

WOODLAND HILL Montessori Messenger

Vol. 42 Issue 17

www.woodlandhill.org

May 11, 2009

~ Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day ~

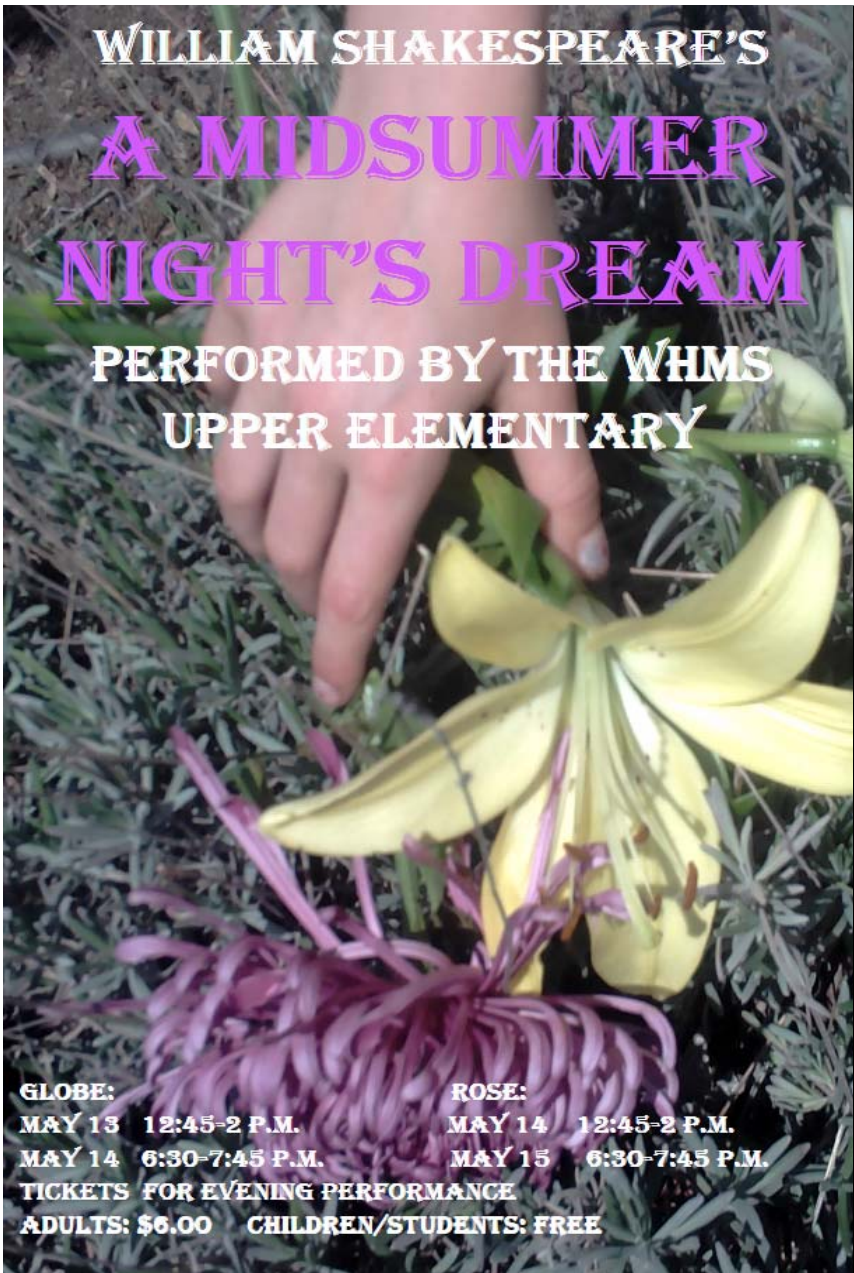
Thank you all for joining us. Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped to make the day so special!



Upcoming Events at WHMS

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

- May 11-15 IOWA Testing
- May 13 12:45 pm UE Shakespeare Play
- May 14 12:45 and 6:30 pm
UE Shakespeare Play
- May 15 6:30 pm UE Shakespeare Play
- May 16 8:45 am *Friends* Family Hike
- May 18-19 MS Trip to Chingachgook
- May 20 1 p.m. Piano Recital (*Elem. Students only*)
6-8 pm Piano Recital (*All piano students*)
- May 21 MS Coffee House
- May 25 Memorial Day-
NO SCHOOL / NO ENRICHMENT
- May 26 Staff Day
No School/Enrichment Available
- May 28 10 a.m. Violin Concert
6 p.m. Spring Music Concert
- May 29 9:15 am Gymnasium and
Cultural Arts Dedication
7 pm Dear Edwina Play- MS
- May 30 2 pm Dear Edwina Play- MS
- June 3-5 UE Class Trip
- June 3 Primary Field Day
- June 10 Elementary/MS Field Day
- June 12 Last Day of School
Art Show
Moving Up Ceremonies
10 am Primary



