



# Montessori Matters



*Some strange critters showed up during RMS Spirit Week! Their costumes reflect their classroom team names. See page three for more of the fun details.*

## In This Issue

Sustainable Business .....	1
The <i>Erdkinder</i> Vision.....	2
RMS Spirit Week.....	3
Book Fair Success! .....	3

# A Sustainable Business Practice

**By Paisley Lovrich, Martin Huddleston, and Theo Thayib, Middle School Students**

## Current Events

Please support our chances to win a Smart Board with HyVee shopping.

Many thanks for your Annual Fund contributions. We're underway to raise \$25,000!

The Ending Hunger Event - Change of Date to 11/16

## On the Calendar

### November

#### Annual Fund Continues

- 16 Empty Bowls - 5:30 PM
- 16 Board Meeting - 6:00 PM
- 17 Children's House Language Curriculum with Pizza Dinner - 5:30-7:00 PM
- 23-25 **School Closed: Thanksgiving**

(Editor's note: The two-day experience described is an integral part of the middle school experience. See page 2 for pictures and more.)

On Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, and again on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Middle School students completed a two-day intercession program at Cedar Valley Farm. Located outside of Lanesboro, MN, this Intercession was the first of several future trips. A purpose for this program is for our Middle School students to personally experience what goes into maintaining a sustainable business practice. This was not a passive experience; our students engaged in some real work!

Over the course of two days, we were guided by Cedar Valley Farm's Janette Dragvold.. We learned how to clean out a duck pen and feed chickens. We were also introduced to horse and cattle care. In addition, we learned about the uses of various herbs and how to spin wool on a hand spinner. We sampled homemade grape juice, and we pickled watermelon rind.

The first day began with a tour of the farm and its animals; each serves an important ecological purpose. We went to work in cleaning out the duck pen. We shoveled, pitched, and scraped out the old hay. We saturated wood shavings. Our guides Ethan and Emily helped wheel out the old hay while Paisley brought in the new hay. Martin



***Understanding the principles of industry through “doing”: Middle school students completed a two-day internship program at Cedar Valley Farm.***

and Theo carefully cleaned out the ducks’ water buckets. After we corralled the ducks into their clean pen, they foraged for insects, bathed in the water, and nibbled excitedly on broccoli stalks from the garden.

Following freshening up and feeding the ducks, we moved onto feeding and watering the chickens. We thought that the chickens were awesome, and now we wonder if RMS can support raising chickens. Feeding chickens required using a sequence of different foods. First feed grain, then corn was put in. More feed was placed on top of the corn. Oats were then placed on top of the feed, and finally, a final scoop of feed was placed at the very top. The coop dimensions are 28 in. by 85 in. by 85 in. Outside, there was chicken wire everywhere including the roof.

Following lunch (for us people!), we were immersed in horse care. We each had the chance to ride a horse around the cattle yard. The horses’ well-being relies on the care given. If a horse is not well cared for, he will soon get sick. Before riding a horse, one must always before riding brush him down to remove irritants that hurt under the saddle. And you must also clean out the horse’s hooves which have a large U-shaped indentation called a frog. The frog provides traction, but if a rock gets

caught in the frog, and the horse keeps walking on it, it can cause a bruised hoof which is quite painful and will bog down your horse a bit.

Our second day involved a visit to Janette’s future home and farm which has an apple orchard of over thirty different trees. Janette’s Grandfather described the grafting process he sometimes uses when growing new trees. We sampled different types of homemade apple cider, and we learned about how to prune an apple tree in order to encourage abundant apple production.

We are thankful for Janette and her family’s generous time, and look forward to utilizing what we’ve already learned about chicken and apple orchard care in applying it to our growing Middle School business prospects at RMS!



***Erdkinder Vision***

*Dr. Maria Montessori’s vision for the education of young adolescents began a profound insight into the developmental needs of this age:*

*Success in life depends in every case on self-confidence and the knowledge of one’s own capacity ... The consciousness of knowing how to make oneself useful, how to help mankind in many ways, fills the soul with noble confidence ... The feeling of interdependence must be bound to the power to be self-sufficient.*

More than anything else, young adolescents want to make serious contributions to their social groups. In the absence of real, meaningful work, middle school students will form cliques. When, however, middle school students are empowered to make decisions, they become purposeful. They more readily develop lifelong habits and skills such as persistence, communication, problem-solving, creativity, planning, and project execution.

The RMS Middle School welcomes its intercession experiences at the Cedar Valley Farm as a place in which our students can experience and develop the meaning of being self-sufficient. This kind of real work supports and complements their International Baccalaureate academic studies.





*Everyone got into RMS spirit week. The team dress event was tough to judge. For example, the E1 Eagles (above left), the Gingko Gigglers (above right), and the E2 Enforcers (below right).*



## ***RMS Spirit Week***

The RMS faculty Special Events Committee hosted spirit week for the staff this week. The spirit week theme was football. Each classroom was either given a team name or they came up with their own. The administrative staff were the officials.

A football field was constructed as a game board, and push pins with team names were used as game pieces. Staff members answered football trivia questions to gain yards down the field. There were also other daily activities for which the teams were judged on by the officials. Tuesday was logo design day. Wednesday was team dress. Thursday was team cheer, and Friday each team was judged on their best overall team spirit for the week. We also ended the week with a tailgate pot luck luncheon.

The officials had a hard time judging because each team showed amazing creativity and had great team spirit. A fun week was had by all! Stay tuned for more!

## ***Book Fair Success!***

RMS celebrates a most successful book fair. Nearly \$5000 in sales took place. Thank you for all your support, and many thanks to Sara Hamilton for chairing the Scholastic Book Fair. The fair could not have happened without volunteer efforts from Erin Grothey, Shannon McRaith, Kendra Garrison, Nikki Brown, Ruby Gulati, Minako Omi, Ariel Borish, Claudia Tabini, Janine Yanisch, Kidron Flynn, and Michelle Kallmes.

Thank you too to our classroom guides and assistants for all of their support. Special posters were made by RMS students Paisley and Roxy; thank you!

