

THE MESSENGER



OPEN HOUSE—SATURDAY, MARCH 20

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 2/15 Presidents' Day *No School/No Enrichment*
- 2/16-19 Presidents' Week *No School/Enrichment Available*
- 2/21-27 *Montessori Education Week*
- 2/27 Voyage of Discovery-Science 8:30am
- 3/1 Staff Development Day *No School/Enrichment Available*
- 3/3 UE Chili Fundraiser
- 3/5 MS Dance 7 pm
- 3/6 Winter Family Fun Day
- 3/10 UE Dance 6:30 pm
- 3/11,3/12 Parent Teacher Conferences *No School/Enrichment Available*
- 3/26 History Fair 6:30 pm LE-MS are welcome



“The Montessori approach to education is excellent.

The self-motivation and independent learning Woodland Hill promotes provide valuable skills that benefit students throughout their academic careers, as well as in life. The flexibility of the curriculum allows children to become completely engrossed in what they are learning; to delve deeply into the activity and focus on understanding. These are crucial components that foster a life-long love of learning.”

— Vincent LaBella, Ph.D.

College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering

WELCOME ~



Cameron Fearn, a former student, joins Maryann and Anne's classroom.



Anthony Raimo joins Upper El in Andrew's class.

We also have a new Building Superintendent. Please welcome David Post to the WHMS staff.



SIGN UP FOR PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent – Teacher conferences are scheduled for March 11 and 12. Sign up early by calling Meg at 283-5400.

There is no school that day, but enrichment will be available.



ANNUAL FUND DRIVE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Make your donation to this year's Annual Fund.

Donate on line at:

<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/WoodlandHillMontessoriSchool/OnlineGiving.html>

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP TO REACH OUR GOAL



Annual Fund 2009-2010

With Many Thanks

Leadership Circle

Anonymous
 Frank and Pat Bossolini
 Karen Cavanagh and John Mason
 The Edmunds Family
 Michael Endler and Lise Hafner
 Sarah Hazel
 IBM
 David and Jennifer Krygowski
 Terri M. Simmons
 SEFCU

Investors

Julie Clegg and Lori Hansel
 David Devaprasad and Tracy Berger
 Frederick and Laura Galt
 Marianne DeMario and Paul Simeone
 Fredericka V. Slingerland
 Family Foundation
 Charles Weissman, M.D. and
 Susan Weaver, M.D

Benefactors

Robert and Patricia Altman
 Christopher and Natasha Bang
 Anonymous
 Janeen and Lorne Browe
 Tom and Sarah Crowell
 Susan and David Evans
 Kelli Flansburg and Patrick Cartwright
 Susan and Jim Kambrich
 Robert and Jocelyn Kivort
 John and Stacey Millet
 The Wynne Family

Ann and Adam Ayers
 Cody Anderson
 Nancy D. Allen
 Tacim Bang, *in honor of grandsons
 Alex and Nicholas Bang*
 Cheryl Bovair and Michael Ardman
 Liz and Tim Cahrenger
 The Chan Family
 Mark and Barbara Changizi
 Emmy and Jim Cole
 Dora and Gerald Connolly,
in honor of Jack Patrick Altman
 Terry Cunningham
 The Day Family
 Pat and Emil DeToffol
 Rahim and Salimah Dhanani,
in honor of Zoya and Mabeen Dhanani
 Terry Dott
 Mary-Jo Ehrlich
 Robert Fantauzzi
 The Fogel Family
 Susan Jefferson Ford
 The GE Foundation
 Sigrid Gernert
 The Gernert-Dott Family
 Gretchen Geser and Douglas Reilly
 Wendy and Charles Gilman
 Bob and Nina Green
 Jennifer Haggerty
 Rita Hillengas
 Laura and Holland Hopson
 Ken Jacobs and Lisa Nissenbaum
 Gina and Stephen Kasper,
in honor of Gabby Kasper
 Laura Koennecke and Jim Moore

Friends

Diane Lanci
 PJ and Lisa LaVigne, *in honor of Sue LaVigne*
 Susan LaVigne
 Marion Newton and Christian Heller
 David Nichols and Kathryn Eastman
 Laura and Josh Mandel
 Daniel & Emilie-Anne Michaud
 Meg Parascandola
 Mr. & Mrs. Cyril & Lydia Rodriguez
 Moira Rienzo
 Janis and John Rink
 Luke, Maggie and Molly Schmonsky
 Cora and Olaf Stackelberg
 Paul and Megan Stackelberg
 Connie Walsh & Michael Slik,
in honor of Eleanor Toomey's 5th Birthday
 Patricia Ward, *in honor of Isabella Mesko*
 Bradley White, Gilda Augustine,
 and Nicolo White, *in honor of
 Andrew McClain & Sandy Blakeman*



As of 2.11.2010

Go Green and get Green for our school!