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
A MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S DREAM
PERFORMED BY THE WHMS
UPPER ELEMENTARY

GLOBE:	ROSE:
MAY 13 12:45-2 P.M.	MAY 14 12:45-2 P.M.
MAY 14 6:30-7:45 P.M.	MAY 15 6:30-7:45 P.M.
TICKETS FOR EVENING PERFORMANCE	
ADULTS: \$6.00 CHILDREN/STUDENTS: FREE	

You are invited to the
 Upper Elementary's
 15th Annual Shakespeare production

A Midsummer Night's Dream

 Wednesday, May 13 through Friday, May 15
 in the new gymnasium

 Tickets for the evening performances are \$6 per adult.
 Children and students are free.

Globe cast (Andrew/Michele)
performance times:
Wed., May 13 12:45 - 2 p.m.
Thurs., May 14 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

- Molly
- Olivia
- Kylie
- Dan
- Erik
- Lorann
- Lindsey
- Gabby
- Nic W.
- Justin
- Lucas
- Geoffrey
- Nico
- Jonathan
- Arianna
- Chloë
- Carrie
- Grace C.
- Sage
- Marin
- Ethan
- Chris
- Jaxon
- Josh

Rose Cast (Cindy/Sherrie)
performance times:
Thurs., May 14 12:45 - 2 p.m.
Fri., May 15 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.

- Bianca
- Juliette
- Nick R.
- Patrick
- Will
- Téa
- Julie
- Rebecca
- Aiden
- Jeffrey E.
- Chris E.
- Brandon
- Kipling
- Tucker
- Matthew
- Delia
- Kaley
- Grace B.
- Isabella
- Aminah
- Nick L.
- Simon
- Tori

<p><i>Please Join Us</i> FOR A SPECIAL DEDICATION</p>  <p>GYMNASIUM & CULTURAL ARTS CENTER</p>	<p>Friday, May 29 9:15 am</p> <p>RSVP mrienzo@woodlandhill.org or 283-5400 www.woodlandhill.org</p>  <p>WOODLANDHILL MONTESSORI SCHOOL <i>An Education for Life</i></p>
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Reading Workshops for UE

Maggie Schmonsky, our reading specialist, recently organized a series of reading workshops to benefit students in the upper elementary levels. Three workshops, each 45 minutes long, covered subjects on goal setting, planning, making connections, organization, comprehension and self-evaluation.

Join WHMS Friends for a Spring Family Hike

Join us on Saturday, May 16 at Lake Taghkanic State Park for a family hike at this beautiful New York State Park.

Hikers should plan to meet at the parking lot on the North side of the lake. Take the first exit to the park coming from the north, then straight and it's the first lot on your left, where the Nature Center is located. Hikers can meet for lunch in that same area.

The trail is about 3 hours round trip (all the way around the lake), however, people can cut the trip shorter by just turning around after 1 hour. The trail is NOT handicapped accessible, but it is also not a very difficult walk. About half of the trail is right along the lakeside/beach, and half takes you through the woods.



Hikers are reminded to bring appropriate clothing (in layers), a full water bottle, camera, binoculars, and other items as you see fit. Snacks and/or picnic lunch is greatly encouraged! A backpack is useful for bringing water and snacks and anything else on the trail.

For information visit: <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=131>

Call Andy Lee for details:
439-1932

Friends of
WOODLANDHILL
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

~ CLASSROOM NEWS ~

PRIMARY LIZ & KRISTEN

Happy May! It's hard to believe that we have six short weeks left and we have so much to do. On Earth Day, we were lucky enough to take advantage of the beautiful weather and ventured out into the great wilderness we lovingly call Woodland Hill. Not only were we looking to "clean up" Mother Earth, we were also searching for various birds and nests. We encountered robins, crows, and sad to say, lots of trash.

We've enjoyed studying the life cycle of a robin, the interesting characteristics of owls, and the many different types of bird beaks (straining, etc.) and feet.

Our class has also said goodbye to our student teacher Emily but not without lots of hugs and a farewell gift from the children. We think Emily is going to miss us just as much as we're going to miss her!

To all of our mothers out there, we hope you had an enjoyable day on Sunday and thank you for sharing your special someone with us.

