



WOODLAND HILL Montessori Messenger

Vol. 42 Issue 9

www.woodlandhill.org

January 16, 2009

Presidential Inauguration at Woodland Hill

On Tuesday, January 20, at 11:45 a.m., all students, faculty and staff will gather together to witness a significant event in American history.

This is an exciting time for our students. They took a great interest in the Presidential campaigns and mock elections sponsored by the Government Club. Whether or not their candidate won, they worked hard at understanding the issues involved. Now they will witness the seating of a new President, Vice President and Cabinet.

Mary Jo Ehrlich, Advisor to the Government Club will meet with upper el students before the Inauguration so that they are prepared with a deeper understanding of the Inaugural process as the 44th President of the United States takes the oath of office.

Following the ceremony, every student will draw a picture or write their impressions about this important event. WHMS will then create a special bound book to be housed in the school's library.

Upcoming Events at WHMS

For updates to the WHMS calendar, go to our website
www.woodlandhill.org

Jan. 16 MS Education B'fast

Jan. 17 12:30-3pm OPEN HOUSE

Jan. 19 MLK, Jr. Day
No School/Enrichment

Jan. 20-23
6-8 Grade ELA Testing

Jan. 24 WHMS Book Swap

Jan. 26 Chinese New Year

Jan. 27 Spelling Bee

Jan. 28 LE Education B'fast

Jan. 29 UE Education B'fast

Feb. 4 9:30 am K-Pinning

SAVE PAPER! - GET YOUR MESSENGER VIA EMAIL OR AT OUR WEBSITE!

GET YOUR WHMS YEARBOOK ~ ON SALE NOW!

YEARBOOK ORDER FORM ATTACHED!

~ CLASSROOM NEWS ~

PRIMARY LIZ & KRISTEN

As the cold wind of January blew in, so did our study of weather. With little encouragement, the young meteorologists in our class have happily set up a simple, interactive weather station in our science area. It contains indoor and outdoor thermometers, a weekly weather chart with daily observations, and a cloud formation activity. Each day a child volunteers to be the "weather watcher." After closely examining the sky, that child then goes to the weather station to record his or her observations for that morning. We have been keeping our eyes on the flag outside our window, because, without an official windsock, the flag serves as a useful way to determine the direction of the wind. Our recent snowstorms we have given us numerous opportunities to measure our daily snowfall; hopefully the ruler and not the yardstick will be sufficient! Our student teacher Tory also treated the children to an interesting experiment with melting snow. Once it melted the amount of water (and dirt) in the container is impressive!

Thank you Pam Malcolm for our great selection of weather library books, we're enjoying them all.



EMMY & DIANE

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year!

Our class is starting off the New Year studying about snow. During one of the flurries we went outside to catch snowflakes on our jackets, mittens and tongues! We watched as they melted quickly when the children tried to bring them inside. Using several experiments the children

had the opportunity to learn about making predictions such as how long would it take for a pitcher of snow to melt, would water freeze outside in the snow or in the refrigerator, and when the snow melted in a container would it be clean or dirty? The children are working on understanding the stages of the crystal chemistry of snowflakes by putting in order a set of pictures that show this transformation from dust particle to a beautiful crystal/snowflake.

Along with reading stories about snow, the class is enjoying making paper snowflakes, matching snowflakes, reciting snow poems and playing in the "snow" we have in the classroom.

JULIA & JULIE

The end of the 2008 went by with the study of how people of different cultures, historical and ethnic backgrounds, and religious beliefs celebrate their holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Eid al-Adha, Kwanza and some others. Deeply rooted in tradition with eclectic styles of special foods, clothing, music, and language -- it gives our children a glimpse of what the surrounding world is all about.

Continuing our cultural, social, and historical exploration, we will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy which transformed our country and later paved the way for the election of our first African-American president. Those and other topics are interwoven with our language, math and art curricula in our writing, singing, listening to multicultural music, reading stories, greeting and counting in different languages.

Have a great year ---"we shall overcome."

~WELCOME~

Welcome to the following families who have joined the WHMS community in January, 2009: Juan Patricio Ampuero joins Julia and Julie's classroom. Juan and his parents, Marie-Paul and Juan, along with his younger sister moved to Kinderhook, NY from Miami, FL. Roshan Mehta joins Cassandre and Lourdes' classroom. Roshan's two older siblings attended Montessori school. Welcome to Alok, Sudha, Angie, Niki and Roshan!

NANCY & MARION



We have started studying the continent of Asia and are looking forward to Chinese New Year at the end of the month!