Recycle your paper at WHMS. Bring your recyclable paper to school and add it to our Green Fiber dumpster. All recyclable paper products are accepted, even magazines and phone books!

WHMS received \$71 from Green Fiber so far this year.

Personal electronics (iPods, cell phones, games, and other devices) are not to be used or operated at school by students.



CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY

February is Black History Month. Visit —

<http://www.ls.cc.al.us/blackhistory/blackhistory.html>



MS COFFEE HOUSE

Dear Middle Schoolers,

Today was the first time I have had the opportunity to attend the Coffee House and have to say BRAVO! Fresh squeezed juice bar! Oatmeal with choice of toppings! Fresh pastry and bagels! Coffee and Hot Chocolate! And I cannot even say enough about my lunch. Absolutely fantastic! Having grown up in the restaurant business I know all of the hard work that goes into the preparation and execution behind the scenes, not to mention the cleanup.

You all pulled it off wonderfully and I thank you for making my busy day a little easier and brighter by kicking it off right.

I cannot wait for the next one!
Thanks to you all!

Kind Regards,
Kim Seabury (Maris and Baden's mom)



SPELLING BEE

The 4th Annual WHMS Spelling Bee was held on Tuesday, January 26. Twenty-one UE and MS students signed up to test their spelling skills. Beginning with the word "coffee," the vocabulary grew progressively more difficult as participants vied for the title of Woodland Hill's Number One Speller.

Congratulations Tèa Mottolèse!





The Voyage of Discovery
The Montessori
Science Curriculum
Saturday, February 27, 2010
8:30 am to 12:30 pm
WOODLANDHILL
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

GALA FNAQ (FREQUENTLY NOT ASKED QUESTIONS)

GALA FNAQ (Frequently NOT Asked Questions)

Our Montessori children aren't afraid to ask questions, but sometimes we parents are hesitant. Following are a few Frequently Not Asked Questions (with answers!) some of you might be at least thinking:

What is the WHMS Gala? An extraordinarily fun evening of great people, food, live music, and silent and live auctions, in order to raise money for our school. This year the gala will be on **Friday, April 16, at Franklin Plaza in downtown Troy.**

What is this "Rockin' the Sapphire Blues" all about? WHMS was founded in 1965, 45 years ago, at the heart of the rhythm and blues to rock 'n roll music era. The 45th is customarily called the "sapphire" anniversary.

Who can come to the Gala? EVERYONE. (Well, adults.) Bring yourselves, bring your neighbors, bring those friends who just love parties (and/or friends who have an almost 3 year old who really should be looking at WHMS.) Bring your parents if you can handle them having so much fun! (On second thought, you might need them to babysit that night.)

What exactly happens? Fun: Lots of it. Laughter: Even more. More specifically, the evening begins with a very special event for one night only: the WHMS Sapphire Blues Band (made up of professional musicians from our community) will give live during the cocktail hour. The Silent Auction will be ongoing through the evening, and bidding for the host of useful, beautiful, and/or unique items is fast and furious at times in between selecting from the array of delectable foods. After the Sapphire Blues Band, Doc Scanlon's Rhythm Boys will take the stage.

The evening will also feature a very special program to celebrate the 45 year history of our school, and recognize in particular those remarkable teachers with their own special anniversaries: Julie Adams (25 years), Sandy Blakeman (17 years), Liz Cahrenger (21 years) and Andrew McCain (17 years).

There is also an extremely high energy and very humorous (due to the auctioneer and the volunteers who help present) live auction featuring projects made by our children's classes that caps off the formal part of the evening, before more music and dancing.

So: Book the babysitter, Mark the calendar. And Rock the Sapphire Blues.