EMMY & DIANE

On April 22, our class participated in Earth Day by walking the WHMS property and collecting trash that had been left strewn around on the grass. You may have seen our trash display in the front lobby — coffee cups (Stewarts was the most popular brand), cardboard boxes, banana peels, cigarette butts, broken pencils and juice cans just to name a few of the array of items found. This exercise has made the children more aware of their own trash-- as we have been enjoying picnic lunches outside the classroom on beautiful days -- and the children love to tell their classmates when their trash is blowing away and they have to run after it.



In the classroom, the children are anxiously awaiting the arrival of four painted lady butterflies. They observed them as caterpillars and watched them as they crawled up to the top of the container in which they arrived, and then went into their chrysalis phase. We are reading and learning about the life cycle of butterflies

and this gives the children an opportunity to actually observe this process. (Thank you Cadence for the butterflies.)

Our class loves to pick dandelions so we are using nature as a way for the class to learn about classification (large, medium and small) and use their counting skills to tally all the dandelions that were picked.

The last unit we are studying this year will be on the ocean. There are many new works in the classroom for the children to explore and learn about life in the ocean. Since the ocean is filled with so many different types of fish, the class has learned there are two qualities that a fish must have: a back bone and gills. We have learned that a star fish is actually called a sea star and jelly fish are actually called sea jellies. (And the children now know why neither are really "fish.") The classroom is busy with counting, reading, tracing and coloring, scooping, pouring and spooning all types of ocean related objects. Summer can't be too far away!

JULIA & JULIE



After our Earth Day trip to Hancock Shaker Village, where we petted baby animals of all kinds, shapes and colors, indoors and outdoors, we continued our Baby Animals studies in our classroom. Learning their names, the

sounds they produce, and matching moms to babies is good fun! It is a nice overture to Mother's Day celebration as well.

We have twenty-one moms in our classroom, a big mom's community. Happy Mother's Day to all of you! Happy Mother's Day to Alison Pesca who had just delivered her baby daughter Gabriela, 6 lb 13 oz!

Following the steps of local collage artists Michael Oatman and Thomas Lail, Coltrane's dad, we collaborated on our own collage using their techniques and styles. We have collected and recycled magazines and some black and white Xerox copies, shred and cut them in an artistic way and pasted on some plain and boring realistic pictures. The plain and boring pictures were unexpectedly transformed into a fresh and entertaining collage. Come and see it for yourself!

Many thanks to Zohar Lazar, Esme's dad and our own artist in residence, for all of his help with the presents for Mothers' Day.

NANCY & MARION

We are hatching eggs in our classroom!

49 bobwhite quail
8 chicken
5 guinea fowl

The automatic turner is turning the tiny quail eggs, while we have to be the mother hens and turn the guinea fowl and chicken eggs. the mother hen must turn the eggs periodically so the yolk do not stick to the shells and to keep them evenly warm.



During one morning meeting we all opened our own egg and examined the parts of an egg: shell, shell membrane, yolk, albumen, chalaza (the "strings" that keep the yolk attached to the shell and centered) after



we opened and examined our eggs, we scrambled them, cooked them and ate them. YUM!

Our eggs should all hatch in another week. we are very excited!

CASSANDRE & LOURDES

The school year is flying fast and we are spending our last month together exploring the solar system. We have learned that each planet, with the exception of earth, was named after a Roman God. Venus is called Earth's sister planet because it's the same size as Earth; it has clouds and is made of rock and metal. The differences between the two are Earth's clouds are made of water while Venus' are made of acid, Venus' gases are poisonous to us and while Earth is covered mostly in water, Venus is covered mostly in lava! We are busy creating pictures, with paint and chalk, of the nebulae in the solar system! Our classroom is a "heavenly" image.

We are very excited about Grandparents' and Special Persons' Day! We have been working on a song to sing to our guests, to be performed in 10 different languages. The song will be sung in English, Japanese, Spanish, German, Chinese, Tamil, Hindi, Russian, Finnish, and Korean. We chose the languages based on our bilingual

families so that each language is what at least one of our classmates hears in his or her home. We were each very proud to bring in some of our heritage and share it with the class!!



LOWER ELEMENTARY MARYANN & VALERIE

We are studying the human body. The children are creating charts and diagrams of various body systems, and presenting their research to the class. Some of the topics the children have chosen to study are D.N.A., the brain, the heart, the skeletal system, the human eye and hair.