Also, over heard in our classroom after a Montessori birthday walk: Henry: On my birthday I am going to get stars and planets that stick on my ceiling.
A visitor: oh really? what planet do you live on?
Henry: UM.... well, the same planet as you! :-)
Happy Winter! Stay warm!



CASSANDRE & LOURDES

We are traveling around Africa, learning the countries and about many of the animals that live there. We have started to decorate our room with the various types of land found in Africa including savannahs, deserts, and rainforests.

One area of our classroom is dedicated to cave art in Africa. We are also making a life sized termite mound on the wall as well AND attempting to recreate The Nile, the longest river in the world.

The animals in Africa fill us with awe and we learn new information on them daily. Did you know most chameleons change their color depending on their mood...not to blend in with their environment? Their colors brighten when they are peaceful or sleeping and darken if they are angry. Chameleons use their color changing abilities to communicate with each other because their sense of hearing is not very keen. Please watch the front lobby for an African display from our classroom!!

We are on a mission to help protect the rainforest in Madagascar and we would love your support!!!

LOWER ELEMENTARY MARYANN & VALERIE

Happy New Year! It is so



wonderful to be back at WHMS. Our year is off to a dynamic start. We have begun with the study of the composition of the Earth. The children have made representations of the layers of the earth with home made play doh and labeled them with the appropriate nomenclature.

Concurrently, we are studying volcanoes. We are researching their formation, and how and why they erupt. To conclude our studies of the Earth we are going to the New York State Museum on Tuesday, February 3 The program we will be attending is "Geology – Gastropods to Garnets."

JULIE & ASTRA

Happy 2009! As we came back from break we quickly got started on the study of time.

The children learned the days of the week, months of the year, and their derivations. We started beginning timelines and learned the meaning BC/AD. The first-year students are working on personal timelines of their lives. The timeline shows a picture for every year of their life. They are adorable. We are also practicing telling time on analog clocks, as they have all mastered digital clocks! We will be continuing our lessons of time by studying the Timeline of Life.

SANDY & OLGA

Our class is learning about Asia by making maps, reading stories, and looking at artifacts.

Asia is a big continent and there are so many interesting things to learn! Last week we learned about the Double Ninth Festival in China. When the chrysanthemums begin to bloom, families celebrate by picnicking on high hills and flying kites. On this day, kite flying is taken as a symbol of rising higher and doing one's best in everything on does. The children wrote about things they would like to do well. They made kites and wrote their aspirations onto the tails of their kites.

This week we hope to do some cooking in a wok. The children have also written some nice get well letter for Wanda. We hope she will be cheered by the letter and pictures of their favorite gym activities.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

As part of our cultural curriculum in the upper elementary we began studying the issue of "Water Scarcity" that is facing our planet. We started our exploration the way the mighty river begins with a few percolating drops of water from a small spring. We researched water issues and decided to focus on water scarcity and conservation. The students and teachers began compiling information about these subjects.

During a trip to NYC's American Museum of Natural History, we saw the "Water is Life" exhibit. While we were at the exhibit we saw a merry-go-round water pump. The pump used kinetic energy from the kid powered merry-go-round to pump water. We were convinced that we should raise money to help install a merry-go-round somewhere in the developing world.

The engineers at Sabre Technical Services designed playground equipment for our school that would produce enough Kinetic energy not only to pump water from a well, but also have the capacity to store energy for later use. And worked with us to adopt the Sinai School in Babati, Tanzania as our "sister school."

The Sinai School currently has 650 students and 16 teachers; they have no running water or electricity. The students currently walk 2 km for water a few times a day.

Karen and John also sponsored a trip to Tanzania for four of our Elementary teachers this November. Andrew McClain, Sherrie Clune, Cindy Bishop, and Sandy Blakeman worked with the Sabre team to establish a personal relationship with the Sinai School.

Our students made hello booklets complete with their address, pictures, and information about themselves to distribute to the students at the Sinai School. WHMS also purchased a variety of materials that were distributed to the Sinai School in November.

We are working to forge a lasting relationship between WHMS and the Sinai School. At WHMS we have been working conscientiously with our students and Sabre to create a model program that can be replicated at any school. Our sister school's kinetic energy merry-go-round water pump is set to be completed in July.

We are focusing on achieving its construction and passing on this wonderful opportunity for learning and contributing to our world. Our water project is called, *Play for Power, Play for Peace*.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our middle school students continue to work on academics and WHMS community activities. On Thursday, January 15, we held our third Coffee House. Thank you to all parents and students who supported us. We enjoy serving you! We are learning so much about running a business and satisfying our customers needs. Also, thank you to all students and parents who participated in the macaroni and cheese lunch in December. We served over 100 meals!

