



montessori matters...

Northwest Suburban Montessori School

March 2010



Notes from the 3-6 Classroom: Jill Pyzyna

Hooray it's finally March and that means that Spring is just around the corner! We're hoping for many warm and beautiful days in the near future so that we can go back outside again. We will talk about March coming in like a "lion and going out like a lamb". The children will keep track each day whether it's a lion or lamb day and at the end of the month we'll add up the days and see who "won".

The classroom will also be celebrating St. Patrick's day by eating green bread and making our own butter from cream. This is always a favorite activity even though some of the children aren't quite sure about eating green bread. We'll also be searching for rainbows, leprechauns and pots of gold and of course you'll be seeing many green shamrocks coming home.



The children will be having a visit from a dentist to talk about proper teeth brushing and what kinds of foods are bad for your teeth. This goes along with our healthy eating work that we have in the classroom. We enjoy placing the foods into different groups and talking about what we like to eat. The children are given grocery ads and get to choose what they would buy at the store. We cut out the pictures and make a food plate of what we should be trying to eat to stay healthy.

We also explore colors and how new colors can be made from red, yellow and blue by mixing them. It's often a surprise to mix yellow and blue and find out that you've made green!

Easter is early this year so we have rabbits and eggs in the classroom this month too. Remember that Spring Break is March 22-26. We hope everyone has a great week off and then we only have two more months until the end of school. Time sure is flying!

Read All About It: NSMS Book Fair!

Our Scholastic Book Fair is right around the corner! It will start at the school right after the Easter Egg Hunt on April 3 (around 11:00 am) and run until the 8th. We need volunteers to help work the fair. Please contact Erika Newell at Erika412@comcast.net or at 847-749-4609 if you can help. You may sign up for more than one shift! It is fun and easy!



Check out the website for more information:

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/publish/nsmsil>



Noteworthy News: Get out and PLAY!

The following is reprinted from the *Daily Herald* on Tuesday, February 16:

One study shows that young people spend nearly every waking minute - except for time in school - using a computer, TV, or other electronic device. Fascination with technology is eating up time children once spent playing sports or playing outdoors. It threatens to contribute to lasting health and social problems and parents need to hear the wake-up call to stress the importance of physical activity for their children.

The constant action and instant gratification of fast-paced video games they are growing up with is winning out over the time it takes to learn about baseball, softball, soccer, and other sports, and develop the skills to be successful. Instead of going out to play sandlot baseball, kids today are content to sit in front of a computer to play a video game. Doctors are concerned about spiking childhood obesity rates associated with declining physical activity. There are also life lessons sports teaches about teamwork, competition, achieving goals, building esteem and social skills that cannot be found on the couch playing a video game. Parents must assert control to help kids change the balance to include physical activity.

NSMS's own Sara Wittleton has some great suggestions for getting out there with your preschoolers:

#1 It's For the Birds!

If you want to get away from the TV and get some fresh air, try this fun outdoor project. Make a pinecone snack bar for the birds. Spread newspaper over your work surface or work on the grass or snow. Smear 3 tablespoons peanut butter into the cracks of a large, open pinecone using small plastic knives or your fingers. Roll the pinecone in the nuts and seeds pressing them until they stick. Loop a wire or piece of string around the top of the pinecone, twisting or threading it around so it won't come loose. Hang it from a branch outside your house, preferably in the sightline of a window. Then watch what happens! Birds and squirrels will find it pretty quickly. In our yard a big opossum reached up, grabbed it, and carried the whole thing off to his nest. On another one we made, the squirrels climbed onto it and were swinging! Hint: you can even make this project outside on a mild winter day which will cut down on the mess and leave more food for the birds.

#2 Take a hike!

Go on an "inbenture" as my two year old says. Winter hikes are great since the world looks so different than in the warmer months. The whole world becomes a place to climb and play. Look for bird's and squirrel's nests in the trees. They are much easier to spot without the leaves. Make a mental note of the distance covered before the kiddoes get tired. Next time go a little longer. Show them how they are hiking more distance each time. Those are all things you can do right from home. Or hike in the wilderness. Great local resources are The Grove <http://www.glenviewparks.org/The-Grove/The-Grove.htm> and River Trail Nature Center. Both have nice trails and cool indoor play spaces if you need a break from the cold. Also there are trail guides where your little ones can note the lettered trail markers and you can read them the description from the printed guide provided. The best parts for my little nature lovers are the animals! Some are in cages and indoors, but the best sightings are in the wild. Keep an eye out for the warning flags of the white tailed deer. Or sit on the porch bench and watch the birds come to the feeders. There are some pinecone feeders just like the ones you made at home!

