

Montessori Messenger



Montessori School of Wooster • 1170 Akron Rd., Wooster, Ohio 44691 • (330) 264-5222
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How to Cut a Ribbon

There is no Montessori lesson on ribbon-cutting but our selected children on October 4 seemed to have an innate ability to cut the ribbon with grace and courtesy. On this historical Sunday afternoon, a large crowd toured our new school then watched with pride as Sylvie Shaya, Max and Ben Stavnezer and Christopher Roche cut their way into history. Of course the biggest moment was the introduction of our donors, Jenny and Tim Smucker. Tim spoke eloquently of the importance of the community's support in education and his wife's roll as an advocate for education in several communities. He also spoke of his love for both our school and the College of Wooster. As their gift benefited both institutions it really was a win-win situation for all. It is difficult to know how to say thank you for such an overwhelming gift. But knowing the Smucker family, that day of warm handshakes, happy smiles, lots of hugs and watching the children joyfully run on the new playground was a good way to say thank you. Tim and Jenny, you have given us a new home and perhaps for some, a new perspective on what is important in life. Thank you.

~ Pam Matsos
Head of School



Parent Conferences

Conferences are very important and your help in scheduling these with your child's teacher is needed. These conferences will be held November 3-7. Your teacher may have already contacted you. Don't miss this opportunity to be in touch with your child's progress.



Faculty:

Pamela Matsos,
Head of School

Melissa Puster
Roni Mellon
Andrea Summers
Ann Roessner
Melissa Lanham
Kelly Chandler
Nancy Kearney
Jennifer Seidel
Lisa Scott
April Gamble
Lisa Hostetler
Stephanie McComas
Susan Burkett
Joan Barth
Janet Broda
Karrie McAllister
Christy Wagner

Infant Toddler:

Monique Theoret
Sarah Bates
Tasha Gill
Jennifer Schmidt

Board Members:

Bryan Scott
Kristina Beichler
Don Bogner
Michael Burns
Andrei Dordea
Trevor Dunlap
Chris Kearney
Pamela Matsos
Robyn Miller
Alex Roberts
Cathy Roche
Dana Schmidt
Megan Wereley

CALENDAR

November 3-7

Parent Conferences

November 13

No School
(comp day for conferences)
Infant Toddler in session

November 25-27

Thanksgiving Break

December 21

Winter Break begins

January 4

Classes resume

Elementary Music

We have just completed studying about Verdi who composed, among other music, operas. The students loved learning the story of AIDA and why it was written. Please be sure to ask your student who the new composer is for the month of November.

~ Joan Barth
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Elementary Spanish

We have had five meetings since we started with the Spanish classes in elementary. It is really nice to see the quick improvement of the kids in their pronunciation; some of them don't even have an English accent! Every morning I can greet them in Spanish when they arrive at the school. It seems that they like learning, because if I'm not standing at the door, they look for me to say, "Hola, ¿cómo estás?". They have been working on greetings, simple phrases to introduce themselves, saying their age, numbers, and colors. The lower elementary class likes especially singing in Spanish. It is very nice to see how everyone enjoys learning a foreign language.

~Señora Summers



Upper El students having scooter races!

childrens house Music

The Musikgarten classes have gotten off to a great start. It took a few weeks to settle into a home, but the students have been enjoying singing about autumn and the homeplace. We've introduced many new songs and instruments and continue to work on our singing voices and keeping a steady beat, all the while having a lot of fun.

~ Karrie McAllister
karriemcallister@aol.com

childrens house Spanish

The last few weeks we have been working with the numbers 1-5 and doing a finger play to "Cinco Calabacitas (5 Little Pumpkins)." More recently we learned some words that go with the season and then played a bingo-like Loteria game. We still begin and end each session with the "Buenos Dias" and "Adios" songs.

~Señora Broda



Señora Summers teaches Spanish to the Lower El class.

Physical Education

We were able to take advantage of the beautiful October weather and hold most of our Physical Education classes outside. We practiced soccer skills and drills, held scooter races and enjoyed many other outdoor activities.

~ Christy Wagner
christyewagner@yahoo.com

Mrs. Mellon's Classroom

First, we'd like to welcome new-time Avi Arora to our class. We're glad he's joined us. In other news, we're seeing ever widening choices in activities and growing independence. I'm proud of this group. Favorite activities this month have included apple slicing (and eating!), finding matching bean bags by feel (no peeking!), the life cycle of a pumpkin and best of all, recreating cloud types, a work introduced by our student teachers. Thank you, Miss Johnson and Miss Walker. We'll miss you when you leave!

~ Mrs. Mellon & Mrs. Summers

Mrs. Roessner's Classroom

The fall colors outside the classroom in October were mirrored inside with many activities inspired by the season. Students enjoyed shucking corn and removing the kernels to use with seeds from sunflowers to create fall collages. They did leaf rubbings to help identify oak, elm, and maple leaves and made leaf booklets identifying the anatomy of a leaf. Pumpkins appeared in the classroom in the forms of pumpkin lacing, tracing, and scrubbing. A little eye-hand coordination exercise sneaked into the curriculum in the form of pounding golf tees into a pumpkin, something that is always fun for all ages. The children also enjoyed designing faces on pumpkins and gluing bits of tissue paper around pumpkins to create unique and colorful designs. The kindergarteners also made books detailing the life cycle of a pumpkin. Who knew how much fun could be had with the harvest of fall?