On Tuesday, April 28th we spent the day at Hancock Shaker Village. The children enjoyed exploring the historic Village buildings of the farm, woodlands and gardens. The children were able to cuddle with many different barnyard babies in the Round Stone Barn, try their hand at butter churning and rolling out pastry with a Shaker double rolling pin. I visited the gift shop and purchased the book, Hope, by Louann Gaeddert, a novel about the lives of two orphan children who were brought to the Village to be raised by the Shaker community. I am presently reading it to aloud in the afternoons. In addition, Emmy (primary teacher) so graciously loaned us many beautiful hands-on materials that explore Shaker culture and history.

JULIE & ASTRA

This week we have been studying botany. We have done parts of the tree, stem, leaf, and flower. The children are enjoying the puzzles and card materials.

We worked on planting bamboo for Mother's Day. They decorated the pots with dry bamboo and then planted the bamboo stems in stones and water. We are looking forward to our trips to the Berkshire Botanical Garden and to Five Rivers. In our cursive writing practice, we have been writing sentences about unusual plants like the Kapok tree and Venus Flytrap. Their writing has been coming along beautifully.

SANDY & OLGA

Jora Cohen's mother, Anne Marie, and baby sister, Lucy, have been visiting our class to help us learn more about empathy. Babies have very expressive faces and the feelings they express can change from moment to moment.

By watching and talking about Lucy's facial expressions, the children are learning to read people's emotions more easily, which in turn will help them to interact peaceably with their peers.

Anne Marie also created some beautiful picture cards for our classroom's emotional literacy curriculum. The lovely material had inspired the children to do some nice writing.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

By: T'ea Mottolose

The upper el has been working tremendously hard to put on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We have been working on tons of projects when we are not rehearsing the play. Most of the projects are: working on the set design, costumes, the posters, the program and brochures and so much more. We are also working on character and setting map posters. The posters have two sides; one side for describing a character of your choice and the other for mapping out the spaces where all the characters have done things or wandered off to.

We had a lot of inspiration from Shakespeare and Company when we went to see them perform *Romeo and Juliet* two weeks ago. We're looking forward to putting on the show for everyone.

The Globe Group will perform on May 13 at 12:45-2:00 and May 14 at 6:30- 7:45

The Rose Group will perform on May 14 at 12:45-2:00 and May 15 at 6:30-7:45

Welcome back, Wanda! We welcome back Wanda after four months! She is starting on a limited, part-time basis! The children are thrilled to have Wanda back.

Thanks to Whitney Borisenok who has been substituting for Wanda since January. Whitney was a wonderful addition during the past four months. We wish her well!

Congratulations to Alison and Carmine Pesca!



Their daughter Gabriela was born last week! Big sister Melia is in Julia's class.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The students in the Middle School have been very busy over the last few weeks! All of the students have important roles in the upcoming production of the musical "Dear Edwina." The students who have singing and acting roles have been putting in long hours of practice, both during their Language Arts class time and after school. Those long hours also apply to the "crew." The remaining students are learning about sound and lighting, creating the program that audience members will receive, and advertisement. Students are enjoying the practice in spite of the hard work!

On May 18 to 19, our middle schoolers will be traveling to Camp Chingachgook on Lake George for an overnight adventure. While there, they will participate in a canoeing experience, wetland study, and team/community building activities. It will be an opportunity for our eighth graders to spend time with classmates whom they will soon leave (to go onto high school next year!), and for the seventh graders to get to know each other even better. We are all looking

forward to the shared experience that we will have. Let's hope for great weather!

We are currently beginning to wrap up our academic studies. In science, students are working on independent projects on subjects of their choice, taking time to delve deeply into topics that interest them. Because the topics are diverse, the products will be varied, which is exciting. In social studies, students are studying World War II. They are all working together to create a massive timeline of events of this time period. It will be an impressive product! In math class, students continue using their newly gained skills in scale and proportion to come up with designs for our new classroom space in the Great Room next year. They are always eager to pull out their floor plans and add new aspects to their designs.

Finally, thank you to all parents who supported the Middle School fundraising by purchasing flowers for grandparents or special friends. We appreciate your support and hope the flowers made the day special for everyone.

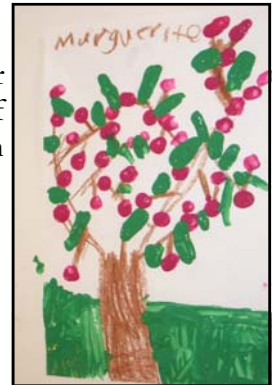
Specials

~ART with Janis~



The Art room has been blooming with color due to the colorful paintings created by our Middle School and Upper Elementary students which were inspired by Henri Matisse. Matisse once said "It is only after years of preparation that the young artist should touch color - not color used descriptively, that is, but as a means of personal expression".

