



Rochester Montessori School E-Newsletter

Whole Child * Whole World

Volume 2, Number 2

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Happy Anniversary, RMS

As we close the first year in our new building there is much to celebrate. It is a major accomplishment to settle into a new environment while keeping service to the children a top priority; this has only been done so through the dedicated collaboration of staff, parents and students at RMS. So, let's celebrate! and forge ahead into a second year filled with more endeavors to assure an environment thoughtfully prepared for the complete development of our children as nature intends them to.

From the Office

- If you are not receiving your emails from the school or if you would like to add an email address to our distribution list please contact Ginger in the office. You can either call her at 288-8725 or email her at reception@rmschool.org.
- The school is looking for a clothes dryer. The one we have has seen its better days. If you have one that you want to get rid of or you know someone who has one to get rid of please let the school know

PTSA

Planning for upcoming PTSA events is underway with Multi-Cultural Day fast approaching. Several event coordinators reported at the October meeting with the plans they have made. Please consider attending PTSA monthly meetings to share your ideas and talents. We are considering alternating with an every other month evening meeting (to begin November 16) to encourage more participation. Please email me (Sherry) with your thoughts on this at hcloft@charter.net.

Multi-Cultural Day and First Birthday Celebration Sunday, November 5, 2006 3-5pm at RMS

Ginger Carson is leading a group of parents and staff members to create a memorable birthday celebration to commemorate one year in our new building. There will be party games, a children's performance (E1, E2 and all-day CH children), a parade of nations (all RMS children and interested family members) and sampling of foods from all over the world (provided by RMS families)! Also, there will be makings for ice cream sundaes available. Please join RMS in celebrating our cultural diversity and one year in our new building! (Please RSVP for this event by 11/2 if you have not already.)



Events Calendar

October

- 30 Discovering French – 3:15–4:45 for 4/5 yr olds.

November

- 1 – French Club – 3:30 – 4:45 for E1 & E2 students
- 2 – Multicultural Day committee meeting – 8:30 am
- 3 – Multicultural Day set up – 2:00 pm
- 5 – Multicultural Day – 3:00 – 5:00 pm
- 6 - Discovering French – 3:15 – 4:45 for 4 & 5 year olds
- 8 - French Club – 3:30 – 4:45 for E1 & E2 students
- 9 – Montessori Awareness – Children’s House – 7:00 pm
- 10 – Willows Fall Harvest Celebration – 10:30 – 11:30 am
- 13 - Discovering French – 3:15 – 4:45 for 4 & 5 year olds
- 15 - French Club – 3:30 – 4:45 for E1 & E2 students
- 15 – Board meeting – 7:00 pm
- 16 – PTSA meeting – 9:00 am
- 16 – Gingkos Open House – 4:00 – 4:30 pm
- 17 – NO SCHOOL/Staff Development
- 20 - Discovering French – 3:15 – 4:45 for 4 & 5 year olds
- 22 – 24 – NO SCHOOL –

Fundraisers

Herberger's Community Day, Saturday, November 11

Buy a booklet for \$5 (entire proceeds go to RMS) and receive a \$10 coupon for any item \$10 or over as well as other discounts up to 20% off. This booklet is valid only on Nov 11, all day beginning at 6 am. Booklets are available in the office or from your PTSA co-presidents Sherry Jester and Marianne Couser. If you would like to sell booklets to family or friends please let us know. If you would be interested in selling booklets at Herberger's before or on Nov 11, please let us know.

ABC/Toy Zone

Shop at ABC & Toy Zone November 16 through November 19 where 10% of your sale will go to RMS when you tell the clerk you would like to direct it to RMS.

Apache Mall Festival of Giving, Sunday, November 19, 7pm-10pm

Start your Christmas shopping before Thanksgiving! Purchase a \$5 ticket to shop this special event at Apache Mall with discounts ranging from 10-25% at most retailers as well as other specials (see list of discounts in the office). All proceeds will go to RMS. Tickets available from your PTSA co-presidents or in the office.

Innisbrook Fundraiser

Thanks to all who ordered from Innisbrook, this fundraiser brought in approximately \$3,000 (final figure not yet available).

