



# Montessori Matters



**Understanding mathematics: (left) “This is 1000.” (center) Adding 2,265 + 5,832 + 3,173. (right) Multiplication, squaring and cubing with the Bead Cabinet.**

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## Bring in Old CDs

E2 is creating a peace mobile out of old CDs and DVDs. Their work of art will go on display in the media center. Your old items are welcomed.

## On the Calendar

### October

- 10 Montessori Monday 8:45 AM
- 11 Children’s House Parents’ Night: Mathematics 5:30 –7:00 PM
- 12 School Pictures: Children’s House, Elementary / Middle School Programs
- 18 Parents’ Evening: To Praise or Not to Praise? What’s the Question? 5:30-7:00 PM
- 19 Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 21 **No School:**  
**Professional Development Day**

## Like Us on Facebook

We welcome your Facebook friendships on our new RMS Facebook page. For easy access, go to our website homepage and click on the Facebook icon in the lower right corner.

## Montessori Monday, 10/10, 8:45 AM: What do children really need?

Begin your week with a lively discussion about Montessori pedagogy and children’s needs.

## Children’s House Mathematics, 10/11

How do young children develop mathematical understanding? What are the amazing Montessori math materials? This presentation takes place from 6:00 - 7:00 PM. Reservations for pizza dinner (5:30-6:00) and child care are now due.

## To Praise or Not to Praise:

### What’s the Question? 10/18, 7:00 PM.

As parents, we are naturally inclined to praise our children. But if we are not careful, our praises, as well as our punishments, can have the opposite effect on children. Instead of engaging in more praise-worthy behavior, children may become less interested and less cooperative. If praise doesn't work as we expect, then what should we offer our children?

This presentation takes place from 6:00 - 7:00 PM. Reservations for pizza dinner (5:30 - 6:00) and child care are due by October 14th. Music is provided by Emily Hill Lewis (Middle School teacher) and Kathleen Lamb (Suzuki teacher) and children who will present the Peace Song and drumming.

## *E2 Coffee Shop*

*By: Antonella Dahlstrom-Afcha*

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011, E2 will have a coffee shop fundraiser to raise money for the field trip to Eagle Bluff they went on last month. The coffee shop will be at 8:00 am- 9:30am. E2 will sell coffee shop tickets for \$5 before the 20th. The tickets can get you 1 beverage and 1 pastry. The coffee shop will have muffins, bread, pastries, coffee, hot chocolate, and tea. We will also have a \$1 and \$5 raffle. The \$1 raffle gives you a chance to win things like gift cards and coffee mugs. The \$5 raffle gets you a chance to win 4 hours of babysitting from Christine! E2 would love it if you came, so come over to RMS on October 20<sup>th</sup>!

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## *Meet Michelle and Rachel*

*By Shannon McRaith*

**Meet Michelle Ebnet**, our Gingko's guide. Michelle has been a guide at RMS since 2003. She first worked as an assistant. As she became further acquainted with the Montessori philosophy, she couldn't wait to take her Montessori training. Michelle worked as a traditional teacher before coming to RMS; she felt as though she was swimming upstream. She really wanted to find a teaching experience where her students learned how to learn and not just how to take a test.

Michelle originally went into education because she always loved working with children. She wanted to do everything she could so that every child would love school. With this hope and dream, and after being a Montessori guide for the past decade, Michelle can't imagine ever going back to a traditional school setting.



*Meet the faculty: Travis Prinzing, Michelle Ebnet, and Rachel Burt and in the Gingkos classroom.*

Michelle believes that part of what makes Montessori so successful is that the philosophy follows the way children naturally develop. The prepared environment provides the child with the tools to maximize each stage of development. During these stages of development you can watch the three year old grow and then "explode" when they become kindergartners hungry to read, and write and explore math and science. This is something that inspires Michelle daily.

Michelle is continually amazed at how the Montessori Philosophy works. She also loves any moment in which the children spontaneously come together, help one another, and show love for each other. These moments of normalization are precious gifts that keep her coming back. These moments continue to convince her that the Montessori approach works and is what is helping create these wonderfully confident, loving people.

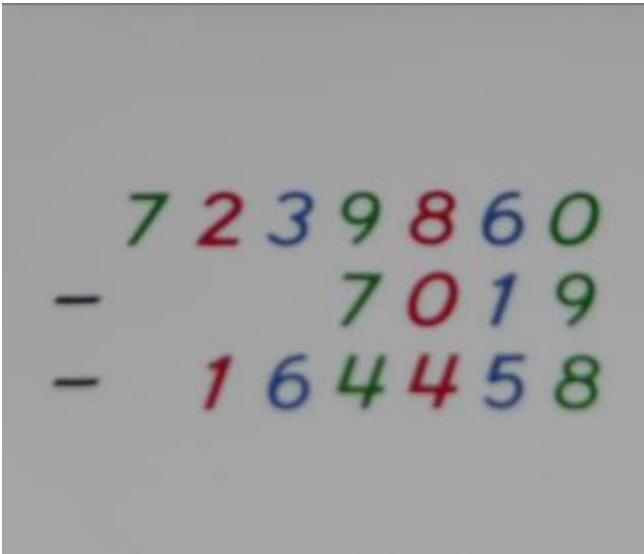
Michelle believes in the philosophy, but she also feels that the more connected

parents are with their child's classroom, the more a child can benefit from their experience. The more information a child's guide has about your child and his or her family life, the more the guide can develop an individualized approach for the child's needs. There is also a trust that needs to happen. Parents need to have faith that the philosophy will call to their child and draw out their child's strengths. This fluid approach is what Michelle believes to be a part of why Montessori has stood the test of time and continues to be a forefront in education.

