What an amazing 45th anniversary celebration! RMS thanks the many volunteers who worked on behalf our School and the Rochester Community. We sure do know how to party!

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**On the Calendar**
**October**
- 10 School Pictures: Children’s House/Elementary/Middle School Programs
- 17 Pinecones class Sing Along 11:00-11:30 am
- 17 Board Meeting 6:00 pm
- 18 No School: Professional Development Day
- 19 No School: MEA
- 25 Birches Parents’ Morning Visit 7:45-8:30 am
- 25 Gingkos Parents’ Fall Gathering 10:30-11:30 am
- 26 Oaks Parents’ Morning Visit 7:50-8:30 am

**News from the RMS**

**Board of Directors**
First and foremost, the board would like to congratulate Paul, LuAnn, Janine, Sharri, Amy, Laura, Sarah, Greg, Bre, and Anna for the successful completion of the site visit from the International Baccalaureate consultant. This allows RMS to now go ahead with the next step and submit the application for the IB Middle Years Program authorization visit! A tremendous amount of work went into preparations for the IB visit on Tuesday, September 25th, and we would like to thank you all for such a successful outcome! This is great news for the RMS community at large and one step closer to achieving certification as an IB Middle Years Program. We are on track with our original timeline (see page two) to attain certification in the autumn of next year barring any complications. Progress regarding the authorization process and implementation of IB will be readdressed in further detail in future issues of Montessori Matters and throughout the year.

The Board of Directors was expanded last year, as new members were elected for the current school year to help meet the needs of our growing community. We are excited to help RMS meet its challenges this year and look forward to speaking with any of you who have ideas or concerns you would like to share. Board meetings are open to all parents and are typically scheduled 6:00 pm for 3rd Wednesday of each month. Please refer to the calendar to be sure of each month’s meeting time (http://www.rmschool.org/calendar/index.html).

**2012-2013 Board of Directors:**
Jeff Piepho, President; Richard Wright, Vice-president, Kari Stonelake-Hopkins, Secretary, Sherry Jester, Treasurer. New members: Sara Hamilton, Erin Grothey, Robert Scalzo, and Andy Saunders, Faculty Board Representative.
Why IB?

Perhaps the best answer is found in the purpose of the program: “The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.”

This goal is consistent with Montessori’s vision of an interdisciplinary approach to international education. By combining the Montessori tradition with the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (MYP), we will more fully ready students for the kind of world they will inherit.

We are an IB Middle Years Program (MYP) candidate school, and we are now approved to apply for authorization as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy — a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that we believe is important for our students.

Our MYP program enrolls students in grades six through eight. The program provides an academically challenging curriculum that guides students to make connections between the subjects, themselves, and real world issues. Students develop a foundation in their own language and culture and become internationally minded. Students are further challenged to become inquirers, solve problems, demonstrate creativity and resourcefulness, and participate actively in the RMS and Rochester community. In sum, the program:

- Has a strong international dimension
- Draws on content from educational cultures around the world
- Requires study across a broad range of subjects
- Includes both individual subjects and trans-disciplinary areas
- Gives special emphasis to learning languages
- Focuses on the developing the skills of learning

• Provides opportunities for individual and collaborative planning and research
• Encourages students to become responsible members of their community.

The Fundamental Concepts The three fundamental concepts of the MYP - holistic learning, intercultural awareness, and communication - allow us to build upon the curriculum goals found in our early childhood and elementary programs.

The Learner Profile By design, the MYP program supports the development of the whole student – physically, intellectually, emotionally, and ethically. This goal is expressed through a set of values known as the Learner Profile which inspire and motivate the work of teachers, students, and schools to become inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk takers, balanced, and reflective.

Five Areas of Interaction The courses are integrated through five areas of interaction that provide a framework for learning within and across the subjects. The five areas are:

Approaches to Learning. Through ATL teachers provide students with the tools to enable them to take responsibility for their own learning, thereby developing an awareness of how they learn best, their thought processes, and their learning strategies.

Human Ingenuity. Students explore in multiple ways the processes and products of human creativity, thus learning to appreciate and develop in themselves the human capacity to influence, transform, enjoy, and improve the quality of life.

