classes. For the 3rd year, Catherine McBride has led classes in yoga, sharing her passion, knowledge and skills with the children. We have been very fortunate to have her with us and extend our thanks.

Community Events


Y Healthy Kids Day (Rochester Family Y)
April 14, 2007
8:45-12:30

This event is open to the public and will have booths, activities, etc. Further information can be obtained at, www.rochfamy.org

From the Director, Patrick Sheedy

The Five Great Lessons

Montessori believed that a greater level of peace would result if children grew up with a keen understanding of the interconnectedness of all things. Thus, she laid out the Elementary curriculum in a very unique manner that allowed children to visualize that interconnectedness. She also wanted to be sure that the children's interest was sparked by tapping into the emerging powers of the imagination. What takes place every year in Montessori schools all over the world is the same – the Five Great Lessons. These five stories give rise to everything in the curriculum and serve to



anchor the vast amount of information to which the child will be exposed. The first lesson is the Coming of the Universe and the Appearance of the Earth. This of course leads to information in areas like Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, Geology and the likes. The second lesson is the Coming of Life and this obviously leads to things like Biology and Zoology. The third lesson is the Appearance of Human Beings and leads to most things human like History and Art. The fourth and fifth lessons are the Use of Symbols for communication and the Use of Numbers respectively. These obviously lead to Reading, Writing, literature on the one hand and the various iterations of Mathematics on the other. This core of lessons are told as vividly and as engagingly as possible and are designed to spark the innate desire to know that characterizes human beings. The children can and do become interested in what the classroom has to offer because of the stories. It is our belief that when people understand, on a visceral level that everything they do affects a larger system, they will be more likely to make choices that promote greater understanding and peace among people that if they act only concerned with their immediate (or slightly larger) environment. In part, when we say Whole Child Whole World, this is what we mean. If you have not had the opportunity to visit one of our Elementary classrooms, I invite you to do so. The office will be glad to help you set up a visit.