



## Dear Parents,

Many thanks to Diane McMillen for taking on the task of creating the school newsletter. We hope this will be a great tool for updates and information to our parents.

The board meets the first Wednesday of each month at school, at 5:30 pm. Generally our meeting last about 2 hours, and parents are always welcome to attend.

The board oversees school operations, including the budget, maintenance, improvements, and fundraising. We are beginning our budget work for the next school year at this time.

Several of our board members are overseeing our two big upcoming fundraising events, our 5K/10K run, and our Wine Maker's dinner. There is more about both these great events in the newsletter, so please save the dates in your calendars. Spring will be busy.

We always welcome parent input and feedback at the board. You are welcome to attend any meeting or to talk to any of our board members about ideas or concerns that you may have. Our teaching staff also attends our meetings, so we can best respond to the teacher and classroom needs.

Many thanks,

Kim Sapunar  
971-241-1423

Montessori education is a philosophy and a method developed by Dr. Maria Montessori in 1906 and practiced today in thousands of schools on six continents. Montessori education recognizes the unique potential in each child and awakens children's natural ability to learn and to teach themselves.

Maria Montessori was herself a unique and remarkable person. Born in rural Italy in 1870, she challenged the medical and educational establishment and became Italy's first woman MD in 1896. She began to work with mentally retarded children, as well as championing the causes of working women and children, and researching mental development and education. In 1904 she became Chair of Anthropology at the University of Rome. During this time, she developed her methods of observation and teaching that became the foundation of her philosophy.

Over the past year and a half, I have really enjoyed working at MMS with all of your children. It has been a delight to see them learn and grow. Now, however, with the birth of my own child approaching I will be leaving to be a stay at home Mom.

In my absence, we have a wonderful new staff member coming to join our team. Rommie Christiansen will be taking over the primary after school care class. She graduated from George Fox University in the spring of 2010. She has three years on day camp staff at Camp Tilikum; her most recent position being on site director. She has also provided child care for Grace Baptist Church in Newberg, as well as, several volunteer child care positions. Rommie is very excited for the opportunity to work at McMinnville Montessori School.

Michelle Finley

*"The first duty of an education is to stir up life, but leave it free to develop."*

~ Maria Montessori.



It has been a busy new year in the Primary class. In January we welcomed Zayden Walter to our class. We spent a lot of time exploring things about Martin Luther King Jr. This led to some interesting discussions and new vocabulary. When explaining Segregation many children thought that I was making a joke. The idea of being excluded because of skin color seemed ridiculous to them.

Dr. King's accomplishments were the perfect topic to follow up in February by introducing several outstanding people for Black History Month. They were thrilled to already know of Oprah. Some of the children were very impressed to hear about her humble beginnings. We also talked about Harriet Tubman, and Maya Angelou.

Thanks to your fundraising efforts, I have ordered a few items to make our classroom more interesting and to refresh some of the older well loved materials. They should arrive any day now and your little one can tell you about what they noticed.

Leslie Scott

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## Greetings from Elementary,

The children are in the middle of a weeklong read-a-thon. It's the first of two fundraisers. They have decided to do to raise money for a new ceiling in our classroom. The second fundraiser is a garage-sale that will take place on April 9th.

The classroom is bustling with energy and many different topics are being studied. We have finished self-defense classes and are now doing swimming lessons. On Wednesdays, Heather teaches art with the Monart technique. On March 18th, we are going to Portland to see the Oregon symphony.

I encourage you to come in and observe our class, just let me know ahead of time. If you have any questions let me know.

Maria Eustrom

march	april	may	june
2 Board Meeting- 5:30	3 Wine Maker's Dinner	4 Board Meeting - 5:30	1 Board Meeting - 5:30
21- 25 No School - Spring Break	6 Board Meeting- 5:30	6 No School - Parent/Teacher Conference	15 Last day of school/HALF DAY
28 Plant Sale Begins	8 Turn in Plant Sales	15 Parent/Child Tea 1:00 - 2:30	
	15 No School - Inservice Day	30 No School - Memorial Day	
	16 Discover Spring Fun Run		
	29 No School - Parent/Teacher Conference		



*"We especially need imagination in science.*

*It is not all mathematics, nor all logic, but it is somewhat beauty and poetry."*

*~ Maria Montessori.*



## "A Perfect Pairing"- A Winemakers Dinner

Sunday, April 6th at 6:00 pm

Community Plate Restaurant,  
Third Street

\$80.00/person

Seating Limited to 50 guests

Experience delicious local cuisine prepared by Eric Bechard of Thistle Restaurant at his new restaurant Community Plate paired with six wines from our very own MMS winemaking families. Enjoy fabulous pairings in a bright new setting while learning about the wines from the actual winemakers. The event promises to be a celebration of McMinnville's talented bright winemakers and exquisite farm to table cuisine.

Eric Bechard is one of McMinnville's new young chefs and has received excellent reviews both locally and nationally. If you haven't had a chance to experience his culinary skills this is definitely the time to do it. Guests will experience wines from Coeur de Terre

Vineyards, JWrigley Vineyards, Harper Voit Wines, Emerson Vineyards, Matzinger Davies Wine Company, and The Eyrle Vineyards.

An event-only raffle of local wines and collectible Magnum Bottles will round out this wonderful evening.

