

# Montessori School of Lemont

Since 1972

## Save the Date!

- January 1<sup>st</sup>  
Tuition Due
- January 8<sup>th</sup>  
Classes Resume
- January 11<sup>th</sup>  
Prospective Parent Coffee
- January 15<sup>th</sup>  
MLK, Jr. Day, No School

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## Lemont Loves the Arts

Lemont Loves the Arts is on hiatus this year and is expected to return next year. In last year's competition, MSOL students won the most awards of any school, with 2017 graduate, Shtile Shuaipaj, winning first place.

Lemont Loves the Arts is a

community arts program that includes all pre-K-8<sup>th</sup> grade schools in Lemont. This program has been active for seven years and gives students an opportunity to express their creativity based on a theme. Last year's theme was: "Bring Your Book to Life."



Shtile's 2017 1st Place Winning Illustration



*"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."*

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

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## After School Specials

In addition to our returning programs, we're excited to be adding a few new specials this semester including Scholastic Bowl, Model-Making, and in April we'll launch our first ever Track & Field team.

Model-Making will cover the basics of making a model, from sanding and gluing



Rock Band Rocking!

to painting and finishing. Scholastic Bowl is an interscholastic team which will compete against area schools and follows in the style of *Jeopardy* where players ring in and answer questions on many different topics. Track and Field will also be an interscholastic team, competing in running and field events against other schools.

If you missed the registration deadline, call the office to inquire about availability. Find the registration form here: <http://tinyurl.com/MSOLSpecials2018>

### Start Dates:

- January 11 Scholastic Bowl
- January 16 Let's Build It
- January 17 Yoga Fun
- January 18 Historical Hand Crafts
- January 19 Chess Club
- January 19 Cooking Up Fun & Girl Power 101
- January 22 Rock Band
- January 25 Model Making
- March 20 Soccer Shots
- April 10 Track & Field



Emma arrives for Care & Carol at Lemont Nursing & Rehab Center

**"You have an important job to do, Mrs. Fry"  
-E.B., age 4**

## Board Notes

On behalf of the board of the Montessori School of Lemont, I am pleased to announce that Angela Adolf, alumni parent and active volunteer, has been elected to the board of directors. Angela has been an education advocate for over 15 years. She has served on numerous parent teacher organizations as a board member and volunteer. Angela's passion for education led her to run for the Homer 33C Board

of Education where she was the president of the board for two years followed by a two year term as vice president. While serving Homer, she earned her Master Board Member certification from the Illinois Association of School Boards and led Homer to receive the School Board Distinction award during the years she was president. Angela helped establish an education foundation for Homer 33C and also set up

## -Therese Colby, President

the finance and planning committee for the district. She has led numerous fund raising efforts for schools in the area raising over \$200,000 in her volunteer career. She and her husband, Joe, have helped MSOL raise over \$100,000 by hosting our annual auctions for the past several years. Angela has a passion for helping students learn and is excited to support MSOL as a former parent and new board member.

## Reenrollment

As a new calendar year begins, it's also time to start thinking about the new school year. Reenrollment forms for the 2018-2019 school year will be available this month and will be due by February 16. After the 16<sup>th</sup>, new families will be placed.



Alp mapping the world...from memory.

## Parents' Association

Join us for our next PA meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:45<sup>am</sup>. This is your opportunity to be part of the planning of upcoming events. The agenda for our next meeting is the Garden Party Auction on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the gorgeous Monte Bello Estate. Our gracious neighbors have generously donat-

ed the use of Monte Bello for our auction. We hope you'll be there to help with our annual fundraiser. All ideas and inspiration are welcome!

Thank you, Elizabeth Waller for your generous donation to our Fitness & Fine Arts Studio, including a mirrored wall and big screen TV!



Lower Elementary students rehearsing their lines

## Emergency Closing Information



### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Call: 1-900-407-SNOW

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

Montessori Elementary/Preschool of Lemont



Blerta working on her cave painting

## There's No Such Thing as the Real World -Peter Piche

Many parents who send their children to Montessori schools secretly wonder when they should transition them to a "real school," which will toughen them up so that they can compete in the "real world" of winners and losers (a paradigm reinforced as the political and societal operating system of the United States during our last presidential election). In particular, I've seen fathers worrying and wondering whether all this nurturing in Montessori schools is inherently good for their children, especially their boys.

Somehow, we've been enculturated to believe that school ought to be somewhat painful and a bit of a slog if it is to prepare children for the real world of winners and losers. As both a Montessori dad and a career Montessori teacher, this notion always makes me cringe. I insist

to parents that the reason to keep children enrolled in quality Montessori schools for as long as possible is because of the real world itself. That is to say, I personally am not very satisfied with the status quo that generally manifests itself as the real world. I kept my own children in Montessori programs as long as I could because I believe Montessori has the potential to help young people create a new world, of which we are so desperately in need.

And precisely how does Montessori education do this? Despite what some may believe, it isn't about superior academic achievement. It is true that the unique Montessori aspect of auto-education allows for children's innate gifts to emerge and enables them to pursue those gifts as they also gain competence in basic skills. But most essential

is the simulation of community through a multi-age environment, where "softer" skills like leadership, collaboration, creativity, empathy, and exploration are cultivated by design and with intention. The "lie we've got to rise above" is the idea that these gifts can be cultivated in an educational setting where conformity and There's No Such Thing as the Real World compliance are the norm. Being conditioned to do what you're told only leads to preservation of the status quo. Montessori education was never designed for that. In fact, Montessori herself wrote that "We must help the child to act for himself, will for himself, think for himself; this is the art of those who aspire to serve the spirit."

(The entirety of this article can be found in the Fall 2017 edition of *Montessori Life* magazine)

**"My cat's 51.  
He's older than  
you!"  
-M.G., age 4**



The Adolescents decorate the MSOL tree for Lemont's Hometown Holidays

*...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 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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## Festival of Light, Love, and Joy

### 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 us at [info@lemontmontessori.com](mailto:info@lemontmontessori.com)

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



Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>

Join us for coffee and stay  
for a few years!

This year the theme of our Winter Celebrations was *A Festival of Light, Love and Joy*. At the primary level, our 3-6 year olds sang songs of love and peace in Spanish and English accompanied by Spanish teacher, Senor Ceron on the guitar.

It was also a celebration of creativity and talent for our older students who wrote and performed original music, poetry and skits that were touching and inspiring. In workshops with the director, Audrey Tunis, students learned to develop plots, write Haiku, run lines, improv and write music.

A very special thank you to Senor Ceron, Audrey Tunis, and Timmy Dustin, Musical Director.



*...for all the little reasons*