



A children's house close to home

montessori matters...

Northwest Suburban Montessori School
www.nsms.org

January/February 2012
Newsletter

Finally...SNOW!!!

We asked some of our half-day students what they liked best about a snowy day!

Mrs. Pyzyna's Class

- "Making a snowman!" -Angelina
- "Smurf-Angels!" -Marco
- "Making snowballs!" -Sophia
- "Go sledding!" -Sam
- "Wearing snow boots!" -Sophie
- "Making snowballs" Amil
- "Having a snowball fight!" -Bali
- "Throwing snowballs with my friends!" -Ryan
- "Making a snowman!" -Nick



Mrs. Heineman's Class

- "Jump in snowpiles!" -Christopher
- "To play!" -Vanessa
- "Make a snowman" -Ben
- "Making snow angels!" -Gillian
- "Snow is cold!" -Inara
- "Sledding!" -Emily
- Building a snowman and then kicking it!" -Caz
- "Playing in the snow!" -Allie

Congratulations to the Koelbl Family!

Tucker was born December 29th, weighing 8 lbs. 13 oz. and 21 in. long.
Chase is the big brother in the Toddler class!



Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1/23-1/31 | NSMS Open House 8:00am-3:00pm
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO CHECK OUT OUR SCHOOL, WORD OF MOUTH IS OUR BEST ADVERTISEMENT |
| 1/25 | Dining for Dollars, California Pizza Kitchen |
| 1/27-2/10 | Bee Authentic Fundraiser |
| Sat. 2/11 | Scholastic Book Fair, 10:00-2:00 |
| 2/15 | Parent Board Meeting, 7:30pm |
| 2/20 | President's Day, No School Half-Day and Toddler Students |
| 2/21 | Teacher CPR Training 9:00 am (Parents are welcome to join the class for \$25.00) |
| 2/22 | Fire Zone Fire Safety Presentation |



Watch for details about the following events from your child's teacher:

- Teacher Conferences
- Dad's Night for 3-6 year old Classrooms
- Dr. Waldman, (NSMS alum parent) Dental Hygiene Presentation

SPRING FLING 2012

Please mark your calendars for our NSMS 2012 Spring Fling!!
Our fun night of bowling and bocce ball will be held on **April 20th** at Pinstripes in South Barrington
Gather up your donations and be sure to bring them into the office by the end of March! !



From the Principal's Desk by Jan Howland

"If we were to establish a primary principle, it would be to constantly allow the child's participation in our lives. For he cannot learn to act if he does not join in our actions, just as he cannot learn to speak if he does not hear..."

"To extend to the child this hospitality, to allow him to participate in our work, can be difficult, but it cost nothing. Our time is a far more precious gift than material objects"

-Dr. Maria Montessori



Welcome back!!! I hope every family enjoyed the holidays and are ready to get back into the routine of everyday life. Montessori offers many tremendous benefits that will produce a child that is a life long learner. It is never too early to teach your children to appreciate and share their blessings with others. Many children don't realize that their parents work very hard to put food on the table, clothes on their backs, and toys in their rooms. They also may not be aware that other children are not as fortunate. Compassion is a virtue we encourage at Montessori to help children realize that everyone is gifted in different ways and we should all learn from each other. Parents must be the role models to teach children the value of sharing.

Personalized Bricks

Consider buying a brick while your child is still here at NSMS! This way they can see their names when they walk to our school playground. Orders can only be placed twice a year - once in December and once at the end of the year. Each brick costs \$100. Thank you for your support!



NSMS Welcomes New Students

The Toddler Program Welcomes:

Aditi
Rachel
Gus
Drew
Vinny

Half Day Program Welcomes:

Olivia
Evan

The Full Day Program Welcomes:

Claire
Jonathon
Katelyn



A Visit into our Nation's Past with the Work of Walter Ellison in *Train Station* By Mrs. Jennifer Schmidt, Art Teacher



Our art awareness lesson will focus on civil rights in honor of our national holiday celebrating the life and work of Martin Luther King. We will observe and discuss the work of Walter Ellison. Walter was an American artist born in Georgia in 1900. He grew up in the small town of Eatonton which is near Macon. As a teenager, Walter joined what is known today as the *Great Migration*. This mass emigration was the largest peacetime movement of people in the United States, where southern born African-Americans traveled by train, car or wagon to the industrialized northern cities of Chicago, Detroit and New York City. Many of these families were share croppers. Chicago was the largest industrial center during this time period. The movement dates from 1900 to 1970.

Many companies sent recruiters to the south to offer blacks free transportation and the promise of better paying jobs, free school and improved living conditions.

Walter Ellison's journey took him to Chicago where he would study art at the School of The Art Institute Chicago. Many notable African-American artists studied at the school. Ellison was a painter and created *Train Station* at the age of 35. He chose to paint a small oil on canvas in the format of 8" x 14". This vivid work depicts the train station in Macon, Georgia. White southerners board trains with southbound cities as their destination. Walter included name plates over the entryways to cities in Florida. These passengers were on their way to sunny vacations.

African-American passengers are shown on the right side of the painting, in segregated areas, boarding trains to the north. Can you guess what cities are labeled on the name plates in this section? The only blacks that were allowed into the left side of the painting, were porters who are depicted in orange clothing. There are many potential stories being illustrated as we view the hustle and bustle of the passengers making their way through the station and through their lives.

Those who partook in the Great Migration dreamed of a better life. These were new beginnings for whole families. Although racial injustice was experienced in the northern cities, these people carried with them the tools to formulate new communities where family, work and school were cherished. They brought their customs and spiritual ideas, using them as building blocks for distinctive communities such as Bronzeville in Chicago. Walter Ellison was a vital force in the creation of the South Side Community Art Center in Chicago. This facility is still in operation today.