SAPPHIRE BLUES
WOODLAND HILL MONTESSORI SCHOOL
100 Montessori Place • North Greenbush, NY 12144 • 518.283.5400 fax 518.283.4861 • www.woodlandhill.org

HELP FOR HAITI ~ THANK YOU

Dear Woodland Hill Community,

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to all those who donated towards the Haitian Relief effort through Woodland Hill. The response was beyond anything that I expected. Every day, my minivan was filled to capacity with items donated by the children, the parents and the staff of our wonderful school. It was truly inspiring to see our community respond to the cries of help and wishes of hope of a devastated but proud people. It is reassuring to know that even though in this difficult economy in which many of our own families are having to make very difficult decisions about where to spend their money, so many were so eager to give so much. Our Woodland Hill community has much to be proud of. My family and I happily found ourselves needing to rent a U-Haul truck as a result of the large number of donations. My husband, my two children and I drove it down to a distribution/drop off center bright and early on Saturday morning.

I would like to make special mention of Blythe Thompson Hurlburt and Dr. Justin Hurlburt who went above and beyond by donating numerous

boxes of toothbrushes, toothpaste, gauze pads and medical gloves. Also, Conor McGinn who at the age of 8 fundraised \$300 to purchase donated items. Thanks also to Denise Walpurgis and Jennifer Haggerty for extending the collection to their respective schools. Lastly, my gratitude is extended to the students and faculty members that helped me load my car.

Again, thank you everyone for helping the people of Haiti.

My most sincere gratitude,

Marie-Paule Jacob-Ampuero, MD

Upon hearing of the devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti, Conor McGinn decided to take action.

On the phone, Conor contacted his neighbors, family and friends asking for donations for the ravaged country and its people.

With the help of his parents, he raised nearly \$350 with which he purchased items to add to the WHMS donation.

Good job, Conor!



Watch for your Public School Transportation requests for 2010-2011. Forms are due on April 1, 2010. All requests for bus transportation (for WHMS students in Kindergarten through 8th Grade) for the 2010-2011 school year must be received, in writing, by your home school district by Wednesday, April 1 **each year**. If you do not meet this deadline, your district has the right to deny your child transportation to Woodland Hill for the upcoming school year.

Several of the local school districts provide copies of their transportation request forms on-line. If you have any questions or problems downloading a form, please let me know.



Averill Park Central School District: <http://www.averillpark.k12.ny.us/services/documents/private-parochialtransportationrequest.pdf>

Bethlehem Central School District: <http://bcsd.k12.ny.us/transportation/PDFs/pvttrans.pdf>

Enlarged City School District of **Troy**: <http://www.troy.k12.ny.us/departments/transportation/pdfs/PRIVATEtransportationform208.pdf>

Guilderland Central School District: http://www.guilderlandschools.org/district/forms/PDFs/transportation_private.pdf

Ichabod Crane Central School District: <http://ichabodcrane.org/privTranspInstrucRequest0910.pdf>

Niskayuna Central School District: <http://www.niskayunaschools.org/district/transportation/BUS%20Non%20Public.pdf>

North Colonie School District: http://www.northcolonie.org/transportation/forms/0910_non-public_transportation_form.pdf

Schodack Central School District: http://www.schodack.k12.ny.us/scs/forms/Transportation_Request_for_Students.pdf

RECENT EVENTS AT WHMS



Friday, February 5, was a special day for our Kindergarten students. The Pinning ceremony celebrates our Kindergarteners and their accomplishments.

There was a film crew on site all day Friday filming our school and interviewing parents, students and teachers. We plan to use this footage in a variety of ways.

On Thursday, February 11, WHMS hosted a meeting and discussion about the Lycean High School proposed for Schenectady.

Chinese New Year was celebrated with a parade around the school. Primary students dressed as a Chinese Dragon. Children learned about the Chinese culture, sang songs and shared traditional Chinese dishes.



WHMS Basketball season is well underway. We have had six games so far and plenty of practice. Plan to attend our next game and root for WHMS!

WHMS hosted an Alumni Lunch Panel. Former WHMS students spoke about their transitions to High School.



Students each pick a classmate's name, make a Valentine lunch and customized lunch box.

UE hosted a Dutch History Fair for students in LE and Primary classes. They created pop-up books and baked Dutch inspired treats to share.



For the Valentine's Day Lunch Exchange students' names are chosen each with a list of lunchtime wishes: soda, cookies even sushi.

Sandy and Olga's class performed the play "A Promise is a Promise." Parents and friends agree the play was performed wonderfully.



WWW.WOODLANDHILL.ORG...CHECK IT OUT!

Visit our newly re-designed website for updated messages, WHMS history, staff bios.

Browse the Quick Links,

review upcoming events and check out the downloadable forms.

WHMS updates are continually reviewed and in-

clude the most recent school information for quick reference.

Thanks to Vince Ang for helping us make it happen!