



Montessori Matters



Join in the fun during LOVE4 , February 10, 6 PM and celebrate children, RMS, community, and Montessori!

6—10 Gallery of Children’s Art, Silent Auction, and more

7—11 The Funkeys!

RSVP by 1/28 to rmscommunity1@gmail.com

Middle school students met with Rochester Mayor Ardell Brede and learned about their city’s present and future. They Mayor will come to RMS on February 10th.

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The Annual Fund

Many thanks for your Annual Fund contributions. With 22% family participation, we have now raised \$10,678 towards our goal of \$25,000! How can we appeal to the remaining 78% for your help and support?

On the Calendar

January

- 20 Priority Re-Enrollment Deadline for Current Students
- 20 Willows Parents’ Morning Visit 7:50 – 8:30 AM
- 25 Ginkgos Parents’ Morning Visit 7:50 – 8:30 AM

February

- 10 Welcoming Ceremony 9:45 AM
- 10 LOVE4 6:00 PM

Middle School and the Mayor of Rochester

On the morning of Thursday, January 5, 2012, the middle school visited the Mayor's office to interview Mayor Ardell F. Brede. For the past few weeks, the middle schoolers have studied cartography and population density. Most recently they created their very own planets and associated cultural systems. In order to further understand political structure and the political geography of Rochester, we readied a series of questions for Mayor Brede.

In preparation for our meeting we read about the founding of Rochester, Minnesota, as well as Mayor Brede's 2011 State of the City (his 2012 State of the City was presented the night before we visited him). Theo made a PowerPoint presentation for the Mayor, and both Theo and Paisley prepared a series of questions surrounding the Mayor's 5-10 year future outlook for Rochester.

After meeting us in the atrium of Rochester's City Hall. Mayor Brede took us upstairs to his office for our interview. He immediately helped each of us feel welcome and at home as his office is filled with a plethora of teddy bears! For the next hour and a half, we learned about Mayor Brede's priorities for 2012. These include the passing of a .5% local option sales tax and embracing our local diversity. We also learned about Rochester's Partner Cities: Moosburg, Germany, Xianyang, China, and Siheung City, South Korea. Mayor Brede thoroughly answered our questions including what a Mayor does, how government works, and his 5-10 year outlook for the Rochester area. Mayor Brede emphasized how Rochester is the "economic engine of Minnesota," and described how Mayo Clinic sets a professional bar and influences Rochester's overall developmental efforts. We also asked about environmental efforts, including management of the current downtown crow population!



Meet the E2 guides. Laura (left) presenting materials used to analyze parts of sentences. Christine (right) presenting geometric solids used to calculate volume.

As a thank you, the middle school students presented Mayor Brede with a RMS folder filled with a selection of Montessori Matters newsletters, a Post Bulletin article involving RMS, and an invitation to the RMS 2012 Annual Fundraiser. We also gifted Mayor Brede with a RMS key chain and pen, which he graciously accepted. He also thanked us and presented each student with a Rochester pin. Following our visit, we composed a thank you letter, and we will include a copy of this *Montessori Matters*. We look forward to greeting Mayor Brede at RMS the morning of February 10th as he welcomes a group of Polish Montessori teachers who will be visiting us to the Rochester community.

Meet E2: Ten Questions with Guides Laura Rasmussen and Christine Bredemus

1. When did you first hear about the Montessori Philosophy?

Laura-I worked as an assistant in the afternoons for a toddler program during high school.

Christine- I heard about the Montessori Philosophy from my cousin who taught at a school in Milwaukee. I was in college at the time, and she always talked about how wonderful the Montessori Philosophy was.

2. What made you decide to teach in a Montessori school?

Laura-I felt that the Montessori philosophy aligned with my own personal educational philosophy. I enjoy a classroom environment that challenges students and motivates them to be lifelong learners. The Montessori Method has the framework to reach all students at their individual levels. I also enjoy being a "guide" for knowledge, rather than a traditional approach where the teacher has all of the answers.

Christine- I was looking for a teaching job when I moved to Rochester, and I met one of Julianne Dennis's friends. She told

me all about Rochester Montessori School and suggested that I look into the school. It happened that RMS was looking for a new E2 teacher, so it was a perfect fit!

