



Montessori School of Lemont

Since 1972

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SEPTEMBER 2026

SAVE THE DATE

September 1st
Tuition due

September 3rd
8:45^{am} Parents Association Meeting

September 7th
Labor Day - NO SCHOOL

September 10th
6:30^{pm} Parent Education Night

September 22nd
Picture Day

September 26th
8:30^{am} Walk, Jog, (color) Run!



Welcome Back To School!!

Parent Education Night: Creating a Culture of Safety

We are excited to welcome parents to this year's Parent Education Night for a topic that is of utmost importance: safety.

We will be welcoming Dr. Michael Maniaci, along with officers from the Will County Sheriff's Office, as we discuss the importance of school safety and emergency preparedness. Together, we will explore practical ways schools and families can prepare for unexpected situations while creating an environment where children and adults feel secure, supported, and cared for.

While these topics are not naturally of a Montessori mindset, we are deeply committed to providing a safe environment for our students and staff to thrive. The Montessori approach places tremendous value on independence, trust, freedom within limits, and fostering a child's sense of security and belonging. Creating a safe school community is an essential foundation for all of these things.

Safety and emergency preparedness are not about creating fear. Rather, they are about being informed, prepared, and proactive. Our goal is to ensure that our faculty and staff have the knowledge, resources, and procedures necessary to respond calmly and effectively should an emergency arise.

Parent Ed Night will provide an opportunity to learn more about the steps we take to protect our school community, ask questions, and better understand how we can work together as parents, educators, and community members.

We hope you will join us for this important evening. Your partnership matters, and together we can help ensure that our school remains a place where children feel safe, confident, and free to learn, grow, and flourish.





We Need You!

Our Parents Association is an important part of what makes our school community so special, and we need your help! From planning school events and celebrations to helping with the little details that make these gatherings memorable, the Parents Association plays a big role in bringing our community together.

You don't have to have a lot of time or a special skill set to get involved. Even helping with one event or volunteering for a small task can make a meaningful difference. If you've ever thought about getting involved, this is the year! We would love to have new faces, fresh ideas, and helping hands. Together, we can make our school events something our children - and our entire community - look forward to all year long!

Upcoming Events



September 26:

WALK, JOG, (color) RUN

We hope to see you on September 26th for our annual Walk, Jog, Run! event. This PA fundraiser is fun for everyone so bring your family, friends and neighbors. And you don't have to run...you can walk, dance, skip, stroll, jog, trot or turn cartwheels! Participants will be sprayed with water-based color along the one-mile route, followed by a celebratory eco-friendly confetti toss at the finish line.



The PA is asking for a minimum donation of \$30 per participant. Participants that register by September 13th will receive an event t-shirt. All proceeds benefit our outdoor learning environment and physical education program.



October 17:

FALL FEST 🎃

Get ready for an unforgettable Fall Fest on Saturday October 17th! Enjoy Halloween themed games, brave the Adolescents' Haunted House, and test your courage on the Upper Elementary Class' Haunted Trail. Stay till the end and join the fun at our Trunk or Treat in the parking lot!

Trunk or Treat spots are limited this year! Sign up to decorate your trunk and enjoy a prime parking spot from 12:00–3:00^{pm}, or until Trunk or Treat concludes.

We can't wait to see everyone's creativity come alive!



Our Annual Fundraiser is just a month away! This special event brings our school community together for a fun afternoon while helping support the programs, experiences, and opportunities that make our school so special.

We are already busy preparing for an exciting event filled with wonderful auction items, unique experiences, great company, and plenty of fun! Whether you join us to bid, socialize, volunteer, or simply show your support, every contribution makes a difference.

Follow the link for more information
& to purchase tickets!

<https://2026MSOLFundraiser.charityauction.bid>





Small Bins, Big Questions

Recycling is one small part of the much larger concept of conservation, learning how to use our resources responsibly and care for the environment around us. Recycling is a topic covered in every program and something all of our students know a thing or two about. Each year, we talk about how paper, metals, glass, and plastics can be recycled. We place these materials in a special bin in the classroom, and every Thursday, they are picked up.

But what happens next? Who brings the bins out to the dumpster? Why do we separate our recyclables if they are all picked up by the same truck? Are we recycling the right items?

These questions were raised by children from several different programs this past year, and they got us thinking: it's time to take our recycling lessons a step further! We want to turn this curiosity into meaningful learning experiences and hands-on Practical Life work that will benefit our entire campus.

First, students will calculate how much recycling we produce each week and research reliable companies that could meet our campus recycling needs. Next, they will design an addition to our dumpster enclosure to accommodate recycling bins and create a list of the materials needed to build it. Then comes the hands-on work: constructing the enclosure and developing a campus-wide system for collecting recycling from each classroom and delivering it to the appropriate bins.

This is a BIG project, and we'll need everyone to make it a success! From Primary through Adolescent, every class will have an opportunity to contribute, problem-solve, build, research, calculate, and help create a more sustainable campus. What began as a few simple questions from our students has the potential to become a meaningful, school-wide learning experience and we can't wait to see where their curiosity takes us next!

-Mr. Ruddick



MSOL Fresh Market

It's September, so that means the Adolescent Fresh Market is open for business! Each Thursday throughout the school year the students will operate their parking-lot store front during arrival and dismissal. They will kick off this year on the afternoon of Thursday, September 3rd by selling pickles, made from cucumbers picked fresh from our gardens, and snow cones.

Throughout the rest of the year you'll find eggs, homemade baked goods, handmade jewelry, handcrafts and seasonal items. Proceeds are used to care for the animals, special classroom purchases and trips.

10% of annual profits are donated to a charity selected by the students. Past recipients include Lurie Children's Hospital, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Ehlers-Danlos Society, The Marfan Foundation, and American Cancer Society.

Thanks in advance for supporting our Adolescents' micro-econ project!



Message from the Director

Welcoming Dr. Maniacci to the MSOL Board

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Michael Maniacci to the Montessori School of Lemont Board of Directors. Michael is a Montessori parent and has been a valued member of the MSOL community for 25 years. We are grateful to have his experience and expertise supporting our school in this new capacity.

Many MSOL families and staff will recognize Dr. Maniacci from the engaging presentations he has given at MSOL over the years on topics including Discipline, The Myth of Self-Esteem, Birth Order, Skills That Foster Independence, and more. He has also served as a consultant to MSOL and four school districts.

Dr. Maniacci is a graduate school professor and the author of 56 publications, including five textbooks. His extensive education and professional experience include a doctorate in Individual and Analytical Psychology, a master's degree in Counseling Psychology, residency training in Marriage and Family Therapy, and postdoctoral work in Neuropsychology.

We are especially pleased to welcome someone who knows and understands our school so well. His 25-year relationship with MSOL, combined with his knowledge of child development and education, will be a wonderful asset to our Board and our school community.

Please join us in welcoming Michael to the MSOL Board in person at our Parent Meeting on September 10. We look forward to introducing him and celebrating this new chapter in his long-standing relationship with MSOL!

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School of Lemont