



*A children's house close to home*

# montessori matters...

Northwest Suburban Montessori School  
[www.nsms.org](http://www.nsms.org)

March 2011  
Newsletter

## From the Principal's Desk By Mrs. Jan Howland

The American Academy of Pediatrics says what children really need for healthy development is more good old fashioned playtime. Spontaneous free play whether it's playing outside, playing with toys, or just rolling around on the floor with Mom or Dad is sometimes lost in the shuffle.

Numerous studies have shown that unstructured play has many benefits. It can help children become creative, discover their own passions, and develop problem-solving skills.

Play is a simple joy that is a cherished part of childhood. Lack of free time can create stress for children and parents alike. Children who are overscheduled with structured activities are missing the chance they have to dream, to fantasize, to make their own world work the way they want it to. That is a very important part of childhood.

So as you plan your child's days and weeks, be sure to "plan" enough free time for them to flourish. Wouldn't we still be in the dark if Edison hadn't had the unstructured time to dream up the light bulb?



## March Events

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 3/10    | Plant Sale orders due  |
| 3/16    | Parent Board Meeting<br>7:30 pm  |
| 3/17    | Fannie May orders due<br>Dining for Dollars-<br>California Pizza Kitchen                     |
| 3/21-25 | Spring Break<br>(School Closed)  |
| 3/23    | Spring Break Party<br>Chuck E Cheese   |
| 3/31    | Vision and Hearing<br>Screenings<br>(All 3-6 year old students<br>are required to be tested) |

Artist of the Month is Renoir  
Composer of the Month is Chopin

## Spring is almost here! Have you RSVP'd to the 9th Annual Spring Fling Fundraiser?

What are you waiting for?  
Grab your flip flops and join us  
for dinner, drinks, music,  
the silent auction and raffle!

Friday, April 29th  
7:00 pm at the  
Hotel Indigo in Palatine



Event and raffle tickets are available in the school office,  
the first 15 families to RSVP will receive free raffle tickets!  
Donations for the silent auction are being  
accepted through March.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year,  
we need everyone's support!

## News From the Toddler Classroom By Mrs. Kelly Behn

The snow is almost gone and spring officially starts on March 20th. Spring is an exciting time in the Toddler Room. As the weather warms up, we venture outside to look for signs of Spring. We look for buds on trees and flowers sprouting from the ground. When the park dries out we will be going to the park everyday weather permitting. So please send your child to school with the appropriate outerwear.

Our class will also witness the life cycle of a butterfly and the hatching of a praying mantis egg. We will receive our eggs sometime after Spring Break. The children love to watch the caterpillar grow from an egg and spin itself into a chrysalis. Then finally emerge from its chrysalis as a butterfly. This is a 4-6 week process and after all the butterflies have hatched we set them free on the playground. The children enjoy watching them fly away and for the rest of the year any butterfly they see is "our butterfly." I hope everyone has a fun and restful Spring Break.



## March News from Mrs. Anna and the 3-6 Year old Classrooms

It is March already, and still there's plenty of winter weather coming our way.

The month of March is known for how it comes in on the tail end of winter and escorts in the bountiful springtime. This month allows winter to have its last roar like a lion and the later part of the month goes out calm like a baby lamb. Every day we are adding either lamb or lion to our weather board.

In March, we present Pierre-Auguste Renoir's art work. We learned that Renoir belonged to a group of painters called "impressionists" and that certain colors look best when placed next to other colors, for example; green with red, blue with orange, and yellow with violet.

The composer of this month is Chopin. How surprised were the children to learn that Chopin played his first piano concert in public when he was only eight years old. We will be listening to his delicate, poetic compositions throughout the month of March.

We are going to celebrate Mardi Gras with the small jelly donuts and hand made masks. On the 17th, we will have the festivities of the Irish holiday. Ask your child about the green bread and green butter that will be made in our classroom on St. Patrick's Day. Also, look for many exciting projects to come home.

March is also our month for Spring Break. The school will be closed from Monday, March 21st through Friday, March 25th.



Happy St. Patrick's Day

# Spanish Greetings from Ms. Carmen!

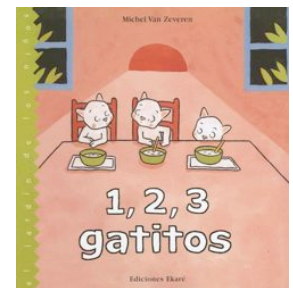
Your child and I have continued our Spanish learning journey over the past few months. You may have noticed them singing some new songs, and I wanted you to have the words so that you could join the fun. Besides songs, I am also working individually and in small groups, so you may have seen some of this work as well. As always, I encourage you to look out for books you can read in Spanish with your child. Some of the children have even made their own books! Here are some titles that my daughter and I enjoy:

Bizcocho encuentra un amigo, by Alyssa Satin Capucilli  
1, 2, 3 Gatitos, by Michel Van Zeveren  
Let's Eat! / A Comer! By Pat Mora



## Opposite's Song:

Arriba, abajo (ah-ree-bah, ah-bah-hoe)  
Up and down  
Frio, caliente (Free-O, kah-lee-an-tee)  
Cold and hot  
Abierto, cerrado (A-bee-air-toe, say-rah-doe)  
Open, closed  
Grande, pequeño (gran-day, pay-ken-yo)  
Big and small  
Noche y día (no-chay E dee-a)  
Night and day



## Animal Song/Game:

Que llueva, que llueva, (kay-you-ay-vah, kay-you-ay-vah,)  
*Let it rain, let it rain*  
El [pick animal] está en la cueva. (ale -----A-stah-n-lah-coo-ay-vah)  
*The [pick an animal] is in the cave*  
Los pajaritos cantan, (lows-pah-ha-ree-toes kahn-tawn)  
*The little birds are singing (make chirping sound)*  
Las nubes se levantan. (lahz new-bays say lay-von-tawn)  
*The clouds are lifting (raise arms)*  
Que sí, que no, (kay - see, kay - no)  
Maybe yes, maybe no,  
Que caiga un chaparrón. (kay kie-gah oon cha-pah-rhone)  
*Here comes the rainstorm (hands imitate rain storm)*



## FANNIE MAY FUNDRAISER

February 24 - March 17, 2011



Are you starting to see birds and squirrels? Can you see your grass and is it green? Yes, Spring in the air! The perfect time for the NSMS Spring Fundraiser -- **FANNIE MAY CANDY SALES!**

It's easy to do:

- Ask Family, Friends, Neighbors, and Co-Workers if they would like to purchase Fannie May candies to help support NSMS
- Complete the order form and collect money from those who choose to order. (Checks should be made payable to: **FANNIE MAY**)
- Return your completed order forms and full payment in the Fannie May envelope to the NSMS Front Office by end of day **Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**
- Orders will be shipped directly to YOUR HOUSE the week of April 4<sup>th</sup> -- plenty of time to distribute before the Easter Holiday!

If you have any questions or need additional order forms, please contact Nicole Hildebrandt at [KirkNicole@comcast.net](mailto:KirkNicole@comcast.net) or 847-528-2324.