

Save the Date!

- March 1st
Tuition Due
- March 2nd
Informational Coffee
Science Fair
- March 8th, 8:45^{am}
Parents' Association
Meeting
- March 10th
Adolescent Student-Run
Conferences
- March 13th-24th
Iowa Testing
- March 27th- 31st
Spring Break, No School
Classes resume April 3rd

Montessori School of Lemont

Since 1972

Volume 29, Issue 8

March 2023

Science Fair

Upper Elementary and Adolescent students will hold their annual science fair on March 2nd. During the day they will present to students from other classrooms before presenting to parents and special guests after school. This is one of the bridging activities that bring our students together throughout the year. Younger students get a glimpse of things to come and their older peers benefit by honing their presentation skills and fielding (often unanticipated!) questions.

Scientists Jim Lant and Drew Slyford from Citgo consulted with 4th-6th graders on design and testing protocols early in the process and will return to

(Continued on page 3)

On Board!

Debbie Moreno is joining the Board of Directors as a 10-year veteran of the MSOL parent community.

Debbie providentially found MSOL on her daily commute to work when she and her husband were searching for a high-quality preschool for their daughter, Alicia. They decided to "come for coffee and stay for a few years" and Alicia became MSOL's youngest student that year! Debbie soon became a staunch supporter of the school and has actively supported virtually every event since her first parent orientation, serving in a variety of roles for the parents, students, teachers, and administration alike. She ety of

roles from the PA Treasurer to parent representative on the AMS Accreditation Steering Committee, to primary PE assistant...just to name a few!

Her introduction to the philosophy occurred as a teenager when she volunteered at a small Montessori school. Debbie immersed herself in the writings of Dr. Montessori to understand the methodology more deeply as a parent. Her favorite parent meetings have been the lectures by Dr. Maniacci and the Curriculum Crawls.

In addition to her love for MSOL and the Montessori method, Debbie has many years of executive-level professional

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this issue!

- PA Report 2
- Testing 3
- Student Spotlight 4
- Coffee, Anyone? 4



Our annual auction is the major source of funding for our building fund which provides for the continued growth and improvement of our campus.



The goal of our "Denim & Diamonds" event is to raise \$50,000 for the expansion and development of 'The Farmessori Project,' our outdoor learning environment that houses our chickens and classroom gardens.



The Parents' Association has planned a fun evening at Ruffled Feathers in Lemont on April 28th and invites you to join us for our 31st annual auction. Supporters can [sponsor](#) the event, [bid online](#) or [buy tickets](#) and join us in person. Thanks in advance for your continued support of our school!

\$5,000
Diamond Sponsorship
(10) Complimentary Tickets
at a reserved table
Recognition on social media, event
page, emails & website

\$2,500
Gold Sponsorship
(4) Complimentary Tickets
Recognition on social media, event
page, emails & website

\$1,000
Silver Sponsorship
(2) Complimentary Tickets
Recognition on social media, event
page, emails & website

\$500
Bronze Sponsorship
Recognition on social media, event
page, emails & website



Lower Elementary students hosted their annual Friendship Tea on February 14th.

"You are not a teacher. You work in the office, so you are an officer!"
-P.S., age 5



Parent-Student Evening in the Blue Room

Parents' Association Report

February 8, 2023

Officers Present: Jennifer Galka, President; Nicole Cirillo, Vice President; Debbie Moreno, Treasurer; Ashley Warren, Secretary

Also in attendance: Mary Zeronas, Karen Damato, Jackie Claxton, Mark Gonzales, Arlene Koza, Ernesta Stuopis, Therese Colby

Executive Report: Jennifer Galka

Treasurer's Report: Debbie Moreno: : \$3971.82 current balance

Secretary's Report: Meeting minutes were submitted

Pajama Day/ Pizza Recap

Sold 101 pizzas: \$606 cost: \$404. Thank you to Nicole, Ashley, Jackie, and Karen for sorting

Will request gluten-free next year

177 pajamas collected. Thank you to Jackie, Nicole, and Jeanine for collecting and delivering pajamas.

Three Stories Book Fair / Pack the Place

Sunday 11^{am}- 3^{pm} for MSOL family & friends. Will inquire about shopping early or ordering books online.

Room Parents will request parent volunteers to read stories

Mark reached out to Matt's BBQ, and they will give us 20% of sales (with flier) 11^{am}- 7^{pm} on Saturday and 11^{am} - 11^{pm} on Sunday

Barrel & Vine Fundraiser

Mark reached out and they are willing to do a fundraiser. Tentative date 3/22

2023 Auction 4/28/23

Venue: Ruffled Feathers 6^{pm}- 10^{pm}, \$125 Early Bird pricing (\$150 after 4/7)

3-hour open bar (1 hour wine only) and buffet

Set up at least 1.5 hours prior to event, can store items on-site the day before

Ashley pricing "denim and diamond" cookie favors

Invitations to go out 2/22 with window decal

Auctioneer: Charles is available to come and act as auctioneer per Nicole

Music: Nicole will sponsor music prior to dinner

Procurement: 116+ business solicited, Ashley reported donations received

Distributed sign-up sheet for additional donations

After 3/8 meeting, team will meet to solicit local businesses

Themes for Room Parent Baskets per Jennifer:

Yellow Room: Lego basket

Purple Room: Art basket

Orange Room: Spirits basket

Green Room: Cooking basket

Silver Room: Students to determine theme. BlueRoom: Montessori at Home

Games

Heads/tails: Jewelry or unisex prize

Yeti Cooler Game: 2 donated coolers 1 filled with lotto tickets, 1 filled with spirits. First winner picks the closed cooler of their choice.

