

Montessori School of Lemont

Since 1972

Save the Date!

- February 1st
Tuition Due
- February 5th
Pajama Day
Informational Coffee
- February 9th
8:45^{am} PA Meeting
- February 12th
2021-2022 Registration Due
- February 15th
President's Day, No School
- February 16th
Azteca Orders Due
- February 18th
Adolescent Parent-Student
Meeting
Elementary Parent-Student
Event
- February 19th
Primary Parent-Student
Event

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Volume 27, Issue 7

February 2021

Pajama Day!

Wear a pair, share a pair on February 5th, PJ Day! Send your child to school in pajamas and send in a new pair with tags left on to donate to Guardian Angel Community Services.

Of course, students don't have to wear pajamas to support this great cause. A variety of sizes is needed so

feel free to donate brand new pajamas of any size.

The mission of [Guardian Angel Community Services](#) is to help empower women and children in local and surrounding communities struggling to improve their lives. Their services include foster care, domestic violence and abuse intervention, sexual

assault services, and Suzy's Caring Place, a residential facility for abuse victims. Please join us in supporting our long time partner in this great cause!



No School on Presidents' Day, February 15th

"We all do better when we work together. Our differences do matter, but our common humanity matters more."

-Bill Clinton
42nd President of the United States

Adolescent Adventures

Historically, schools have often taken the approach that each subject is isolated. English and math never meshed. History and science stayed totally separate.

However, students often learn best when they can explore, experiment, and bring concepts together. That's a reality that Maria Montessori understood quite well, and it's something we bring to all of our learning environments at MSOL.

This trimester, adolescents are focusing on the broad theme of S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) and exploring a variety of concepts in one day as Mrs. McClenning shared about their day on January 26th:

"We learned how to tell the temperature by counting the chirps of a Snowy Tree Cricket ($T=1/4C+37$), and the volume of Jupiter even though it is significantly more massive than Earth, it is only a fifth as dense, at 1,326 kg/m³, because it is made of gas rather than rock. The volume of Jupiter is 1,431,281,810,739,360 cubic kilometers, 1,321 times that of Earth. We traveled across the country by railroad after studying the industrial growth of our country from 1865-1914, including the rise of the railroad empire, and after extracting the pigment out of poinsettia leaves, we tested the anthocyanins for nitrate, proteins, glucose and pH level all before lunch!!"

Parent-Student Evenings

Parent-Student Evening aka 'Bring Your Parents to School Night' is a time for parents to immerse themselves in the Montessori environment with their child as the teacher!

Held twice per year, this evening provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate their confidence and competence as they guide their parents through their day to day activities, and give lessons!

Teachers will share details for our second socially-distanced Parent-Student Evening through their parent-teacher apps.

Elementary Parent-Student Eve is Thursday, February 18th
Primary Parent-Student Eve is Friday, February 19th.



"It looks like a hippopotamus."
- A.M., age 4

**"My hands are
crying because
they were
working so hard."
C.C., age 7**



Gianna, Sophia, and Mackenzie
with one of the Silver Room's
chinchillas.

We Love Our Community

Maria Montessori once said, "Of all things, love is the most potent" and since February is all about celebrating love and friendship, it is the perfect time to acknowledge everyone who demonstrates their love for our community. We appreciate our alumni, parents, staff, students, Parents' Association, school board and community members who love and support MSOL every day.

This year has challenged us to be creative in all aspects of our

daily lives and that includes school events and volunteer opportunities. We look forward to engaging in-person soon but in the meantime, our staff and volunteers have maintained some of our favorite traditions in unique ways.

We have hosted socially distant, outdoor Back to School and Fall Parent Meetings to connect with new and returning parents. For conferences and Parent Student Eve, staff offered in-person visits by appointment or

-Therese Colby

a virtual option via Zoom. Without the distractions of the typically social Parent-Student Eve & Book Fair, students gave (very professional!) presentations to their parents who were able to gain a deeper understanding of their work.

With the help of volunteers from the Lemont High School National Honors Society, each class produced a virtual winter celebration that included singing, acting or reciting original poetry.

(Continued on page 3)

Parents' Association Report

January 12, 2021

OFFICERS PRESENT: Jenna Treanor, President; Karen Damato, Vice President; Debbie Moreno, Treasurer; Jennifer Galka, Secretary

Also in attendance: Therese Colby, Maria Glassner, Manya Crippen, Khadija El-Harazin
CALL TO ORDER AT 9:00^{am} by Jenna, ADJOURNED AT 9:30^{am} by Jenna

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Jenna Treanor, President

NEW BUSINESS:

