

# Montessori School of Lemont

Since 1972

## Save the Date!

- May 1<sup>st</sup>  
Tuition Due  
Informational Coffee
- May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Primary Family Field Trip  
No Primary Classes
- May 8<sup>th</sup>  
New Adolescent Student  
Orientation
- May 15-16<sup>th</sup>  
Parent Teacher Conferences,  
No Classes for Students
- May 19<sup>th</sup>,  
Parents' Association Meeting  
Adolescent Conferences  
Summer Specials Registration  
Due
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
MSOL's Got Talent
- May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Last Day, Preschool Students
- May 26<sup>th</sup>  
No School, Memorial Day
- May 30<sup>th</sup>  
Last Day of School, K-8<sup>th</sup>  
Move Up Celebrations  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation

## Inside this issue!

In Memoriam	2
Book Spotlight	2
Adolescent Adventures	3
IOWA Results	3
AMS Family Connection	3
Summer Specials	4
Coffee, Anyone?	4

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May 2025

## Annual Auction Recap

Thanks to the generosity of our school community, Auction 2025 raised over \$20,000 in support of our students and programs.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us in person and online, bid on auction items, created classroom projects, and volunteered their time. Your participation truly made a difference.

Special thanks go to:

- Our staff and students for the beautiful classroom projects.
- Sheila Strutz, Jill Kellogg, Jackie Claxton, Brooke Sipes, and Kristin Wade for their tireless procurement work.

- Mark Gonzalez, General Manager of Maggiano's Naperville, for the beautiful venue and delicious food.
- Sheila, Brooke, Jackie, and Room Parents for the wonderful Grandparents' Day Projects.
- Sheila, Jill, Jackie, and Becky Reichman for transforming the venue into an elegant casino.
- Annie Honiotes and Kristin for donation tracking, marketing, and maintaining the ever-changing event website, with such dedication that Kristin's daughter thinks she works in the office with Annie now!



This year's auction was lovingly dedicated to the memory of Jenna Treanor, whose creativity, warmth, and joyful spirit helped shape the heart of this event over the years.





Alicia keeping our baby chicks warm

## In Memoriam

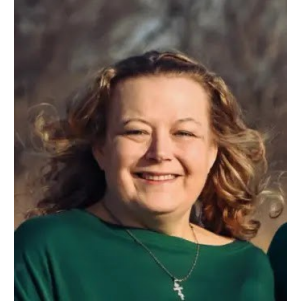
It is with deep sadness that I share the news of the passing of Jenna Treanor, my close friend and a beloved member of our Montessori School of Lemont community. Jenna and her family have been part of the MSOL family for nearly 20 years, with all four of her children attending our school.

Jenna served as PA President and Auction Chair for six years, during which she helped raise more than \$150,000 in support of our programs. But beyond her impressive contributions, it was her warmth, creativity, and passion for musical theater that truly set her apart. One of my favorite memories is from the height of the pandemic, during one of our virtual auctions. In true Jenna fashion, she brought light to a difficult time by directing her children in a playful, impromptu performance as the "von Treanor Family Singers"—a whimsical nod to *The Sound of Music* that brought laughter and connection when we needed it most.

As a devoted parent and tireless volunteer, Jenna gave generously of her time, her talents, and her heart. She touched so many lives in our community, and her absence will be deeply felt. We will remember her with gratitude, affection, and enduring admiration.

Our hearts are with the Treanor family during this time of profound loss.

-Therese Colby



**"I have a joke in my head. That's why I'm always laughing!"**  
**-H.G., age 5**

## Book Spotlight

### ***Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv**

*Reconnecting Children with Nature—A Montessori-Aligned Perspective*

In *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv introduces the concept of “**nature-deficit disorder**,” describing the harmful effects of children’s growing disconnection from the natural world. Louv presents powerful research and personal stories showing how a lack of outdoor experiences contributes to rising rates of inactivity, anxiety, and emotional imbalance among today’s youth.

Louv’s insights resonate deeply with Montessori philosophy, which recognizes the natural world as an essential classroom. Dr. Maria Montessori believed that education should nurture the whole child—mind, body, and spirit—and emphasized the importance of direct, sensory-rich experiences in nature. Whether caring for a garden, walking mindfully outside, or simply observing seasonal changes, nature in Montessori is both teacher and guide.

Just as Montessorians honor each child’s inner drive to explore and learn, *Last Child in the Woods* reminds us that the freedom to move, observe, and engage with the natural world supports not only academic growth but emotional resilience and physical well-being.

*"Passion is lifted from the earth itself by the muddy hands of the young; it travels along grass-stained sleeves to the heart."* — Richard Louv

Thank you to Green Room Parent, Marina Bello for this great recommendation!