Mark suggested looking at sports memorabilia auction items

Whiskey tasting, need whiskey donations and will ask Jody to run again

Caricatures instead of self-portraits

Goofy Faces can come on 3/7 at 10^{am}. \$130 - \$180/hour for 15 faces/hour in black and white

Additional artists available

3 children max for families with siblings

Display at the event as a "Buy It Now" option for those who didn't purchase prior

\$30 for one kid, \$35 for two, \$40 for three. Auction price \$50

Classroom Projects & Teacher Features

All School Project: Denim Quilt

Green Room - "A Day in the Life"

Yellow Room: Solar System Throw

Purple Room: Painted Stone Birdbath

Orange Room: Basket Weaving

Silver Room: Stained Glass Window

Blue Room: tbd

Next meeting March 8th at 8:45^{am}

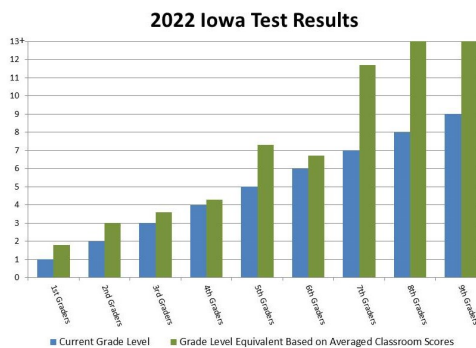
The Parents' Association of Montessori School of Lemont exists to support the school's philosophy, programs, and activities for the benefit of all students, staff and families.

IOWA Testing

IOWA testing will begin on March 13 and finishing by March 24 for students in grades 1 through 9.

We administer the IOWA Test of Basic Skills as a benchmarking tool as well as a practical life activity. When students complete our program and enter a conventional classroom setting, they will benefit from being familiar and comfortable with the process. By introducing the IOWAs in a Montessori environment, we can define the experience and desensitize students to the anxiety and stress commonly associated with testing. We often provide students with their first impression of testing and we strive to prepare a low pressure, no stakes environment. Parents who prefer for their children not to participate may opt out.

Standardized tests do not measure social-emotional intelligence and in some areas do not track with the scope or sequence of our



curriculum yet they can provide useful data for measuring learner outcomes and program efficacy. The tests are scored on a scale from 1st-13th grade and our students typically perform above grade level.

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



Limbo! Upper El & Adolescent students at Family Fun Zone on Valentine's Day

"I think I'm going to sign up for Montessori's Got Talent. I've been dancing and singing my whole life. I'm ready!"
-A.C., age 5

On Board

(Continued from page 1)

experience. For 15 years, she has been the owner/president of a fastener distribution company where she is challenged daily with supply chain demands on a global level, contract negotiations and customer service at the executive level. Previously, she served as COO for a landscape contractor and an admissions counselor at Loyola's Stritch School of Medicine. She has served on three other boards.

Debbie is honored to be invited to be a part of the MSOL Board. She has witnessed the strength of the school first-hand through the years. She shares, "It is my sincere hope that I can continue to prove myself useful as I vow to keep the best interest of the school community in mind as well as maintain the integrity of the school's mission statement."

Welcome, Debbie! We are honored to have you "on board"!

Debbie is filling the position of Angela Adolf, alumni parent and active volunteer who has been a director since 2017. "I have been blessed to love MSOL for the past 17 years. My oldest son attended the Yellow Room under the careful guidance of Ms. Colby and then my youngest attended a few years later following in his big brother's foot

steps. My husband and I have attended over a dozen MSOL auctions with Joe always at the ready to auction off the beautiful classroom works and see the school grow and flourish. I was honored to be invited to be a part of the board and truly hope that my love of education and care for the school helped MSOL in a positive way. After taking on a new role on the administration at Lockport Township High School it became clear that my time would not be so easily shared and I felt it in the best interest of the school that I step away from the board. It has been a joy to watch the school grow and change. I am very proud of all the amazing things I have seen accomplished and wish everyone at MSOL a wonderful and bright future!

Science Fair

(Continued from page 1)

give feedback on their final presentations.

Once students enter the Adolescent program, their science fair projects are formally judged by a science teacher from a local high school. In preparation for high school, Adolescents are introduced to conventional methods including rubrics, percentage grades, 1:1 technology, and cloud computing through their independent and project-based Montessori work.



Steve McClenning, Ombudsman Director at Naperville Central High School, judging the 2022 Science Fair

...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 9th grade for 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 with two custom designed buildings on 7.5 acres of donated land. In 2010, a third building was constructed to accommodate the growing enrollment and in 2011, a natural playground and an organic community garden were created. Funds are currently being raised to continue 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.

16427 W. 135th Street
Lemont, Illinois 60439

Phone: 815-834-0607

Fax: 815-834-0681

info@lemontmontessori.com

FB: montessorischooloflemont



lemontmontessori.com

Student Spotlight

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. To register, call or email us at info@lemontmontessori.com

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



Thursday, March 2
Thursday, April 6

Join us for coffee and stay for a few years!



Congratulations to Montessori School of Lemont Adolescent student, Paola B., who recently won 1st Place in Bill Lipinski's All-American Eagles Program Essay Contest for 8th graders. The topic was "What were the causes of the Revolutionary War?" Paula wrote about contributing events such as the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, the 7 Years' War, and the Stamp Act. She concluded her essay noting the impacts and significance of each event leading up to and resulting in the Revolutionary War.



MONTESSORI
School of Lemont