

Montessori School of Lemont

Since 1979

Save the Date!

- December 1st
Tuition Due
- December 2nd
Care & Carol
- December 7th
Prospective Parent Coffee
- December 19th
Specials Forms Due
- December 21st
Elementary Winter
Celebrations
- December 22nd
Primary Winter
Celebration
- December 25th-January 5th
Winter Break, No School

Volume 24, Issue 5

December 2017

Elementary and Primary Winter Celebrations



Students in all classes have been diligently preparing for the upcoming winter celebrations and are looking forward to performing for you!

Our 1st-8th graders will host their family and friends in the Elementary building on Thursday evening, December 21. The Lower Elementary performance will take place at 6:30^{pm} and the Upper Elementary and Adolescent will perform together at 7:30^{pm}.

The theme this year is the Festival of Light, Love, and Joy

to celebrate the hope, joy, and peace that's all around us!

The Primary Winter Celebrations will take place instead of classes on the morning of December 22. Students will arrive and leave with parents on this special day at the following times:

9:00^{am} Yellow Room

10:00^{am} Green Room

11:00^{am} Blue Room

We hope you'll be there to celebrate the season with us!

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It's Almost Time for Care & Carol!

Family and friends are invited to join us for our 5th Annual Care & Carol event this Saturday, no choir or elf experience necessary!

We have a very talented team leading the festivities including Ms. Hayevsky, our Orange Room teacher and a soprano with the Apollo Chorus, Mr. Dustin, our Integrated Arts Specialist and musician, and parent, MSOL theater director and vocalist, Audrey Tunis, who will lead staff, students and parents in singing a collection of holiday songs to residents of our local senior care center.

At noon, meet us at school to practice, then we will head over to the Lemont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center at 1^{pm}. Bring your holiday spirit and festive hats and get ready to spread some cheer. Family and friends are invited to attend, the more the merrier!

Can't join us? You can still make a card, draw a picture, or create a holiday craft and we'll be sure to pass it along to our very special audience!

Have questions? Contact Care & Carol Chair, Kathy Shaw, at info@lemontmontessori.com





True working on the 100 Board

Semester Specials Wrapping Up

It's that time of year again when our first semester After School Specials are coming to an end.

As we look ahead, we're excited about next semester's schedule which will include some returning favorites as well as introduce new opportunities like Model Making, Scholastic Bowl, Poetry Workshop and Track & Field.

Here are the final class dates for our first semester After School Specials:

- Cooking Up Fun! December 11
- Girl Power 101 December 11
- Yoga Fun December 13
- Historical Handcrafts December 13
- Rock Band December 14
- Chess Club December 15
- Frisbee Golf December 18
- Robotics December 19

**“He’s mad he
can’t read the
clock. But I
believe in him!”
-D.A., age 5**

Construction has begun on the new Fitness & Fine Arts Studio in the basement of the Adolescent building. Next semester, the remodeled basement will be ready for use as a multi purpose space.

It's starting to feel a lot like winter and with the winter-like, and we approach our 20 degree temperature cut off for recess, the basement will be a welcome place for students to exercise and burn some energy. PE clas-

ses will also take place in the freshly designed space.

The basement will serve a dual role as a fine arts studio for certain music classes, giving students the opportunity to explore different instruments and see where their passions lie. In addition, the studio will house specific art classes and the potential may even be there to serve as the venue for future art (and other fine arts) shows. The remodel of this space

opens up so many opportunities and avenues; we're looking forward to the indoor PE space and can't wait to start our music exploration classes.

The remodel will be done soon and we're looking forward to its addition to our school!

Operation Care Package *Thank You!*

Dear Montessori School of Lemont,

On behalf of all of us at Operation Care Package, I extend our most heartfelt thanks to you for your donation. Your generous contribution will help support our deployed US Military through care packages. Mail call with a surprise package from a stranger can brighten a service member's day.

We are an all-volunteer nonprofit organization and could not continue our mission "Let No Hero Be Forgotten" without help and support. THANK YOU for your generous donation of three boxes filled with candy and other goodies!

—Joann Randolph
Operation Care Package



Lower El enjoying indoor recess.

Updates from the Fresh Market

We're sure you've seen the Adolescent class running their Fresh Market during carpool on Thursdays. However, you might have some questions about what it is they're doing exactly.

The Adolescent class makes everything they sell "in-house," using only the freshest ingredients. Their top-

sellors right now are their muffins, and if you've tasted one you'll understand why! All the money they make goes to support their future business ventures. In fact, using past profits, they're currently constructing a new storefront for their Fresh Market. Their ultimate goal is to make enough money to send the entire class to

St. Louis.