- Pajama Day: February 5th
 - Jennifer to create a flier noting that items will be donated to Guardian Angel
 - Pajamas will be collected in all classrooms in boxes brought by Debbie. Students who bring in pajamas can wear their own pajamas to school that day.
- Auction Alternatives
 - Jenna noted that it is unlikely to hold a traditional auction this year. The auction is our largest fundraising event of the year, so we will instead offer different experiences and items to raise funds.
 - Social Events: Jenna suggested two ticket events for adults through the new Lemont business 111 Martini and Wine Bar. One ticket per person at a cost of \$100 for each event. Jenna also suggested social events for the students (painting or crafting via local business) that would tentatively cost \$50 per ticket. Tentative dates 3/12 and 4/9.
 - Photos for sale: Photos of students in an outdoor Montessori environment will be available for purchase for \$50.
 - Class projects will be auctioned off via a chance raffle. There will be 10 chances per project at a cost of \$50 per ticket. Winners will be chosen live via Zoom
 - Teacher Features will be approximately four per class at a cost of \$100 each. These will be first come, not auctioned.
 - Rather than using Auctria (which has a high cost) we will use the same site as the WJR sign up, which is free, for auction item purchasing.
 - Room Parent Involvement: emails to families advertising class projects, requesting large ticket items, and encouraging families to seek out donations from companies.

The Parent's Association of the Montessori School of Lemont exists to support the school's philosophy, programs and activities for the benefit of all students, staff and families.

Next Meeting: February 9, 2021

IOWA Testing

IOWA Testing is just around the corner. For 1st- 3rd graders, testing will begin on March 15th and continue through March 19th. 4th- 9th grade testing will also start on March 15th and will be completed by March 26th.

At MSOL, we administer the IOWA Test of Basic Skills not for diagnostic purposes but rather as a Practical Life activity. Practical Life fosters concentration, coordination, and independence through activities of daily life. When students complete our program and move into a conventional classroom, testing and quizzing will be an activity of daily life.

While introducing the IOWA test in the Montessori environment, our staff has the opportunity to define the testing experience and desensitize students to the anxiety and stress it can cause.

For students to perform their best, please be sure your child gets a good night's sleep and begins their day with a healthy breakfast.



Isabella inspired Luca and Adam to help finish the tallest snowman we've seen this year!

Our Community

(Continued from page 2)

The Adolescents produced their own stop-motion-film to celebrate the many holidays observed by members of their community.

Spanish, Latin and Mandarin instructors offer in-person or virtual classes based on the individual needs of each class. Recently, the lead teachers hosted virtual Current Parent Coffees for parents of students who will be entering a new classroom in the fall.

At the beginning of the year, staff, volunteers and donors helped create outdoor classrooms and fund a new indoor air purification system that has helped us remain open full time for in-person learning with no school transmitted cases of COVID-19. Our volunteer school board, the majority of whom are MSOL alumni or alumni parents, held emergency meetings and approved the capital expenditures necessary for reopening during the pandemic and continue to meet regularly.

The Parents' Association kicked off the year with an outdoor, socially distant, meeting and now holds virtual monthly meetings. They have re-imagined family events like Walk, Jog, Run, that was held virtually and Care & Carol that was transformed into a gift drive for our local seniors and will be added to our caroling tradition next year. They continue to coordinate staff birthday and holiday celebrations, assist with the

online Prospective Parent Coffees, and are currently in the planning stages of adapting our Annual Auction into a combination of online and in-person events for students and parents.

Thank you to the entire staff and parent volunteers who are too numerous to list. Special thanks to our: PA board: Jenna Treanor, Karen Damato, Jennifer Galka, Debbie Moreno, and volunteers Many Crippen, Elizabeth Waller and Maria Glassner; Room Parents: Jeanine Tschudy, Maria Glassner, Therese Carroll, Jennifer Galka, Debbie Moreno and Elizabeth Waller; and the backbone of MSOL, our volunteer board of directors: Paul Westman, Sheila Lamb, Norine Colby, Angela Adolf, Jim Hilgenbrink and Mary Zeronas, all of whom give their time and expertise to aide me in the governance and advancement of our mission 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.

Thank you all for modeling our vision of using the Montessori Method to develop future generations of independent, confident, and empathetic lifelong learners who affect change for a better world.

Up next is PJ Day, the Science Fair and Teacher Features so stay tuned to see how these events evolve!

**““When I’m 100,
I’m going to be
bigger than
that.” [pointing at
the brown stairs]**

-L.Y., age 4



Alp playing the electric guitar in Rock 'N Roll Patrol!

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 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

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lemontmontessori.com

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

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



Friday, February 5th

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

MSOL Fresh Market Update

Montessori School of Lemont Fresh Market has reached a milestone! On January 21, 2021, the adolescents made their first ever profit off of chicken eggs after selling seven dozen eggs in one day. This is most likely due to the fact that all of the hens are old enough to begin producing eggs.

During the next few Fresh Market sales, you will be able to purchase new handmade earrings and other jewelry as well as Valentine’s Day décor.

Currently, the MSOL adolescents are looking into plans for adding goats to the community, and any proceeds from eggs will go to start a fund for goat housing and fencing.



Congratulations to MSOL grads Samantha Luhn '18 and Emilie Kircher '20 for their academic achievement at St. Francis High School! Samantha, currently in her junior year, has made the A Honor Roll, and Emilie, currently in her freshman year, has made the B Honor Roll.

“We are proud of these students for their hard work, dedication and accomplishments,” said SFHS Principal, Raeann Huhn.



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School of Lemont