

Montessori School of Lemont

Since 1972

Save the Date!

- December 1st
Tuition Due
- December 4th
Prospective Parent Coffee
- December 11th, 3:30^{pm}
Care & Carol
- December 12th
2nd Semester Specials
Registration Due
- December 19th
Winter Celebrations
Early Dismissal
- December 22nd-January 5th
Winter Break, No School
- January 6th Classes Resume

Inside this issue!

PA News	2
After School Specials	2
Birthday Wishes	3
AMS Family Connection	3
Student Spotlight	4

Volume 32, Issue 5

December 2025

Winter Traditions and Celebrations



This year we brought back the MSOL tradition of Brookfield Zoo's Trim-A-Tree! Students created beautiful handmade ornaments, and families and staff gathered at the zoo to decorate our tree which will be on display until the first week of January.

What a joyful experience and we're so thrilled to take part in it again. Thanks to Blue Room Teacher, Mrs. Scapellato for bringing back this MSOL tradition!

Primary Winter Celebrations will be held December 19th, the last day of school before winter break.

8:30^{am} Blue Room
9:30^{am} Yellow Room
10:30^{am} Green Room

We are looking forward to celebrating the season together. Happy Holidays!

Students and parents will gather in the classrooms for crafts and carols (in English and Mandarin!). Teachers will share details through the MSOL app soon.

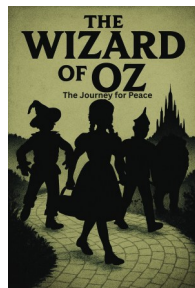
There are no regular classes for Primary students on this day, students arrive and leave with their parents.



Theater Production

-Audrey Tunis
MSOL Theater Director

We are joyfully immersed in the rehearsal process for *The Wizard of Oz Reimagined: A Journey for Peace*. The children are buzzing with excitement as they dive into character development, blocking rehearsals, and learning new songs. They are truly taking ownership of the production, bringing creative ideas, thoughtful insights, and their unique perspectives to every rehearsal.



Across our school, students from first through eighth grade are collaborating beautifully. This cross-classroom partnership has created a wonderful sense of unity, and as everyone settles into their roles, the energy around campus is vibrant and inspiring.

Theater matters. Theatre builds community. When children work together toward a shared creative goal, something magical happens. Through this process, they are practicing patience, understanding, self-reliance and self-discipline, accountability, and meaningful connection.

Thank you for encouraging your children to explore the art of theater. Each day, we see them growing more confident, both onstage and behind the scenes. We cannot wait to share the culmination of their hard work and heart with you on December 18 at Calvary Chapel!

~Sidenote, any parents who wish to participate in set construction, (as we will be needing a few small set pieces) please feel free to reach out to the MSOL office. All volunteers are appreciated!



Upper Elementary
students riding in style



CARE & CAROL

Our annual Care & Carol event at the Lemont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is coming up soon! We are eager to once again spread holiday cheer through the beautiful voices of the MSOL Choir, led by Mrs. McClenning and Ms. Hayevsky. Parents, please meet us there after dismissal and join us in singing holiday carols.

For those who would like to share the gift of giving, the facility has provided us with items that are needed by the residents and can be dropped at the MSOL office.

Your generosity directly benefits them, please [Sign-Up](#) here to purchase socks, pens, and other items. Thank you for helping us make this season extra special for the residents. They also greatly appreciate handwritten cards from your children.

ANNUAL AUCTION

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2025 Fall Auction. If you have not filled out the survey please do so [HERE!](#) Planning for 2026 is already underway! Anyone who wants to get involved with auction planning please reach out to the PA at msolpa50@gmail.com or join us at our next PA Meeting on January 7th at 8:45^{am} in the Conference Room.

Our annual auctions fund campus projects and classroom materials. This year, proceeds were used by teachers to purchase items for their classroom, upgrade the road safety signs, fund our theater program and the installation of the scenic overlook and benches.

Consider sharing your **Time, Talent, or Treasure** with your MSOL family!

