

Save the Date!

- February 1st
Tuition Due
Informational Coffee
- February 2nd
Pajama Day
- February 9th
2024-25 Applications Due
- February 13th
8:45^{am} PA Meeting
- February 19th
President's Day, No School
- February 22nd
Adolescent Parent-Student Meeting, 3:30^{pm}
Elementary Parent-Student Evening, 3:30-6:30^{pm}
- February 23rd, 3:30-5:30^{pm}
Primary Parent-Student Eve
- February 29th, 3:00-5:00^{pm}
Science Fair

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Montessori School of Lemont

Since 1972

Volume 30, Issue 7

February 2024

Pajama Day

Wear a pair, share a pair on on February 2nd! Send your child to school in pajamas donate a new pair for the Guardian Angel Community Services in Joliet. Students don't have to wear pajamas to support this great cause. Feel free to donate brand new pajamas of any size and our Parents' Association volunteer, Jeanine Galetti will

handle delivery. The most desired sizes are XL and up.



The mission of Guardian Angel Community Services is to help empower women and

children in our community who are struggling to improve their lives. 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 for this great cause!

Presidents' Day



"There's a flickering spark in us all which, if struck at just the right age, I think, can light the rest of our lives, elevating our ideals, deepening our tolerance, and sharpening our appetite for knowledge about the rest of the world. Education and cultural exchanges, especially among our young, provide a perfect opportunity for this precious spark to grow, making us more sensitive and wiser international citizens through our careers."

-Ronald Reagan,
40th President of the United States

Parent-Student Evenings

Parent-Student Evening is a time to immerse yourself in the Montessori environment with your child as your teacher. Held twice each year, students of all ages take on a leadership role and guide you through their day-to-day activities, present lessons, and most importantly, introduce you to their besties!

Adolescent Parent-Student Meeting
Thursday, February 22nd at 3:30^{pm}

Elementary Parent-Student Evening
Thursday, February 22nd at 3:30-6:30^{pm}

Primary Parent-Student Evening
Friday, February 23rd at 3:30-5:30^{pm}





Best recess ever!

We Love Our Volunteers!

-Therese Colby

The month of February is the perfect time to share our love for the many volunteers who make our community so special. We appreciate our alumni, parents, staff, students, PA and school board who continuously demonstrate their love for our MSOL community through their volunteer efforts. Whether helping in the classrooms, event planning or fundraising,

our staff and administration are grateful for your support.

PA President, Mark Gonzalez along with PA Board Members Debbie Moreno and Jackie Claxton and Room Parents, Margo Bingham, Sylvia Helegda, Theresa Carroll, Ashley Haberkern, Lori MacDonald and Anna Antosiak, coordinate parent volunteers who make many of

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Parents' Association

Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2024

[While visiting the Adolescent room...]

“Mrs. McClenning your students’ work is making me proud.”

-A.P., age 8

Officers Present: Mark Gonzalez, President; Debbie Moreno, Interim Vice-President/Treasurer; Jackie Claxton, Secretary
Also in Attendance: Kristin Wade, Sheila Strutz, Whitney Sharp

Called to Order: 8:45^{am} by Mark
Meeting Minutes: Jackie
Financial Report: Debbie
Current Balance in PA account is \$131

NEW BUSINESS:

Current-Parent Coffee

- For parents of students moving into a new classroom. Jackie will explain this in the January 8 Room Parent email and include a request for parents to RSVP. Hospitality will provide light refreshments

Pajama Day, February 2

- PJ Day is an event the children look forward to every year!
- Donations of new pajamas are requested in each child's size, and in turn children wear their pajamas to school
- Jeannie Galetti will collect and deliver them to Guardian Angel Community Services in Joliet

2024 AUCTION:

- Website: Annie will manage the auction software and create the auction website
- Save-the-Date: Jackie will design and share logos
- Procurement
Debbie reviewed the process: Upon receipt, all donations should be given to Annie for input into auction software and then Jim for storage.
Procurement committee (Kristin and Jill) to provide updates
Whitney and Sheila volunteered to join the procurement team
Debbie to send document retention/nondisclosure forms and share file
Procurement Outings: February 6 and March 5
- Sponsorship levels same as last year
Platinum \$5,000, Gold: \$2,500, Silver: \$1,000 and Bronze: \$500



Ellie shows off her numbers!

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Parents' Association

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- Tickets
Early Bird Discount: \$125 from March 1 - April 5. Full price: \$150 after April 5
Last day to purchase an auction ticket TBD
- Classroom Baskets
Jackie sent an explanation of classroom baskets to Room Parents and requested themes by next PA meeting (2/13) or the PA will assign a theme
- Save-The-Date
Sheila found good prices for magnets but Kristen volunteered to make and donate them! Jackie designed the Save-the-Date and will add a QR code to the magnet

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.



Arina experimenting with a homemade lava lamp

Science Fair

Upper Elementary and Adolescent students are busy conducting their science projects and preparing for the Science Fair later this month. During the day on February 29, the older students will demonstrate their presentations to younger students from each classroom before presenting to their parents and special guests after school. This is one of the bridging activities that brings students from all levels 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 visited the Upper El again this year and consulted with 4th-6th graders on design and testing protocols while it is still early in the process. They will be returning to give feedback on their final presentations. Once students enter the Adolescent program, their projects are formally judged by a science teacher from a local high school. In preparation for high school, Adolescents are introduced to the use of conventional assessments and tools including rubrics, percentage grades, 1:1 technology, and cloud computing through their independent and project-based Montessori work.

“Do you realize how spoiled we are? We have this EPIC classroom!!”

-J.B., age 13

Volunteers

(Continued from page 2)

our favorite events possible. So far this year their hardworking team has planned Movie Night, the Back to School Picnic and Coffee in the Courtyard in August, Walk, Jog, Run! in September, Fall Fest in October, Thanks-for-Giving in November, and hosted our monthly *Prospective Parent Coffees*.

This month, Purple Room parent Jeanine Galetti is coordinating PJ Day to benefit the Guardian Angel Organization and Silver Room parent Celeste Santiago is organizing the Book Fair. Planning is underway for our annual auction led by our procurement chairs, Kristin Wade and Jill Kellogg.

The backbone of MSOL is our volunteer Board of Directors, the majority of whom are MSOL alumni or alumni parents: Paul Westman (Paul Joseph and Susan), Sheila Lamb (Rose, Joe and Matt), Norine Colby (Therese), Debbie Moreno (Alicia) and myself along with Jim Hilgenbrink and Mary Zeronas, all of whom give their time and expertise 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.

We love and appreciate your support in achieving our goals for your children.



Milana and her watercolor masterpiece

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 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 a permanent location after the construction of a new campus on 7.5 acres of donated land. In 2010, a third 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.

The 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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Scripps Spelling Bee

Each year our Upper Elementary and Adolescent students participate in the Will County Region National Spelling Bee. MSOL students learn the rules and practice competing with their classmates in a school-wide bee. The School Champion will represent MSOL in the 2024 Will County Regional Competition which will be held at Lincoln-Way West High School.

The competition began in 1925 when nine newspapers joined together to promote literacy. Almost 100 years later,



11 million
students
participate
each year.

Merriam-Webster Unabridged is the official dictionary of the [Scripps National Spelling Bee](#) and there is now an app, Word Club, that parents may download on iOS or Android. Spelling and vocabulary quizzes for all 4,000 words in the *Words of the Champions* study booklet are also available for purchase via the app.

Coffee, Anyone?



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

Philosophy • Curriculum • Campus Tour
Admissions Process • Q & A

Join us for coffee and stay for a few years!

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



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School of Lemont