Montessori Services

Thanks to all who ordered from Montessori Services. This year brought in a record amount of over \$1,000 in cash and merchandise credits! Your families will all be benefitting from these great Montessori materials. If you missed ordering in the annual group order you can still place an individual order directly with Montessori Services by Dec 31, 2006 and 10% of the order amount will go to RMS. Please remember to order with the group next year to benefit our school with 25% of your order amount.

Scrip

Please remember our Scrip when buying Holiday gift cards. Stock vendors include Barnes & Noble, Macy's, Gap/Old Navy, TJ Maxx and several local restaurants. For your everyday shopping please remember to buy Scrip for Hy-Vee, Rochester Produce, Good Food Store, Rochester Produce, and Kwik-Trip.

Upcoming Events

November 5, 3-5pm: Multi-cultural day
November Staff Appreciation Event

Please get involved to continue to make these events successful!

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

Children's House News

Greetings from the Oaks...

The change of seasons to Fall has brought about our main topics for discussion and activity in the Oaks this month. We have been using the beautiful Fall colors as our inspiration for our pouring, scooping and

Thanksgiving Break

- 27 - Discovering French – 3:15 – 4:45 for 4 & 5 year olds
- 29 - French Club – 3:30 – 4:45 for E1 & E2 students

transferring work in the practical life area. We ended our apple discussion with

making fresh applesauce and now have been enjoying shelling and grinding field corn and grating cinnamon sticks to use on cinnamon toast at snack.

Along with our discussions on the types of and parts of the leaf and the life cycle of a pumpkin, the children have had the opportunity to use a variety of mediums to create fall themed art work. We have also read the books What Makes the Seasons and Pumpkin Circle to reinforce the topics we've been exploring.

We enjoyed our first Oaks Morning Visit with parents on October 27.

Specialist News

Art – Sharri Junke

It's been busy in the Elementary art room the last two months. We've studied artists that work with "line". We looked at the almost comic book-like drawings

of Keith Haring and then created our own using symbols, colors and line. We experimented with pen and ink after looking at Paul Klee's ink and watercolor paintings. Most recently we constructed mobiles and stabiles from wire, metal and wood after seeing some of Alexander Calder's wonderfully whimsical sculptures.

The first grade gave costume set design a try. They created their own outfits and an island for the "Columbus" play they performed in Spanish.

These days everybody has been busy making decorations for the Multicultural Day celebration coming up on November 5th. Needless to say, we've been busy and very creative the last couple of months!

Music – Connie Jelatis Hokes

Music enhances our lives. At RMS, we help our children discover music, and in the process, themselves.

Music is so many things to so many people. From their time in the womb, babies begin to respond to and distinguish different kinds of music. Music is a part of every culture we know. It is used to communicate, to express feelings, and to share stories. Music is the thread that binds us to our ancestors and connects us to each other.

As the beating of our hearts sustains our lives, so the musical beat sustains music. For this reason, beat work will always be a part of our musical activities.

Learning to be with, listen to, and work with one another are vital parts of

music creation. They require respect and responsibility to the group. As children learn these things, it helps them become better citizens of the world. All of these things are built in to our music program, whether we're playing games, listening to the music of others, playing instruments, or creating music of our own.

Learning to sing in harmony with one another (in a round or in parts), students learn to listen to each other to make their sounds blend together. They learn to maintain their part while taking in and meshing with what others are doing. They become a part of a beautifully working system and together create something bigger than themselves.

So, at RMS, you may see us listening to music, moving to music, playing music, creating music...and through all of that, hopefully, enjoying the wonder of music and helping it become an integral and accessible part of our children's lives.

We currently are learning a bit about other cultures as we learn their songs for our multicultural celebration. Students are practicing the musical beat, singing in parts, accompanying themselves while they sing, and even learning a bit about transposing music (E2). They are also learning about their responsibility to their audience.

Each day I come to school, I am elated and invigorated (and often challenged) by your wonderful children. As I try to help them find a part of music to make their own, they constantly teach and challenge me, and lead me in the direction they need to go. It is my pleasure to listen to them, follow them, and guide them in their pursuits.

On Thursday, December 7, E1 and E2 students will be attending the Allegro Ballet School's production of the Nutcracker. We are all looking forward to a delightful performance and to seeing two of our friends, Oriana Vile and Peggy Piller, perform in this production.