Our lesson will be enhanced with music from artists such as Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong. We will read the book *God Bless The Child* (inspired by Billie Holiday's song) which depicts a family's journey from the south to the north. This book was awarded the Coretta Scott King Award for superior illustration work of Jerry Pinkney in 2005. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Pinkney at the Art Institute Chicago. He was both engaging and inspiring. Our class project will consist of our students mapping "where their families came from" on a collective world map with yarn and pushpins.

As a proponent of the arts, I am excited to see that admission to the Art Institute Chicago is free to Illinois residents every weekday from January 2nd through February 10th of this year. Maybe I will see you there!

News from the Toddler Classroom By Kelly Behn

The Toddler room is a flurry of activity. The children came back from break ready to work and play. We have three new children on M/T and two new children on T/F.

Welcome Aditi, Rachel and Vinny, also Drew and Gus.

On the water table we have a tray with penguins and icebergs and also a small ocean. The children love to manipulate the penguins by sliding them down the ice, putting them in the ocean and walking them on the land. We also have many books about penguins on our bookshelf.

One of the favorite activities enjoyed by all is our Jack-in-the-box.

The children love to be surprised. Some children wind the handle until Jack pops out. Others wind the handle and when they are ready press the red clip and wait for Jack to pop out. Either way, a joyful squeal of surprise is heard throughout the room. "All Around The Mulberry Bush" is the tune the jack in the box plays, so at line time we all hold hands and walk in a circle signing the song and jumping when we come to the pop part. This is another activity enjoyed by all.

The children also have an opportunity to build a snowman in the class. We have all the pieces of a snowman made out of felt in a basket. After the child assembles the snowman they can walk on the red line and sing "Frosty the Snowman." We are having lots of fun in the toddler room learning how to wait our turn, talk nice to our friends, and use our good manners at the snack table.



News from the 3-6 Year Old Classrooms By Jamie Earley

February is a fun filled month here at NSMS!! February is dental month. A dentist will be visiting each classroom and showing us how to keep our teeth and gums healthy. The children can practice flossing and brushing with a set of teeth in their classroom's practical life area. This is perfect considering all the candy that Valentines Day will bring. The children will use their imaginations to make creative Valentines for all their friends and family. This is also a great way for the children to practice writing their names and their friend's names. February also celebrates Presidents Day. The children will be learning about our country's current and past Presidents. The children will be discussing how these Presidents shaped our country and how they became President of the United States of America.

This month each classroom will be having their Dads Night. This is a time for the dads to come explore their child's classroom and be hands-on with all the material their children work with on a daily basis. The children really love showing all that they have accomplished throughout the previous months.

February is a busy month in our classrooms!! Hopefully the groundhog will be kind to us as the month ends and winter will be fading out and spring will be hopping in!!



Position Opening	Roles	2011-2012 Position Filled By:	2012-2013 Position Filled By:
Board Co-Chair (2 year position, if possible) (1 opening)	Create the agenda for the monthly board meeting; run monthly board meetings and attend special meeting; oversee committees; meet with principal, teachers and parents when necessary	Erika Newell Joe White	Joe White
Secretary (2 year position, if possible) (1 opening)	Attend monthly board meetings and take notes; type up notes and provide as minutes for the following meetings; send weekly emails with pertinent information; maintain bylaws.	Mary Green	Mary Green
Treasurer (2 year position, if possible) (1 opening)	Review and analyze the financial statements and support the financial decisions; present monthly financial report at board meeting	Dan Grant	Open
Fundraising (Distribute forms, draft emails and distribute items)	Gift Wrap Sale (November)	Julie Badynee	Open
	Manna Gift Card Sale (November/December)	Sherri Grant	Open
	Fannie May Candy Sale (February-April)	Nicole Hildebrandt	Open
	Scholastic Books Coordinator (monthly plus organization of book fair in spring)	Sherri Grant	Open
	Plant Sale (May)	Dena Conway	Open
Social (plan event, contact site, manage volunteers assigned to event, and clean up)	Ice Cream Social (September)	Toula Kourtis	Open
	Back to School Dinner (September)	Tammy Walberg/Julie Badynee	Open
	Dining for Dollars Coordinator (monthly)	Dawn Long	Open
	Halloween Party (October)	Michelle Peterson	Open
	Winter Break Gathering (December)	Jen Alton	Open
	Spring Break Gathering (March)	Dena Conway	Open
	NSMS Egg Hunt (April)	Theresa Jordan	Open
	Teacher Appreciation Week (May)	Tammy Walberg	Open
	Memorial Day Parade (May)	Eric Schorsch	Open
Marketing Chair(s)	Update student directory/handbook, create flyers and place advertisements.	Open	Open
Grant Committee Chair(s)	Research and write grant applications.	Rachel Nugent	Open
Spring Fling Committee Co-chairs	Manage the Spring Fling fundraiser for NSMS. Solicit donations and organize the event.	Amy White Amanda Dilillo	Open
School Improvement Committee Chair(s)	Create survey and compile results.	Raul Esquivel	Open
Welcoming Chair(s)	Contact new families prior to school year, organize back to school events.	Tammy Wahlberg/Julie Badynee	Open
Website Coordinator(s)	Manage and update NSMS website.	Radhjka Srivatsavaya	Open
Yearbook Coordinator(s)	Create yearbook.	Tina Finch	Open
Newsletter Editor(s)	Solicit and edit articles. Design newsletter.	Becky Dufern	Open
Volunteer Coordinator	Oversee parent volunteerism	Open	Open
Parent Calendar Designer	Designs the parent calendar	Tina Finch	Open

We are now recruiting parent coordinators for next school year. Please contact Erika Newell if you are interested in volunteering for one of the open positions at erika412@comcast.net or 847-749-4609.