Health and Social Education. This area deals with physical, social, and emotional health and intelligence - key aspects of development leading to complete and healthy lives.

Community and Service. This component requires students to take an active part in the communities in which they live, thereby encouraging responsible citizenship.

Environments. This area aims to develop students’ awareness of their interdependence with the environment so that
RMS United Nations Peace Celebration took place on Friday, September 21st and included music, songs, and an original poem by E2 students (see below).

they understand and accept their responsibilities.

Why IB? Tomorrow’s adults will live more fully in an international community. The values and goals of the MYP are compatible with our Montessori education; we can build upon this tradition. In addition, research supports the claim that students who complete the three years MYP program are better prepared for challenging course work in high school. For more information, please see the RMS MYP Handbook on our website.

(Please note: Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its three academic programs: the Primary Years Program (PYP), the Middle Years Program (MYP), or the Diploma Program (and in addition the IB Career-related Certificate). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.)

Send Off a Dove

Written by E2
Send off a dove for love
Free peace from your heart
Release peace like flying geese
Trade fists for words and make them kind
Give people second chances
Give kindness instead of violence
Send off a dove for love
Sign treaties to prevent wars
War and peace are two entirely different things
Mixing them will hurt as one
Free peace from your heart

Instead of bombs of violence, use bombs of kindness
Buying guns, swords and knives won’t solve problems, it will only hurt you
Use words, not weapons
Release peace like flying geese
Peace is a solution, use conflict resolution
Take a piece of peace, spread it like peanut butter
Send peace across the seven seas
Take hands and roam the seas and lands
Why don’t we make peace a lasting habit?
Cease violence for peace!
Send off a dove for love

Free peace from your heart
Release peace like flying geese

Eagle Bluff

By Chris, 6th grade student
We were at Eagle Bluff (see below) from the 12th to the 14th of September. We split ourselves into two groups, Laura’s group and Sarah’s group. The groups were very important, because we would have lessons with the people in our groups. We had two different types of classes, daytime and evening classes.

For daytime classes we had Amphibi-
Middle School takes on Rochester (left) and the Root River (right) during their biking and canoeing trips. These outings are part of middle school studies.

ans, Rock Climbing, Group Challenges, and a class named, “Fungus Among Us.” The good thing was that all our classes were outside, except for rock climbing. We were always active every day. For evening classes we had Legends of the Sky, a presentation about the legends of the stars. We had a presentation about Bats on the second night. I’m so glad we get to go every year. We had a really fun time!

Middle School on Root River
By Isabell, 7th grade student
The middle school students are officially risk takers. We canoed seven miles from Petersen to Rushford on the Root River. Our adventure took place on September 18th, 2012. We rented four canoes. There were two students and one chaperone per canoe. The scenery was most beautiful. Though the water was very low in places, we saw a few fish. We even spotted two bald eagles. After canoeing for about 2 hours, we found a sand bank. We had a lovely lunch and played on the soft sand. Some of us got a little wet. After a filling lunch, we got into our canoes and kept canoeing. We faced many obstacles together. We communicated with members of our canoe. Middle school had a blast! Teamwork made this canoe trip so much fun. Hopefully our other field trips will be as successful.

Bike Trip in Rochester
Middle school students made use of Rochester’s bike trail system on September 27th. We biked to the History Center of Olmsted County and collected information for technology projects. We had lunch at the access to the Douglas Trail. In the afternoon we visited Cascade Meadows Environmental Center. There we had a class on types of energy, energy efficiency, and building design.

Thank You to the our 45th Anniversary Volunteers
We are grateful to each of you for helping make possible a celebration of the incredible legacy that is our very special Rochester Montessori School. Thank you to:

Brook Suri
Mariana Iglesias
Maria Cecilia Lairet de Michelena
Kendra Garrison
Kidron Flynn
Sara Hamilton
Karina Keogh
Nancy Radakovic
Ruby Gulati
Nikki Sohanali
Kathryn Gardner
Nikki Sohanaki
Rob Scalzo
Hector Michelena
Richard Wright
Erin Grothey
Sherry Jester
Sara Hamilton
Ruby Gulati
Joan Lowery
Clarisse Hoag
Michelle Kalina
Roshani Sellon