In the next month, we are going to be hosting our exchange students from a Montessori School in Mexico. Sierra Madre Middle School students will be visiting us during the week of January 24 to February 1. We have field trips planned to NYC, the New York State Museum and Capitol Building, to name a few. We are hosting our Mexican friends for a week, and then for a week in February, many of our students will be traveling to Mexico to experience a similar cultural exchange in the homes of our new friends. We are very excited to have this opportunity!

~ART with Janis~

"Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face." ~ Victor Hugo

During these cold days of winter one sure way to warm up is to have fun drawing and painting snowmen that delight children of all ages. Lower elementary used cool shades of tissue paper to create a water color type background for their snow men. The technique of brushing color on paper with tissue paper moistened with water and a paint brush always produces exciting results.



Upper elementary students spent some time sharpening up their figure drawing skills by sketching "action figures." The students themselves modeled in various poses such as skiing, skating or snowboarding poses while the rest of the class quickly jotted down the position of the arms and legs in



"action." The following week we used our favorite sketch to create a winter scene with the action figure as the focal point. The figures were dressed in a variety of mixed mediums chosen by the student. Some chose colored papers and wallpapers for the clothing while others chose to draw and color with pencil. The results were varied and the experience was enjoyed by all.



The Primary students listened to a story about penguins and then practiced drawing and painting fanciful penguins of their own.

Middle school students created some interesting

3-D books revolving around a special interest or hobby. The books contained quotes, pictures and drawings and were as unique as the students themselves. Many of the students continue to paint on canvas. Our theme was a still life which was set up in the room for observation and sketching.

Update—Wanda is on the road to recovery following a car accident earlier this month. We all wish her a speedy return to her regular activities and send her only the very best wishes

*Dear WHMS Community,
Thank you so much for the flowers, cards and notes of concern I've received over the past week. I've decorated my room with everything sent by you and the children. I'm grateful to have so many good friends.*

*Sincerely,
Wanda*

Please welcome Whitney C. Borisenok

Whitney will be joining us as a substitute physical education teacher. Whitney attended the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT from where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education with concentrations in exercise science, nutrition, and English.

She completed her student teaching at Colchester Middle School and was a softball instructor at Camp Dudley in Colchester. Whitney also Interned at Latham Ridge Elementary School, Latham, NY. We look forward to her joining us beginning Wednesday, January 21. Stop in and say hi!

Annual Fund Donors

2008-2009

As of January 16, 2009

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SEFCU — State Employees Federal Credit Union
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Denise and Hugo Walpurgis
Matt Toomey and Leah Walsh
Kevin and Jean Wynne
The Zhou Family

Annual Fund

Thank you for your support!

We have raised \$17,375, so far.

We look forward to 100% participation.

Make your pledge now at <http://woodlandhill.org/giving.htm>



As a thank-you, everybody who donates \$25 or more to the Annual Fund will get their very own environmentally friendly WHMS shopping bag.

Made from recycled water bottles, this bag is sturdy and attractive.

Show off your Woodland Hill pride every time you shop



**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE
2009 GALA**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4
AT THE FRANKLIN TERRACE IN TROY**

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE
HONORARY COMMITTEE.**

**Welcome to the newest members of the Woodland Hill Montessori School's
Board of Trustees**

Patricia Altman is Principal of PACA Preservation, an architectural history and preservation consulting firm. With 9 years of experience, she assists clients with archival research and documentation, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, historic rehabilitation tax credit projects, and design review for local landmarks and historic district properties. Previous experience includes work in public broadcasting and education. She holds a B.A. in religion from Haverford College and an M.S. in historic preservation from the University of Pennsylvania. She and her family recently moved to Columbia County from Washington, DC.



Karen Cavanagh is the COO and General Counsel of Sabre Technical Services and BioONE Solutions. She is an expert in complex risk, contract, regulatory and indemnification issues related to projects involving biological response and remediation. She obtained a master's degree in Environmental Law and a law degree from Vermont Law School. She resides in Slingerlands with her husband and children.



James Nickens has worked in the banking industry for the past 15 years, and currently is Senior Vice President of Investment Services at Key Bank. Prior to coming to the Capital Region, Jim worked for Natcity Investments in Indianapolis, Indiana. He also worked in Ohio for nine years. Jim graduated from Amherst College in Amherst Massachusetts with a B.A. in psychology and is currently pursuing an M.B.A. He and his family live in East Greenbush.



