

Montessori School of Lemont

Since 1972

Save the Date!

- December 1st
Tuition Due
- December 2nd
Care & Carol
- December 7th
Prospective Parent Coffee
- December 17th
Specials Forms Due
- December 20th
Elementary Winter
Celebration
- December 21st
Primary Winter
Celebrations
- December 24th-January 4th
Winter Break, No School

Volume 25, Issue 5

December 2018

Elementary and Primary Winter Celebrations



The students are excited for the upcoming winter celebrations and looking forward to performing for you in just a few short weeks!

Our 1st-8th graders will host their family and friends in the Elementary building on Thursday, December 20th at 7^{pm}. The theme this year is celebrations around the world and the unity that joins us. MSOL Theater Director, Audrey Tunis, has planned another wonderful program and Music Teacher, Ryan

Fitzgerald, is working with students on music from the Beatles, Randy Newman, Carl Douglas and Bruno Mars.

The Primary students' celebration will take place on December 21st at 10:00^{am} and will be led by Spanish teacher, Renato Ceron. Primary students arrive and leave with parents on this special day and will not have classes.

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

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Care & Carol!



Family and friends are invited to join us for our 6th Annual Care & Carol event on December 2, no choir or elf experience necessary!

We have a very talented team leading the festivities including Ms. Hayevsky, Orange Room teacher and soprano with the Apollo Chorus, Mr. Fitzgerald, our music teacher and touring

musician with Radiomen, and Audrey Tunis aka Audrey Foxx, our theater director and recording artist! These talented musicians will lead us in singing a collection of holiday songs to residents of our local senior center.

The students have made cards and jingle bell bracelets to distribute to residents for our interactive performance of Jingle Bells!

Meet at 12:30^{pm} at school for hot cocoa and practice, then

we're off to the Lemont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center at 2:00^{pm}. Our tour has expanded this year! After visiting the Center, we will perform at the Lemont Historical Society at 3:00^{pm} as part of the Lemont Hometown Holidays celebration.

Bring your holiday spirit and festive hats and get ready to spread some cheer. Special thanks to Care & Carol Chair, Kathy Shaw for once again coordinating this heart warming community event!



Full speed ahead!

“If you are in your mom’s tummy, you don’t have clothes.”

-M.G., age 5

2018 Year in Review

On behalf of the board of directors, thank you to our staff and families for another great year! Each year we grow and improve and I’m proud to share some of this year’s accomplishments with all of you.

In January, we introduced a new benefits program for full time employees. The school pays 68% of a Section 125 Cafeteria Medical Plan with Health, Dental, Short Term Disability and Vision Discount Plan. These benefits are in addition to our Simple IRA with 3% employer match, 50% Dependent Tuition Credit and paid professional development opportunities and in August, the board approved a six week paid maternity leave policy.

In March, we completed the Fitness & Fine Arts Studio in the lower level of the Adolescent building to create a dedicated space for music, specials and indoor physical activity. It has also become the new home of our After School Care program.

Recently we completed the annual audit and received an unqualified opinion for Fy2017. Our expense for program services (funds spent on programs, not administration nor fundraising) was 83% while the average for non-profits is only 65%, meaning we invest almost 20% more in our programs than the average non-profit. We are committed to keeping

administrative and fundraising overhead as low as possible.

The audit also confirmed that we are well within the recommended amount a charity should spend to raise money. Per the Wise Giving Alliance, it is considered acceptable for 35¢ to be spent for every dollar raised and we only spent 18¢! Thank you to our PA for their creativity, raising so much for so little.

We introduced Interscholastic Bowl and Track & Field this year and though they are currently on hiatus, we hope that interest in these teams picks up again soon. Before the year ends we also plan to unveil our new website. We are looking forward to continued growth in 2019!

Parents’ Association

I hope that everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving Break and that extra snow day. Thanks to all families that helped to make Thanks for Giving special for our staff.

I would like to personally thank the Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary classrooms for their participation in the Hope & Friendship Program. On November 9th they took some time out of their day to make inspirational cards for the Hope & Friendship program in Lemont.

Hope & Friendship is a conduit between those that have and those that need. The cards the kids made were included in Thanksgiving meals

and care packages provided for first responders, the elderly and the homebound. It is inspirational that our school can participate in this type of community program.

Our next meeting is Thursday, December 13th at 8:30^{am} in the meeting room. We are going to be discussing Pajama Day and the Annual Auction. We are looking for someone to lead these events, with the full support of the PA. If you are interested, email me and try to attend the next PA meeting. It takes a village, so any participation is greatly appreciated.

Thanks,
Jenna Treanor jenn.treanor@gmail.com
PA President

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!

—Jo Ann Randolph,
Operation Care Package



Making cards for the Hope & Friendship Foundation.

Making Toys Do More

Community Christian Church in Naperville will be hosting "Gift Mart," where parents who can't afford presents for their children can buy toys for a minimal amount. You can donate toys in one of the three boxes marked "Gift Mart" located near the entrances of each building at MSOL. The toys should be \$10-\$20.

Brand new unwrapped toys, no stuffed animals, video games or board games. They should be appropriate for elementary children. The deadline is Thursday, December 13th. That weekend me and Claire Wolfe will take all of the toys to Naperville Community Church. Please donate!
-Evelina Kaciulis, 6th grade



Baking bread in the Yellow Room.

Emergency Closing Center



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Call: 1-900-407-SNOW

<http://www.emergencyclosingcenter.com/complete.html>

Montessori Elementary/Preschool of Lemont

**"What is this new pain?! I've never done this yoga pose before."
-A.A., 5th grade**

After School Specials Wrapping Up

It's that time of year again when our first semester Specials come to an end. As we look ahead, we're excited about next semester's schedule which will include returning favorites as well as introduce new opportunities like Crochet Club! Second semester Specials registration is due December 17.

Interscholastic Bowl and Track and Field coaches are needed. Please contact the office if you're interested.

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

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| • Cooking Up Fun! | December 13 |
| • Chess Club | December 14 |
| • Yoga Fun | December 17 |
| • Rock Band | December 17 |
| • Robotics | December 18 |
| • Arts & Crafts | December 19 |



Hanging out at recess.

...for all the little 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 over 40 years based on the methods and philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori. The school was established in 1972 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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Lemont Hometown Holidays

Coffee Anyone?

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

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 info@lemontmontessori.com

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



Friday, December 7th

Join us for coffee and stay for a few years!



Our school tree in downtown Lemont decorated with homemade, ugly-sweater ornaments by the Adolescent class.



MONTESSORI
School of Lemont