Olivia doing some planting on Earth Day

The International Bestseller That Launched a Movement

## LAST CHILD in the WOODS



Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder

**RICHARD LOUV**

AUTHOR OF *OUR WILD CALLING*  
 and RECIPIENT OF THE AUDUBON MEDAL

## Adolescent Adventures

Springfield, IL – April 2025 – Adolescent Students recently took part in a highly anticipated educational trip to Springfield, Illinois! The students traveled by rail to Springfield, where they explored the rich historical and cultural heritage of the state capital. This all day excursion was the culmination of weeks of classroom research on Abraham Lincoln, Illinois government, and the state’s cultural institutions.



The group’s itinerary included key landmarks such as the Illinois State Museum, where students explored exhibits on natural history, Native American cultures, and Illinois’ industrial development. They also visited the Illinois State Library, the Capitol Building, Lincoln’s Home and Museum, along with other sights that the students had been researching.

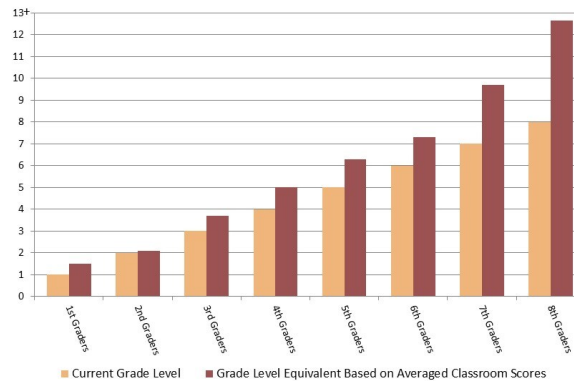


The Adolescent Class on the train to Springfield

## 2025 IOWA Test Results

Each year in March we administer the IOWA Test of Basic Skills to our 1<sup>st</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade students. While standardized testing results do not define our students nor our curriculum, it provides useful data for measuring learner outcomes and program efficacy.

Our staff deeply values their role in offering students their initial experience with testing in a low-pressure, no-stakes setting. Parents may opt out of testing for their children at any time.



Conventional measurement tools like the IOWAs do not track exactly with the scope or sequence of the Montessori curriculum yet our students consistently perform above grade level. Tests are scored in grade equivalencies up to grade 13.

**"I like fruits & vegetables, but steak is the best!"**  
- A.B., age 4

## Igniting the Inner Spark, Cultivating Intrinsic Motivation - Heather White

Recall a time when you engaged in an activity simply because you wanted to—perhaps it was weeding your garden, reading a book, taking a stroll, or rearranging your bedroom. In these moments, your motivation came entirely from within. You likely experienced a sense of pure joy or satisfaction in the act itself. These activities may have also given you a feeling of meaning or purpose, or perhaps a sense of achievement. This reflects the essence of intrinsic motivation.

In other words, intrinsic motivation is when we participate in an activity because it brings us personal fulfillment, rather than for external rewards or to evade punishment. Unlike

motivation derived from fear or the desire for rewards, intrinsic motivation springs from a natural curiosity and the need to engage with one’s surroundings. In essence, it is the joy of doing something simply for the sake of doing it.

In traditional education settings, rewards and punishments often govern student behavior. Extrinsic motivators imposed by adults often manifest in various ways, from verbal praise like "Good job!" to non-verbal incentives such as gold stars and grades.

[CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE READING](#)



Brynlee on Campus Care Day

...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 almost 50 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 wing 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.

*Montessori School of Lemont does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, national origin, age, socio-economic level, physical ability, genetic information, and learning style in the administration of its educational policies, admissions, hiring, scholarships or other school programs.*

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It is the mission of the  
Montessori School  
of Lemont  
to provide for the  
physical,  
intellectual,  
emotional, and  
spiritual  
education of children ages  
3-15 years  
following the methods and  
philosophy of  
Dr. Maria Montessori.



## Summer Specials



Summer is almost here and that means the summer Specials are right around the corner!

Programs for 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades begin June 9<sup>th</sup> and are offered for eight weeks. Pick and choose the weeks that best fit your summer plans. Choose from *Life on the Farm*, *Arts & Crafts* and *The Montessori Mosaic Project*, *All Fun & Games*,

*Backyard Biology*, *Puppetry*, *Discovery in Architecture*, *Art through History*, and *Farmessori*.

Registration is open and spots are filling quickly. Call the office at 815-834-0607 to inquire about availability. Registration and payment in full are due by May 19<sup>th</sup>.

We look forward to a fun and exciting summer!

## 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  
Q & A \* Admissions Process



**Join us for coffee and stay for a few years!**



**MONTESSORI**  
School of Lemont