Outdoor Environment

*30 mph winds, 20 degree wind chills, and snow scoffed at...
Mountains of mulch laughed at....
Sod busted,
Rocks (and picks!) shattered,
110 plants planted
32 trees planted
150 bulbs planted
3,300 sq. ft of mulch distributed
800 lineal ft. of lumber moved 150 yds
1/2 ton rocks moved 100 yds
11 trees caged and staked*

"It is hard to overstate the impact of the hard work and effort that 40 hale and hearty IBM volunteers gave over two days at Rochester Montessori School. When they came the school was planted with nothing

but grass. No trees, no plants, no flowers or bushes graced our school's outdoor environment. Now, with the IBM volunteers' help, the school grounds will be beautiful when the trees, flowers, bushes and bulbs come to life in the spring. And that's just the beginning. By planting so much, the impact of the volunteers' work

will literally grow and benefit not just each of the 160 current students, but countless students in the future.

Our first experience with the United Way/IBM Days of Caring program has been fantastic and we look forward to sharing the progress of the plantings with the IBM teams as the years go by. We hope that the teams can continue to be a part of our future as our school grows, our grounds evolve, and our school community embarks on the task of building a unique, natural playground for the children.”

The above is the impact statement written for the United Way/IBM after our recent experience partnering with them to landscape the front of our school building. As stated, this was a fantastic experience and one we hope to repeat as we look toward installation of our Natural Playground.

The comprehensive plan from Natural Playgrounds, Inc. will be arriving within the week. Our landscape architect, Ron King, excitedly states: “...we, at Natural Playgrounds are excited about the RMS plan and think you are going to love it!” As soon as the plan is printed, it will be displayed for all to preview...then we continue planning, preparing and fundraising for the first phases of installation in the spring.

Visit:

<http://naturalplaygrounds.com>
to learn more about natural playgrounds and the company proposing a plan for RMS.



Parking Lot Considerations

1. Cell phones distract you from paying attention to other cars and, most importantly, the children. Please hang up your phones for the several minutes you are in the parking lot. Let your voice mail answer calls and inform people to whom you are talking that you need to devote your attention to getting your child to school and then call them back when you are done. An accident is simply not worth the risk.
2. When entering the building, please use a parking space. The yellow curbs are painted as such because they indicated fire lanes. These lanes **MUST** not be blocked. Please do not park next to these curbs for any reason at any time – even if you just have to “run in” for a moment.
3. The safest way to enter the building is to use the western most spaces so you can get up on the sidewalk and walk in without having to cross traffic. If you do have to cross traffic, please use the same caution as you would crossing a busy street. We may have Crossing Guards from E2 helping in this capacity so keep an eye out for them.
4. When leaving the driveway, please come to a complete stop and look both ways before pulling on to 7th street.
5. With winter coming it is not too early to review your winter driving skills. A few points to remember: 1) A sliding car cannot stop so

never lock up the breaks. If you have antilock breaks, try slamming them on once or twice to see what it feels like when they kick in. 2) Spinning wheels do not have traction. When ascending the drive, try not to spin your tires. Doing so not only reduces your chances of forward motion but also packs the snow down so that it is more slippery for others.

6. Please do not to use the handicapped spots on the west side of the parking lot. There is a family that needs a parking place each day at pick up. These spaces are often unavailable to them due to others parked there or cars blocking these spots while waiting for children to buckle up.

Thank you for working together for the safety and consideration of all.

From the Director...

We sometimes talk about Montessori the person. We often talk about Montessori as a method of educating children. Less often we talk about Montessori as a theory of child/human development. Really it is all of these. The person is important for historical reasons. The method of education is important for, well, educational reasons. It is the theory of development that is the most important. Perhaps one of the most basic elements of the theory is our belief that children have an internal guidance system that draws them toward the work in which they most need to engage. So strong is our belief in this principle that we have a deep respect if not reverence for this. Often one of the hardest things for adults to grasp is that the work to which the child is drawn is not always the most difficult thing that they can do. In other words, children are not always drawn toward new learning opportunities. In fact, they are often drawn toward tasks that they have recently learned or things that they are fairly accomplished in. Our job is to respect the internal guidance system (within the confines of the prepared environment) so that the child may grow as nature intended. Please talk to your child's guide about the principle of repetition, you may be surprised at how important this really is and it may help you understand a bit more about what your child is doing at school.

Rochester Montessori School