3. What do you relate to the most about Montessori?

Laura-I enjoy that the Montessori philosophy focuses on interconnectedness and gratitude.

Christine- Math is my favorite subject to teach. When I did my training, I learned how to use all the math materials. So many concepts made much more sense. Parents always say to me, "I wish I had these materials when I was learning how to do division, area, fractions, etc." I feel very connected to math materials. I love the power it gives children over their own learning and understanding of mathematical concepts.

4. Why do you feel elementary-aged children benefit from a Montessori education versus a "traditional" one?

Laura-Elementary aged children are able to follow their own interests and challenge themselves with a Montessori education. The environment is set up to encourage children to research subjects that interest them, and to take it as far as they can. Sometimes the traditional setting is too concerned with testing and standards. The students are not able to really explore a topic as much as they would like. The Montessori environment also allows the child to learn time management skills that they will use for the rest of their lives. It is really amazing to see how self-sufficient the children can be.

Christine- I think that elementary-aged children benefit immensely from the deep understanding of concepts they gain through exploration. For example, allowing children to discover formulas and algorithms in math helps students to understand why certain mathematical concepts work out like they do. I also believe that the Montessori Method promotes wonderful life-skills such as time management, strong work ethics, and intrinsic motivation.





Smart technology meets Montessori! We've added promethean boards to each elementary and middle school classroom. (above) An EI lesson on land and water forms.

5. What do you feel makes the biggest difference in a child's Montessori education versus a traditional one?

Laura-I think the ability for the guide to individualize for each unique student.

Christine-See above answer!

6. What's your favorite part of the school day?

Laura-I love morning meeting! It is a time of day where we all come together and get organized for the rest of the day.

Christine- I have two... My first favorite part of the day is watching the children come into the room. They come in, get out work, and are focused immediately. They are such independent, eager, young people- it is wonderful to watch. My second favorite part of the day is when I read aloud to the children. I have found that it does not matter the age of a child; they love to be read to! They all sit around me listening intently and I love to watch their faces and hear their reactions to what I have read.

7. What do you like about working with this particular age group?

Laura-I love working with E2 because the 9-12 year olds are extremely independent. They are able to compose exciting pieces of writing and presentations. This is also a time where the children are learning how to debate and support their own opinions. I specifically enjoy teaching reading because it is a

subject that the children are passionate about. I am learning from them each day!

Christine- I absolutely love working with 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. They are so fun to discuss ideas and books with. They are smart, inquisitive, and love to be challenged. I also enjoy hearing about all the activities that they are involved in outside of school.

8. Where did you grow up and what/who made you want to become a teacher?

Laura-I was born in Chicago, but I grew up in Northfield, MN. I wanted to become a teacher when I started working with children as a photographer for Target in high school. I also had an amazing 6th grade teacher who made a great impact in my life.

Christine- I was born in Wisconsin, but I moved all over the Midwest before my family settled in Minnesota. I grew up in the Twin Cities, and then went to college at Iowa State. I always knew that I would major in Elementary Education. I used to play "teacher" with my younger brother. I would set up a classroom and make my brother be my student.

9. Who is in your family?

Laura- My husband, Ed, and my dog, Boomer

Christine- I am very close with my brother, sister, and my many brother- and sister-in-laws that live in the cities. My

husband, Jake, and I live here in Rochester with our black lab, Ozzy.

10. What do you like to do outside of school?

Laura-I enjoy going hiking, listening to live music, reading, exploring the Rochester area, and visiting my family in Northfield.

Christine- Outside of school I love to read, take walks with my dog, and spend time with my friends and family. I love to cook!

LOVE4 - 2/10/12!

The School's *LOVE4* annual fund event takes place at the DoubleTree by Hilton in downtown Rochester. Open to the entire community, *LOVE4* features fun and engaging entertainment by the Funkeys, an International entertaining Dueling Piano's show!!

The theme, *LOVE4*, celebrates the School's love for the children, RMS, community, and Montessori. The doors open at 6:00 p.m. with a silent auction and raffle. An original piece of art work that the children will have created specifically for the event will also be auctioned. Hors d'oeuvre will be served from 6:00-8:30, and a cash bar will also be open. The evening's entertainment begins at 7:00.