SAVE THE DATES- Important Upcoming Parent Education Events

Start with Montessori, Stay with Montessori- looking to the next level of learning at Woodland Hill Montessori School

Friday, January 16, 8:15-9:15am– **Middle school information** breakfast for all upper elementary parents. Please join Cora Hamm and Leah Blind, WHMS middle school teachers along with our 8th grade students and WHMS alumni as they give you an overview of the Woodland Hill middle school program and share what makes our program unique.

Wednesday, January 28, 8:15-9:15am– **Lower elementary information** breakfast for all primary parents. Lead lower elementary teachers- Julie Adams, Sandy Blakeman, Maryann Montgomery and Megan Donnelly-Heg, along with their assistants will introduce you to the rich and engaging lower elementary Montessori curriculum, helping you make an informed decision regarding the next step in your child's education

Thursday, January 29, 8:15-9:15am– **Upper elementary information** breakfast for all lower elementary parents. Andrew McClain, Sherrie Clune, Cindy Bishop and Michele Praileau look forward to giving you insight into the dynamic and integrated upper elementary curriculum.

Saturday, February 7, 8:30am – 12:30pm, the Voyage of Discovery focusing on the **Montessori Math curriculum** beginning with the primary program and going through the middle school math program. This is the WHMS parent education event not to be missed!





Presents

The 1st annual Book Swap



**Saturday January 24, 2009
9am-12pm**

Do you have more books than will fit on your bookshelf?

Have the kids outgrown a stack of books and
you don't know what to do with them?

Why not bring them to the book swap!!

Place any gently used* books you would like to swap in a bag or box marked with your family name and drop them off in the lobby of WHMS between Monday January 19 and Friday January 23. For every book you bring, you will receive a ticket to "buy" a book at the swap. So start sorting out those books, and join us Saturday morning, January 24 between 9am and noon to swap.

Coffee and refreshments will be available.

See you then!

***Books must be clean and fully intact with
both front and back covers and all pages. No torn pages please.**

We are accepting books for all ages including adults.

All unclaimed books will be donated to the Albany chapter of the Bright Red Bookshelf a program that makes books available at community locations where access to books may be limited.

Bright Red Bookshelf

Description:

The Bright Red Bookshelf (BRB) program re-circulates gently-used children's books back into the community where they are made available free for families to own.

Books are collected in red crates at community locations and through book drives organized by service groups, congregations and campus organizations.

These books are then sorted, cleaned, labeled, and displayed on bright red bookshelves at community locations, generally sites where low-income families will have easy access to them.

Program Objectives:

- ✓ Putting books in the hands of children
- ✓ Increase book ownership by families, particularly for families in crisis
- ✓ Involve community members in literacy efforts through book donation and site stewardship
- ✓ Enhance the services of BRB host organizations by providing books for the families they serve
- ✓ Keep books circulating in the community

Book ownership and readership are important for enhancing a child's reading skills and vocabulary, as well as to foster interest in reading and a love for books. If parents are to read to their children, they need the books to do so. Children feel pride in owning their own books. They develop familiarity with text and confidence in reading when books are easily accessible.

History of Program:

The Center Square Association's Bright Red Bookshelf program will begin in January of 2009. The inspiration for the program is the very successful Bright Red Bookshelf program created by the Family Reading Partnership in Ithaca, NY in 1997. Volunteers are bringing it to Albany with the support of the Center Square Association, a 50 year old educational and charitable neighborhood-based association. The idea of recycling gently-used books and providing them free to children immediately resonated with many members of the local community.

Implementation:

We plan to start the program with a bookshelf at the Albany County Family Court, on Lodge St. in their Children's Center. There will initially be two main collection sites. One at 170 Chestnut St in Albany, NY and at the Albany Art Room on Madison Ave. in Albany, NY.

We are seeking private and corporate donors to off-set the start-up costs of this project, to purchase bookshelves, stickers, crates, and paint. Once we have proven that the program can work (here) in Albany, we hope to further expand the program as hosts and volunteers permit.

Contact Information:

Rachel Eveleth, Co-Coordinator of BRB
Megan Donnelly-Heg, Co-Coordinator

518-462-3468
518-424-5675

reveleth@verizon.net
mkdonnelly13@hotmail.com

Spellers Wanted!



For the 3rd Annual
WHMS
Spelling Bee

Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 3:00 PM
in the Upper El Classroom

**The Spelling Bee is open to all Upper Elementary and
Middle School students.**

*The winner will advance to the Capital District Spelling Bee
on March 16 at 5:00 PM at Proctors Theatre in Schenectady.*

There will be an informational session
and a "practice bee" in the
Upper El classroom on
Monday, January 26, from 2:45 to 3:30 PM.