Montessori Basics: Principal Jan Howland

In this column of our newsletter we would like to offer information regarding the different areas of learning in the classroom. Each month we will focus on one area: practical life, sensorial, math, science, geography, language and art.

Montessori Basics - History & Geography

A specific extension of the language curriculum, the history activities, give the child an awareness of time past, a sense of change and development from prehistory to the present, an appreciation of cultural differences, and begin a foundation of historical facts. The geography activities present facts and nomenclature of physical geography, i.e. the physical characteristics of the earth, and the political geography, the countries and the cultures of the world. Other subjects introduced in the "cultural" activities explore topics including history and appreciation of art, the nomenclature and classification of zoology, science experiments, history, an appreciation of music, and the study of historical figures. Some of the materials being used are the sandpaper glove and colored globe, the puzzle maps, land and water forms, flags, division of the year, days of the week, class diary, and family or individual time lines.



Claudia Corsentino was born on February 13! She weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces. Big sister Sabine is in Miss Kelly's toddler class.

Upcoming Events

NSMS Board Meeting Room One	Wednesday, March 17, 2010 7:30 P.M.
Watch for your classroom's mom's and dad's nights! Each room is announcing their dates.	Watch in Friday Folders/ email
Dining for Dollars Fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen	Thursday, March 18, 2010
Family Event at Chuck E. Cheese	Tuesday, March 23, 2010
NSMS Egg Hunt and Scholastic Book Fair	Saturday, April 3, 2010 at 11:00 *Please be on time!!



Thank You Notes

NSMS wants to thank the following people for stepping up to help out this year:

- Amy Checkering and Sara Whittleton, for signing up to assist Roberta Sullivan with the yearbook!
- Tammy DeMarco, for volunteering to be the Marketing Chair for the remainder of the year.
- Mai Johnson and Tammy Walberg, for volunteering to be the Helping Hands Coordinators.

Newsletter Contributions

Do you have information to share? Good news? A new baby in the family? Do you enjoy writing or editing? Newsletter suggestions? Please share! Email Julianna Sporcich at jlcucci@hotmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for volunteers to fill positions for next school year. If you are interested in a position and would like more information, please feel free to contact the current volunteer.

We will be voting on these positions at the Board Meeting in March.

Position Opening	Roles	2009-2010 Position Filled By:
Co-Chair (1 opening)	Create the agenda for the monthly board meeting; meet with principal, teachers and parents; run monthly board meetings and attend special events; oversee committees	Janelle Brown Suzanne Sullivan
Secretary (1 opening)	Attend monthly board meetings and take notes; type notes and provide as minutes for the following meetings; send weekly emails with pertinent information; maintain current policies and handbook	Brett Hackmann
Treasurer	Review and analyze the financial statements and support the financial decisions; present monthly financial report at Board Meeting	Dan Grant
Fundraising (Plan fundraisers, distribute forms, draft emails and distribute items)	Entertainment Book Sale	Tammy Walberg
	Sally Foster Gift Wrap Sale	Karen VanLandeghem
	Manna Gift Card Sale	Sherri Grant
	Fannie May Candy Sale	Suzanne Sullivan
	Scholastic Books Coordinator	Erika Newell
	Plant Sale	Jenny Okamoto
Social (plan event, contact site, manage volunteers assigned to event, and clean up)	Ice Cream Social	Gigi Mathews
	Back to School Dinner	Koula Frangiadakis
	Dining for Dollars Coordinator	Lisa DeLaurier
	Halloween Party	Michelle Peterson
	Parent Mixer	Suzanne Sullivan
	Winter Break Gathering	Gigi Mathews
	Spring Break Gathering	Lisa DeLaurier
	NSMS Egg Hunt	Roberta Sullivan
	Teacher Appreciation Week	Jenny Okamoto
	Memorial Day Parade	Roberta Sullivan
Marketing Chair(s)	Update student directory/handbook, create flyers and place advertisements.	Tammy DeMarco
Grant Committee Chair(s)	Research and write grant applications.	Julianne Cucci Sporcich
Spring Fling Committee Co-chairs	Manage the Spring Fling fundraiser for NSMS. Solicit donations and organize the event	
School Improvement Committee Chair(s)	Create survey and compile results	Merrick Kossack
Welcoming Chair(s)	Contact new families prior to school year, organize back to school events	Erika Newell
Website Coordinator(s)	Manage and update NSMS website.	Becky Dufern
Yearbook Coordinator(s)	Create yearbook.	Roberta Sullivan
Newsletter Editor(s)	Solicit and edit articles. Design newsletter.	Juliana Cucci Sporcich