"A Perfect Pairing" will be an annual MMS fundraising event highlighting both our community's excellent culinary and winemaking skills. Please plan to join us in supporting McMinnville Montessori School, Eric Bechard's new restaurant - Community Plate, and our very talented winemaking families.

## Elementary Class Yard Sale!

April 9th

To help support the very motivated efforts of the elementary class to replace the ceiling in their classroom I am helping to coordinate a few of the behind-the-scenes details to make their yard sale event run smoothly. Just about anything will be accepted, but please consider the following when looking through your closets and garage:

- Items need to be in very good condition and well cleaned prior to the sale.
- No broken, torn, or damaged items
- Clothes are okay, but need to be clean w/ no stains and neatly folded.
- Puzzles, games – pre-counted to ensure no missing pieces or game pieces
- Furniture and larger items are great as long as I can have help to remove them/donate to Goodwill afterwards if they do not sell
- Items will need to be priced at home prior to the sale. Next month I will send home pricing stickers and a list of suggested prices.
- Items will also need to be kept at your home until just before the sale as there is not enough room at the school.

Students and parents interested in helping out, please email me to give me an idea of what you will be donating so I can be well prepared for the big day.

Thank you for helping our kids!

Lisa Gossett  
Zoey Fujii's Mom

## Life Skills :

Teaching age appropriate life skills to teach responsibility.

### Under 6:

Making beds, bringing in the newspaper, picking up toys, wiping up spills, feeding pets, putting dirty clothes in hamper, caring for a small garden, putting away groceries, recycling, raking the yard, shoveling snow, telephone etiquette, washing the car.

### Older children

### Over 6:

Make a grocery list, to cook using a recipe, set the table, dishes, wipe stove and oven, sort, carry laundry, and put away clothing.

Setting up a savings account, a budget, making a schedule, changing light bulbs, replace a vacuum cleaner bag, and small repairs.

Outside work: helping paint, mow, rake and weed a lawn, where and when to trim a bush, how to use tools safely, how to maintain a car.



## 1st Annual Discover Spring Run

We are proud to announce the 1st Annual Discover Spring 5K/10K and Children's Fun Run is set for Saturday April 16th, 2011. We are excited to bring our school and broader community together for this active, fun, family event at Discovery Meadows Park in McMinnville.

In order to make this event successful we are in need of your help! Here are some ways you can help:

- Post a flyer at your place of business (and/or several of your favorite businesses)
- Be a volunteer for the event... we need MANY, MANY volunteers to make this a successful event; this is a great way to fulfill your SOS hours
  - Run/walk in the 5K/10K; sign your child up for the Fun Run
  - Visit the website at [www.discoverspring.com](http://www.discoverspring.com) and forward the link to all of your friends/family who might like to run and/or volunteer
  - We are on Facebook... "like" our community page and promote the event in your social network

· Recruit sponsors... a great advertising investment as our website and event advertisements will reach thousands of runners across the state and nation:

Gold – \$300 – gold sponsors get their logo on the race t-shirts, their logo on the website and we will place promotional information in the running packets.

Silver - \$150 – silver sponsors will have their names on the race t-shirts, their name on the website and we will place promotional information in the running packets.

Bronze - \$75 – bronze sponsors will have their names on the website and we will place promotional information in the running packets.

Again, if you can spare the time we appreciate your family coming out to walk/run and/or volunteer. See you this spring!

Tanya Tompkins & Kay Livesay

## Easy Everyday Fundraising

Earn money for the school everytime you buy online from:

Amazon REI  
Apple Store Lego  
PetSmart Ebay  
and many more!

See the school website [Fundraising page](#) for more information.

McMinnville Montessori

1101 SE Brook St. McMinnville, OR 97128

Phone:

(503) 434-5081

E-Mail:

[learning@mcminnvillemontessori.com](mailto:learning@mcminnvillemontessori.com)

Website:

[www.mcminnvillemontessori.com](http://www.mcminnvillemontessori.com)

### Cultivating the Desire to Learn



Please contribute to future newsletter issues.  
Contact Diane McMillen at [dimcmillen@yahoo.com](mailto:dimcmillen@yahoo.com) with your ideas and articles.

## 2010-2011 Board Members:

Kim Sapunar- President-503-474-1708

[k.sapunar@comcast.net](mailto:k.sapunar@comcast.net)

Brad Kelly 503-474-0957

[kellyb21@wildblue.net](mailto:kellyb21@wildblue.net)

Stuart Stout 503-435-2049

[stoutlands@msn.com](mailto:stoutlands@msn.com)

Sue Delventhal 503-434-6570

[suekins60@yahoo.com](mailto:suekins60@yahoo.com)

Kay Livesay 503-474-0848

[kay@livesay.org](mailto:kay@livesay.org)

Jenny Johns 503-472-1046

[jenny@viclink.com](mailto:jenny@viclink.com)

Subha Pathial 503-537-9731

[subha.pathial@gmail.com](mailto:subha.pathial@gmail.com)

Tanya Thompkins 503-435-7860

[tatompki@linfield.edu](mailto:tatompki@linfield.edu)

Joseph Perniciaro 503-550-3725

[jperniciaro@comcast.net](mailto:jperniciaro@comcast.net)