We understand **TIME** is precious, if you're able to give some of your time to help cultivate the MSOL experience for our kids we value your **TIME!** As the world keeps growing and evolving the MSOL family is interested in your **TALENTS** that you would be willing to share with the school. Lastly, in this fast paced world you may not have the resources to share your time or talent, though would be interested in sharing (donating) your **TREASURE** to assist with MSOL reaching its highest potential. -Kristin, Brooke and Jackie

-Kristin Wade
PA President



Lemont Nursing and Rehab Center
12450 Walker Road, Lemont
December 11, 2025, 3:30^{pm}

**"Did you know
that bagel
injuries are way
more common
than bear
attacks?"**

- M.T., 5th grade



The first snow is always
exciting!

Second Semester 2026-27 AFTER SCHOOL SPECIALS

- Yoga Fun (PreK-K)
- Soccer (PreK-3rd grade)
- Birding Club (3rd grade & up)
- Games Club (3rd grade & up)
- Chess Scholars (1st grade & up)
- Arts & Crafts (1st grade & up)
- MSOL Children's Choir (1st grade & up)
- Jewelry Making (1st grade & up)
- Music Appreciation (1st-6th-grade)
- Farmessori (1st-6th grade)

Registration Due by: 12/12

Birthday Wishes!



Please join us in celebrating a very special milestone for our beloved Mrs. Norine Colby, her 82nd birthday!

Head of School Emeritus Norine Colby, the cherished founder of the Montessori School of Lemont, continues to

inspire generations of students, families, and educators. After earning her BS in Education, Norine completed her Montessori certifications

for ages 3–6, 6–9, and 9–12, later continuing on to receive her MA in Gifted Education. She has been teaching continuously since 1972, an awe-inspiring 53 years of dedication, only pausing this past October to tend to her health after a bout of pneumonia.

Last month, her co-teacher Rebecca McClenning and her Latin students hosted a beautiful birthday celebration in her classroom. Mrs. Colby was delighted to join via Zoom from home.

Please join us in sending Mrs. Colby warm birthday wishes and heartfelt hopes for a smooth and speedy recovery!



Happy Birthday, Mrs. Colby!



Only in
Montessori...

**"Are you done
writing your
song?"**

**"Almost. We
got distracted
looking up the
Arabic
alphabet."**

O.S. & D.S.,
6th grade

AMS Family Connection

-Heather White

The Montessori Principal of "Follow the Child"

"Follow the child" is a phrase often heard amongst Montessori educators. It is a principle that lies at the heart of Montessori philosophy, describing how teachers engage with students and access their skills. While this saying honors the child, it can sometimes be off-putting to parents and others who might misinterpret its meaning.

Clarifying "Follow the Child"

Many parents may hesitate at the idea of teachers "following the child." They might feel that their child needs encouragement - perhaps even a gentle push - to explore new ideas and develop skills. The concern is understandable; after all, parents often want teachers to guide their children through their learning journeys. However, this perspective can overlook the nuanced practice of "following the child" in Montessori education.

When Montessori educators say they "follow the child," it is crucial to understand what this entails.

It does not mean simply watching children make their own decisions without guidance. Instead, it is about deeply knowing each child and using that knowledge to support their social, emotional, and academic development.

We follow the child by taking the time to observe them closely. Each day, week, and month, educators watch how children engage with their environment and materials. Through these observations, teachers gain insight into each child's natural tendencies, interests, and areas for growth.

[CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE](#)



Making friends with a
katydid

16427 W. 135th Street
Lemont, Illinois 60439

Phone: 815-834-0607
info@lemontmontessori.com
Instagram: @lemontessori
FB: montessorischooloflemont

lemontmontessori.com

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.



MONTESSORI
School of Lemont

...for all the little reasons

The Montessori School of Lemont, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization recognized by the State of Illinois and accredited by the American Montessori Society, has been educating children ages 3 through 9th grade for over 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 building 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.



Student Spotlight



1st Place winner!

Each year, MSOL proudly participates in the Patriot's Pen contest sponsored by Lockport VFW Post 5788. The contest "encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society." VFW Post winners

advance to regionals before competing at the state and national levels.

This year's essay theme was "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?" and we are proud to announce that 8th grader, Meryk Moniz has won first place in the contest!

Coffee Anyone?



Interested in learning more about Montessori?
Join us for Coffee!

To register, call or email info@lemontmontessori.com

Philosophy & Curriculum • Campus Tour

Admissions Process • Q & A

Join us for coffee and stay for a few years!