Michelle is originally from Wisconsin Rapids, WI. She currently lives in Rochester with her husband Chris, their son Joshua, and their four dogs. In her spare time she loves to play with her son and go on family road trips. She is also an avid reader and is endlessly addicted to science fiction!

**Meet Rachel Burt** one of our assistants in the Gingko's classroom. She has been with RMS for since February of 2010. Before coming to RMS, Rachel worked





***Did you know the large bead frame is used for operations (+, -, x, ÷) into the tens of millions? These E1 second year students (above and below) complete two-step subtraction calculations beginning with, for example, 7,239,860.***

as an educational assistant with children with special needs. Rachel has always wanted to help children since she was little. Although she had not had any Montessori training, she thought that Montessori sounded very interesting. Rachel has since learned that she loves working in a Montessori setting and loves RMS!

When Rachel first came to our school, she could not believe how far advanced the preschoolers and kindergartners were compared to children in the traditional school systems where she had previously taught. She felt that the students seemed to absorb everything around them, and they were striving to be independent. This independent piece that is such an integral part of the Montessori philosophy has since become one of Rachel's favorite things about her days in the classroom. She loves to hear one of the children say, "I did it" or "I did it myself!" Then they tell everyone because they are so proud.

She also finds that children at this age are very loving and non-judgmental of those around them. They are curious about everything, and she loves to

watch their faces when they learn something new.

Rachel believes that parents and people who work with this age group should give children the chance to become independent. They will then see how quickly they can learn to respect people and the things that they come into contact with. She likes that the Montessori philosophy recognizes that everyone learns differently. Rachel appreciates that Montessori is recognized throughout the world as a legitimate system of education.

Rachel is originally from Hutchinson, MN is married. She and her husband Chris now live in Eyota, MN with their beagle Missy. In their spare time they enjoy old car and truck shows, antiques, auctions, camping, reading, and going to movies.

## ***The Annual Fund***

The Annual Fund is the most significant fundraising activity of the year. Our theme this year is simply, ***Books and Beyond: Request, Rebuild, and Replace.*** This theme reflects a simple truth: While we regularly budget classroom and me-

dia center funds, the School experiences the cumulative effects of decades of use. We need to rebuild our media center and replace classroom furniture and Montessori materials.

Our goal is to raise \$25,000 with 100% participation from our current families as well as expanded support from alumni families, grandparents, friends, faculty, and staff.

The Annual Fund is crucial in helping to make the School's media center project complete. Your contribution also helps to pay for educational programs, resources, and many other things that enhance the children's day-to-day experience. This year's focus is to fill our media center with furniture, books and computers, as well as to refurbish much of the well-loved furniture and materials that the classrooms have used for over 30 years.

We encourage every family at RMS to make our School a priority for your charitable giving. Each and every gift is greatly appreciated and welcomed.



*(left) The Hundred Board is used to place numerals from 1 to 100 in groups of ten. (right) A kindergarten student works on an addition problem involving place value (units, tens, hundreds, thousands) without regrouping.*

## **HyVee Smart Board**

Last year the school was a winner in the HyVee Smart Board contest. This was an incredible achievement given that RMS was grouped with significantly larger schools. This year we would like to win another whiteboard.

The contest runs from October 1 through December 30, 2011. For every \$20 of Procter & Gamble products you purchase at Hy-Vee, you will earn 100 SMART Points to donate to the school of your choice. Get 100 additional points when you purchase two (2) or more Sara Lee Fresh Bakery products in the same transaction as your qualifying \$20 Procter & Gamble purchase. Find the promotional code printed on your receipt of purchase, and enter it by clicking on the "Donate Points" button. From there, select the school for which you would like to make a donation. More than 200 schools with the most points will win! Plus, this year the participants with the most points earned from each winning school will win an iPad for a child at the winning school.

Smart Boards are at the forefront of educational technology. We will truly benefit from having more of these learning tools. Thank you for your support.

## **The Scholastic Book Fair!**

This year's book fair will take place with the Scholastic Book company. They offer a larger range of titles, especially for older students. However, volunteers are urgently needed from November 2 - 10.

Several cases of books from the Scholastic warehouse will be arriving in less than a month, and we need lots of help from our RMS community to make our first Scholastic Book Fair a success! We're looking for volunteers from each of the classrooms -- from the Toddler Rooms up to our Middle School -- to help with the planning and execution of the Book Fair. Whether you have a half hour to help decorate, or a few hours to work at the cashier table, we would appreciate your time.

Volunteers working two hours or longer

will receive a complimentary book from the Book Fair! If you'd like to help, please email our volunteer coordinator, Shannon McRaith, at [shannonmcrraith@gmail.com](mailto:shannonmcrraith@gmail.com).

The Scholastic Book Fair will be set up in our Media Room from November 2 - 10, including all day on November 4th during Parent-Teacher Conferences. RMS families and supporters will have many opportunities to browse and shop for books.

More information is coming soon. In the meantime, you can see the schedule of events shaping up on our Book Fair web site: <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/rochestermontessori>