Be on the lookout for their upcoming Holiday Cookie Sale! Pre-orders will be taken December 1st through the 8th and the cookies will be delivered in-school the week of the 21st.

Be sure to stop by on Thursdays and say *Hello!*



Faris giving his Historical Person Report on George Washington

Getting to Know You

We have a couple of new faces around the office this year and we'd like to take a few moments to introduce them!



Our new Assistant Director is Mickey Peterson. Mickey spends her days running the office, managing tuition and donations, fielding phone calls, handling registering, scheduling of field trips and assists the Executive Director on a daily basis.

Prior to working at MSOL, Mickey worked for the Alzheimer's Association for ten

years, serving as Walk Manager for the last four. Previously, Mickey worked at Waste Management for 15 years as a Charitable Contributions Representative.



Our other new face is Timmy Dustin. In the office, Timmy is in-charge of MSOL's social media, the weekly and

monthly newsletters, and other marketing projects. Timmy is also the Integrated Arts Specialist, teaching music, PE, and writing workshops.

Before coming to MSOL, Timmy earned a masters degree and was an ACT prep and writing teacher. He has also coached high school varsity soccer, instructed ESL courses, and was in-charge of marketing at a tutoring center.

We are happy they're here! They are already valuable additions to our team.

***"Teach me everything. I'm ready to learn!"
-J.W., age 10***

Track & Field in the Spring

This past Fall, MSOL added our first ever sports team, Cross Country. The team was coached by parent, Jerry Kohn and the student's enjoyed the opportunity to train and practice.

We're excited to announce that in the spring MSOL will have its second ever sports

team, Track & Field. Field events and distance running will be coached by Mr. Kohn and sprints will be coached by Mr. Timmy Dustin.

The students will practice and train on-campus, but will also have the opportunity to compete in several meets and competitions against

others schools that have already been scheduled.

Our team will need students of all skill levels who are ready to work hard, run hard, and play hard. We also need your support to grow our athletics program at MSOL. Come out and run with us!



Nolan helping build the new Fresh Market storefront

...for all the small reasons

The Montessori School of Lemont is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that has been educating children ages 3 through 8th grade for 35 years based on the methods and philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori. The school was established in 1979 by teachers dedicated to offering families an individualized educational approach for their children. The school relocated to Lemont in 1990. In 2001, the school moved to its permanent location after the construction of a new campus on 7.5 acres of donated land. In 2010, a third was completed to accommodate the growing enrollment and in 2011, a "natural" playground and an organic community garden were created. Funds are currently being raised to improve and grow our campus.

MSOL does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation or national or ethnic origin.

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Share Your Montessori Moments

Coffee Anyone?

Are you interested in learning more about Montessori? Join us for one of our monthly "Coffeees!"

Prospective parents will tour the school, learn about the Montessori philosophy, observe a class in progress and meet with current parents, faculty and students. For details, call or email us at info@lemontmontessori.com

- * Philosophy & Curriculum
- * Classroom Observation
- * Parent Mentors
- * Student Ambassadors
- * Admissions Process



Thursday, December 7th

Join us for coffee and stay
for a few years!

Montessori Moments are when our students act in that special, very-Montessori, way. When they demonstrate, through words or actions, a new depth of comprehension, responsibility, compassion or other quality that can't be taught. As their teachers or 'guides' we purposefully observe them and their behavior towards others, towards their work, and towards themselves. Through observation, we can see the philosophy take root and ultimately bear fruit. In newsletters and on social media we share quotes that reflect these classroom revelations and we begin our monthly staff meetings by sharing and reminding ourselves to reverse the old adage from: *Don't just stand there, do something!* to: *Don't just do something, stand there (and observe)!*

"Well, it's a Montessori School. Shouldn't every moment be a Montessori Moment?" Nope. We can plant the seed by preparing the environment, modeling respect, and facilitating independence but all growth takes time and requires cultivation and patience. We cannot rush or make these connections for the child any more than we can dictate his feelings, wishes or behavior.

To observe the spontaneous moment when these connections are made is the joy of Montessori and we know you see it, too. Whether at the grocery store or the movies, Montessori Moments can include acts of self discipline, internal motivation, integrity, respect for others and the environment. We want to hear about the moments that happen at home, away from school. How do your children bring Montessori home? How do they use it? How do they share it? Please share your stories on our Facebook or Twitter pages, or send us an email at info@lemontmontessori.com



...for all the little reasons