Primary students also dabbled in paint, our inspiration was the beautiful blossoms of the Crab Apple trees which are in bloom in so many of our yards.



~Music News from Marla~

Tori Gernert-Dott and Justin Bruck (violins) and Brandon and Allen Zhou (piano) attended New York State Student Music Association (NYSSMA) in April. As a part of the event musicians play prepared works for a judge. Each was required to play a solo, scales, and sight-read as part of the testing process.

Naturally they all played wonderfully, and each received the highest honor given to music students; a top score of **outstanding**.

I am very proud of these students and they should be very pleased with their accomplishments.

Also a reminder about their upcoming May 28 concert at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. **There will be two rehearsals, one on Friday May 22 and Wednesday May 27. Please make sure all violins come to school on these days as we prepare for the concert.**

Thanks and happy practicing.

Piano Recital



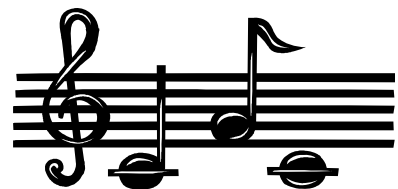
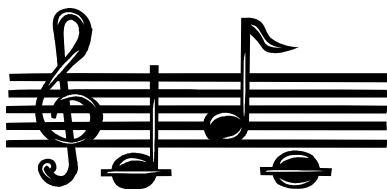
Wednesday, May 20 at 1pm

Pianists will perform for the entire school



Wednesday, May 20 at 6 pm

Piano students from all levels will perform for family and guests





*Full Day Enrichment is available on
Tuesday, May 26*

*If you are in need of child care on May 26,
please complete the information below and return this form to the office*

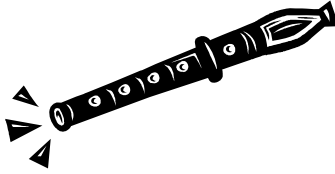
Child's Name _____ Teacher _____
Child's Name _____ Teacher _____
Child's Name _____ Teacher _____

If your child is not 3, does he/she nap? Yes No If Needed

On or Before May 15st _____ \$30 (per child) After May 15st _____ \$40 (per child)

****Please note your child will need lunch and snacks. ****
*****This is a peanut free program*****

You are invited...



WHMS Spring Music Concerts

Thursday, May 28 at 10 am

Violin concert, featuring all violinists, including Magic Violin

Thursday, May 28 at 6 pm

in the new gymnasium

Featuring:

**The Chamber Music Ensemble
School Band
Select Chorus
Hand bell Choir
Recorder Ensemble
Violinists**

The children have been working hard all year and are really looking forward to performing for everyone!



Performers should arrive at 5:30 and go directly to the music room in the new wing. Please be "performance ready" - dress nicely.

Woodland Hill Montessori School Field Days 2009

Primary Field Day — Wednesday, June 3

We will be starting at 8:40 a.m. on Wednesday, June 3 for a thirty-minute time period per class in play-ground area. We plan on offering five stations that will be manned by parent volunteers. Keeping in mind that there are 21 children in each class, we would have 4-5 children in each station, we will need parent volunteers to help rotate the children through the stations. We would rotate the stations every 6 minutes. Thanks Wanda

The stations are the following:

- Station 1- Parachute
- Station 2- Hit the target and get a hat
- Station 3-Face painting
- Station 4-Sudzy Bubble station
- Station 5-Pass the water balloon

Primary Field Day Schedule

Cassandra's Class- 8:40-9:10
Julia's Class - 9:15-9:45
Nancy's Class - 9:50-10:20
Emmy's Class- 10:25-10:55
Liz's Class -11:00-11:30

*We are in particular need of **many** Face Painters and parents to up "set up" or "take down."*

Montessori Field Days

Yes, I can help. Please check below the things you can do. Multiple entries are ok; I can spread out the volunteers better. Any Questions - contact wdrazan@localnet.com or call the school between 11:45 to 12:20 Monday or Wednesday. Thanks, Wanda

Primary Field Day — Wednesday, June 3

I can help with:

- Stations _____
- Pre-work (shopping for supplies)_____
- Rotating with classes____
- I am willing to do any job _____
- Set up (½ hour before)____
- Clean up (11:30-12:00)____
- Buy water balloons____
- Supplies needed (Bubble soap quart or larger size, face paints and brushes)
- Bring in ice pop treats_____
- Help with Face painting_____

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Child's Name _____ Child's Teacher _____