~Mrs. Roessner & Mrs. Lanham

Mrs. Chandler's Classroom

Our classroom is settling into a nice rhythm. While Practical Life and Choice Work are still popular in the early morning, more and more children are beginning to ask for lessons in math, language, and geography. We have been taking advantage of the season and including many fall activities in our classroom: gourd washing, pumpkin hammering, leaf rubbing, corn kerneling, and fall art work just to name a few. The children have also been showing an interest in the universe around them, so we have been working quite a bit on the solar system and learning about some features of each planet. We have also been exploring our own "place in space" by singing a song called "Where I Live"—beginning with "I live on the planet, the planet earth!" and working down through the continent, the country, the state, and the city in which our school is located. Ask your child to sing it to you! (And you, too, will have it stuck in your head for days!)

~ Mrs. Chandler & Mrs. Kearney



Old-timer, Emily James and New-timer, Elizabeth Altland work together on their color books.



New-timer, Michael Buchholz removing kernels of corn.



Eliza Symonds, Will Downer, and Gianni Massaro enjoy a fall day on the playground.

Elementary & Infant Toddler News

Lower Elementary

Well, we have finally ended our unit on botany and are working on our next science unit of magnets! It should be fun to see all the things that magnets are attracted to! We had a great time at the OARDC field trip, and are trying to get in the last bit of fall by playing outside before the bitter cold comes knocking at our door. Our next math lessons will revolve around geometry. It should be lots of fun to see the shapes we have around us! We are continuing our group activities with upper-el and the second and third graders have been hard at work with their research projects. It's hard to believe our first quarter is coming to a close!

~Mrs. Seidel & Mrs. Scott



Max Irwin learns about Farm Safety at the OARDC.

Upper El students collating copies of their Latin play.

Upper Elementary

Upper Elementary students are working on reviews of a recently published book on immigration. As experts in the field, they are able to read critically. Many students were surprised to find that the book did not include information on the Homestead Act of 1862 or the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. As students of immigration history, Upper Els know how important these two acts were. In other news, students are finishing their Latin plays, all of which have turned out to be comedies!

~ Mrs. Gamble & Mrs. Hostetler



Infant-Toddler

It has been a joy watching the transformation that has taken place in our classroom this past month. I have watched in wonder as I observed children 17 to 32 months old voluntarily walk to their cots at nap-time, cover themselves with a blanket with little or no assistance and drift off to sleep without a fuss. Our focus this month was developing table manners. Each day staff members join the children to eat their lunch and model proper use of utensils, talking quietly, chewing with our mouth closed. The children raise their hands signaling they are done eating and wait to have their hands wiped before leaving the table. They then carry their cup and napkin to a designated area. Maria Montessori refers to the *zero to three period* as the time of the absorbent mind. I observe this on a daily basis—from the avid curiosity evident every time I bring out new materials for a lesson to the participation and cooperation during 'clean-up' prior to snack time and in the eagerness of our older children to help in preparing out snacks. In a very short time, we have created a peaceful and respectful environment that supports everyone.

~Monique Theoret



Miss Monique with Victor, Ava and Lillian.

Upper & Lower EI Community Project

Our Upper and Lower Elementary students will be sponsoring a food drive for People to People as their community project. This is in conjunction with the Al Van Wie / Rotary Basketball Tournament. Canned goods will be collected at the school beginning November 9th and ending November 13th. You may place your donations in the box inside the front entry. Thank you.

Dinner/Silent Auction a Success!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who helped make this year's annual dinner and auction such a big success! This year's annual dinner was the best attended yet! 296 tickets were sold and 75% of our families participated in some way to help the school raise over \$6200. Thank you to **Broken Rocks Café, The Wooster Inn, TJ's, Matsos Family Restaurant, Lisa Calame, Jo Howey, Roberts Funeral Home and Bryan M. Scott, D.D.S.** for generously donating food to our dinner. A big thank you to **Lisa Calame, Lisa Hostetler, Lisa Scott, Amanda Brewster, Stacy Vlasits, Dana Schmidt, Bryan Scott, Alex Roberts, Pam Matsos, Roni Mellon and Megan Wereley** for helping with the food preparation, serving line, and clean up.

A huge thank you to **Relda Smith, Heather Burns and Jen Shutt** for putting together and running a fantastic auction. The classroom art items were a very special part of the auction. Thank you to **Megan Wereley, Kristina Smucker, April Gamble, Jenny Seidel, Heather Vidmar-McEwen** and all the students for helping make those beautiful items.

And finally, thank you to all the parents, grandparents, students, faculty and friends for donating auction items, bidding on auction items and attending the dinner. We could not have done it without you!

~Pam Roberts

Scrip Program—Great for the Holidays!

With the holidays rapidly approaching, please remember that utilizing the scrip program is a great opportunity to ease your shopping hassles and help the school!

Orders will be placed each Monday. All orders placed Monday by noon will be delivered to the school the same week by Friday. To sign up log on to www.shopwithscrip.com and click on the GREEN Family Sign up box. The enrollment code is: **72E9LDBE2181L**. Once the account is set up, log in and click on "PrestoPay" and complete the requested information. This allows you to purchase gift cards on-line through your checking account. There is a 39¢ convenience charge added to your order. Please be aware that it takes 2-3 business days to confirm your PrestoPay account. You will not be able to order gift cards until this process is complete. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Calame at georgiapiesmom@yahoo.com.

Supplies Needed

Thanks to everyone who has helped to stock our supply closet. Currently, we are running low on the following items. With the attempt to keep germs at bay, we find ourselves depleting some supplies quicker than most years. If you are able to donate any of these, please drop them off at the front desk. Thank you.

- Germ-X Hand Sanitizer
- Dixie Cups (3 oz.)
- Kleenex
- Paper Towels