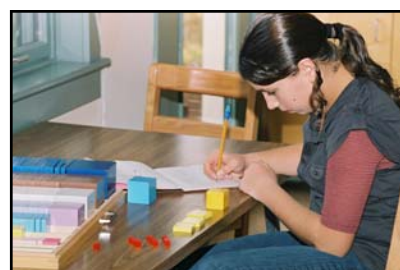
Ready to spell?

Sign up in the School Office!



**WOODLAND HILL
MONTESSORI SCHOOL
SPELLING BEE**

Save the date for our most popular parent education event of the year- the **Voyage of Discovery** focusing on the Montessori math curriculum on Saturday, February 7, 2009 from 8:15am-12:30pm. Join Emmy Cole (primary), Sandy Blakeman (lower el), Cindy Bishop (upper el) and Leah Blind (middle school) as they present you with math lessons your child receives at WHMS. This is a wonderful and fun way to experience learning the way your child does each and every day! We encourage at least one parent from each family to attend if possible. Invitations will be sent home soon!



Classroom observation times available. You are invited to observe in your child's classroom, to see first hand the beautiful and engaging learning environment your child is in and of course we welcome you to visit a classroom at the next level as well, especially if your child is in their third year of a cycle (primary, lower el, upper el). Please call or email kris@woodlandhill.org to set up a convenient time to observe.

2009-2010 Financial Aid forms are available in the Business Office and must be filed with SMART Tuition Assistance Program no later than February 13, 2009. Please call Kris, Susan or Sue Evans with any questions.

Spread the word about WHMS- **Open House this Saturday, January 17th** from 12:30-3:00pm for prospective families and children! Tours will include a visit to the new addition!

Please RSVP for the **lower elementary information breakfast** on Wednesday, January 28th at 8:15am or the upper elementary information breakfast on Thursday, January 29th at 8:15am. The WHMS faculty look forward to providing you with an overview of the program at these levels to help you make an informed choice about the next step in your child's education. Call or email kris@woodlandhill.org

Now accepting applications for Fall 2009

Please join us for an
OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, January 17, 2009
(Snow date Saturday, January 31)
12:30-3:00 pm

Meet the faculty, tour the campus and discover how the proven excellence of a Montessori education can help your child achieve a lifetime of outstanding results.

Personal tours are also available weekday mornings.

WOODLANDHILL
MONTESSORI SCHOOL
An Education for Life

Early Childhood • Elementary • Middle School

100 Montessori Place • North Greenbush, NY 12144 • 518.283.5400 • www.woodlandhill.org



**2008-2009
Woodland Hill Montessori
Yearbook Orders**



The 2008-2009 WHMS yearbooks are currently on sale for \$40.00.*

Our yearbook is published by Taylor Publishing Co. in Dallas, Texas. It is bound with a hardcover and is printed in full color. The supply will be limited, so please place your order **NOW** so you are not disappointed. We will distribute the yearbooks in June.

Please make your check payable to WHMS yearbook and give to Meg Parascandola in the main office along with the order form.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Hillengas at nhillengas@nycap.rr.com

[*please note: we are unable to offer a discounted price for multiple copies ordered or WHMS staff this year due to price increases, but wanted to keep the price as low as possible]



08-09 WHMS Yearbook Advertisement order

You may also want to create an ad to recognize your child's accomplishments, or thank a teacher, or advertise your business:
(**Please note, pricing changes from last year):

Family AND business ads:

- 1/8 page— \$50.00
- 1/4 page— \$100.00
- 1/2 page — \$ 175.00 (inc. 1 yearbook—please note on order: child's name & teacher)
- Full page — \$ 300.00 (inc. 1 yearbook—please note on order: child's name & teacher)



Please submit **ALL** artwork/photos in JPEG form to Nancy nhillengas@nycap.rr.com or Christine cbruck@nycap.rr.com





08-09 WHMS Yearbook order form

FAMILY NAME: _____

_____ number of books ordered (\$40.00/book) total amount enclosed _____



Student name	Classroom teacher

8-09 WHMS Yearbook Advertisement order form



I would like to place an ad in the WHMS Yearbook.

I will/have send(t) the artwork to Nancy/Christine for publishing



<u>Size:</u>	<u>Price:</u>	<u>QTY:</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>For ½ page & full page ad</u>
1/8 page	\$50.00			Pls note child's name & teacher to
¼ page	\$100.00			Receive yearbook inc in price:
½ page	\$175.00			
full page	\$300.00			