

# Newsletter

April 2008, Volume 8, Issue 7

McMinnville



## Note from the Board

Dear Families,

The Board has formally adopted the budget for the next school year, and we are pleased to announce that the tuition rates will remain the same for next year. This is due in a large part to the excellent fundraising that was accomplished by the Parent Organization. Their efforts provide a cushion for the financial operation of the school. This allows us as the board a little financial flexibility, and this year we are glad to provide a financial break to our parents. It is the result of our parent's hard work with our fundraising, and we're happy to reward those efforts.

In addition, some of the fundraising has gone directly towards the expansion of the school building, and its upgrades with the heating system and new flooring.

We appreciate all the efforts our families make towards supporting the school, both financially, physically, and energetically.

The addition to the building should be finished in the next two months. Maria, Leslie and Tammy have helped to manage this project with the work of Greg Carter and Brad Kelley. We are looking forward to the added space.

There will be no summer school program at the school this summer. We have not held a summer program for several years now, generally because we find that most school age children are enrolled in the STARS program or Community Center sports activities in the summer. In addition, we

### Calendar of Events:

In Service, no sch	April 11
No sch/ Conferences	April 25
Spring Clean 10-2	April 26
No sch/ Conferences	May 2
Board Meeting	May 7
Parent Child Tea	May 16

will be concluding the building and addition work over the summer which would interfere with any school activities.

Our next Board meeting is May 7<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, at 5:30 pm at school. Parents are always welcome and meetings generally run about 2 hours long.

Many thanks,  
Kim Sapunar  
971-241-1423  
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Please note: NEW school EMAIL:  
[learning@mcminnvillemontessori.com](mailto:learning@mcminnvillemontessori.com)

Many thanks to Subha Pathial for all her hard work updating and transferring the school's website.

Thanks!

## Music

The Elementary class will be singing at Hillside Retirement on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. They have been practicing a great set of songs for their performance.

Oregon Symphony in Portland - Thursday, May 1st.

## All Fired Up Night

Join us for an artful evening painting he ceramics of your choice at All Fired Up, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. Sign up sheets are in the foyer, or contact Kendall Carter.

## Volunteer Hours

Please be sure to record any volunteer hours completed this school year. The green binder is located in the foyer on the white shelf. Any of the 10 hours not complete will be **billed** on your **May statement**.

## Spring Clean Up

Calling all hands, this is our final clean up date of the year. We ask all families to participate in one, so if you have not made it so far, we look forward to seeing you on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup>. Cleaning is also a great way to catch up on your parent volunteer hours. If you have not put in your 10 hours for the school year yet, come to clean on Saturday and make up your time. The major tasks will be landscaping clean up, and giving the kitchen a good scrub. If you can't make it Saturday, but would like to help, please let Maria know, she often has separate small projects that you can do to fit your schedule.

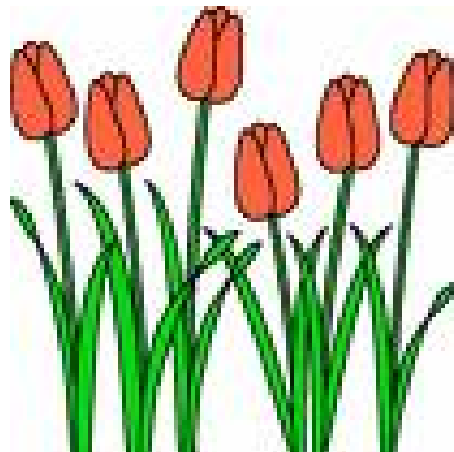
### Scholarships:

Each school year there are a few scholarship discounts that are available through the school. If you are interested in applying for a tuition scholarship discount for the 2008-2009 school year, please ask for an application from the office. Please submit requests by the last day of school. They will be reviewed at the July board meeting. All requests are confidential and reviewed only by the board. Scholarship discounts are given based on a family's financial need, history with the school, parent commitment towards the school in terms of volunteer hours, and the ability of the school's budget to accommodate the requests. Both Elementary and Primary requests are accepted.

### Financial Reminders:

A reminder that outstanding tuition for the 2008-2009 school year must be paid by the end of June, unless otherwise arranged, to ensure your child's return place in the fall.

If you have any financial questions or concerns, please speak with your teachers, or Kim Sapunar of the board.



We must support as much as possible the child's desires for activity; not wait on him, but educate him to be independent." -- Dr. Maria Montessori

### **What makes our school unique?**

As we enter our 25<sup>th</sup> year as the McMinnville Montessori School,

Here is an excerpt from the site:

<http://www.montessori.edu/FAQ.html>

### **Some Specific Details of the Montessori Method**

#### **The schedule - The three-hour work period**

Under the age of six, there are one or two 3-hour, uninterrupted, work periods each day, not broken up by required group lessons. Older children schedule meetings or study groups with each other the teacher when necessary. Adults and children respect concentration and do not interrupt someone who is busy at a task. Groups form spontaneously or are arranged ahead by special appointment.

They almost never take precedence over self-selected work. Note: For more information on the "three-hour work period" see the chapter "My Contribution to Experimental Science" from *The Advanced Montessori Method, Volume I*, by Dr. Maria Montessori, or contact the Michael Olaf Montessori Company at michaelola@aol.com for reprint GB850

#### **Multi-age grouping**

Children are grouped in mixed ages and abilities in three to six year spans: 0-3, 3-6, 6-12 (sometimes temporarily 6-9 and 9-12), 12-15, 15-18. There is constant interaction, problem solving, child to child teaching, and socialization. Children are challenged according to their ability and never bored. The Montessori middle and high school teacher ideally has taken all three training courses plus graduate work in an academic area or areas.

#### **Work centers**

The environment is arranged according to subject area, and children are always free to move around the room instead of staying at desks. There is no limit to how long a child can work with a piece of material. At any one time in a day all subjects -- math, language, science, history, geography, art, music, etc., will be being studied, at all levels.

#### **Teaching method - "Teach by teaching, not by correcting"**

There are no papers turned back with red marks and corrections. Instead the child's effort and work is respected as it is. The teacher, through extensive observation and record-keeping, plans individual projects to enable each child to learn what he needs in order to improve.

#### **Basic lessons**

The Montessori teacher spends a lot of time during teacher training practicing the many lessons with materials in all areas. She must pass a written and oral exam on these lessons in order to be certified. She is trained to recognize a child's readiness according to age, ability, and interest in a specific lesson, and is prepared to guide individual progress.

#### **Areas of study**

All subjects are interwoven, not taught in isolation, the teacher modeling a "Renaissance" person of broad interests for the children. A child can work on any material he understands at any time.

#### **Learning styles**

All kinds of intelligences and styles of learning are nurtured: musical, bodily-kinesthetic, spatial, interpersonal, intrapersonal, intuitive, and the traditional linguistic and logical-mathematical (reading, writing, and math). This particular model is backed up by Harvard psychologist Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences.

#### **Assessment**

There are no grades, or other forms of reward or punishment, subtle or overt. Assessment is by portfolio and the teacher's observation and record keeping. The test of whether or not the system is working lies in the accomplishment and behavior of the children, their happiness, maturity, kindness, and love of learning and level of work.

#### **Character education:**

Education of character is considered equally with academic education, children learning to take care of themselves, their environment, each other - cooking, cleaning, building, gardening, moving gracefully, speaking politely, being considerate and helpful, doing social work in the community, etc.

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We are a 501 ( c ) (3) non-profit

**Cultivating the Desire  
to Learn**

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*Please contribute to future newsletter issues.  
Contact Kim Sapunar with your ideas and  
articles.*

## Board Members:

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