

THE MESSENGER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Recent Events</i>	2
<i>Language of Life</i>	3
<i>Annual Fund Update</i>	5

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 4/16 **GALA**
- 4/20 **Staff Appreciation Lunch**
- 4/21 - 4/26 MS trip
- 4/22 **Earth Day**
- 4/22 WHMS Spring **Clean-up**
- 4/26 NYS **ELA** testing grades 4, 6, and 8
- 4/27 **MS Mac & Cheese Lunch**
- 4/28 **Talent Show** 6 pm
- 4/30 Moving up Visits
- 4/30 Stand Against Racism
- 5/1 Friends' **Family Hike**
- 5/5 NYS **Math** testing (Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8)
- 5/7 Grandparents'/Special Friends' Day **Noon Dismissal** for all students (Enrichment is available.)
- 5/13, 14 UE **Shakespeare** Play
- 5/19 Piano Recital
- 5/28 **No School** - Staff Development Day
- 5/31 **No School** - Memorial Day

Gala 2010



Rockin' the Sapphire Blues

More photos on page 4

WE RAISED OVER
\$25,000 FOR
WOODLAND HILL
MONTESSORI
SCHOOL!

Thank you Gala Committee!!

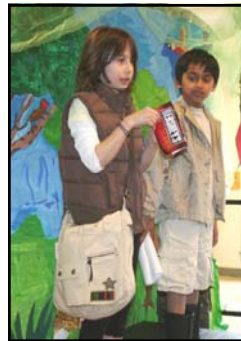
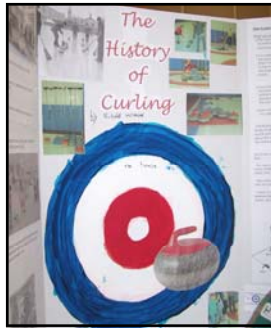
Co-Chairs Lise Hafner and Jennifer Krygowski

Deepa Bala, Kristen Clemente, Sara Crowell, Ellen DePan, Marisa Eise-
mann, Laura Galt, Sara Hazel, Blythe Thompson Hurlburt, Susan Kam-
brich, Kara LaBella, Vince LaBella, Sue LaVigne, Cheryl Ledet, Eric Ledet,
Erika Nickens, Kim Mayer, Moira Rienzo, Katie Singh, Jolanta Slepska,
Erin Wallace, Buddy Walpurgis, Leah Walsh, and Kelly Wetherbee

Go to Woodland Hill Montessori on Facebook for more pictures!

RECENTLY AT WHMS

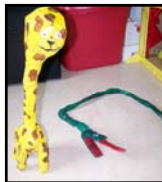
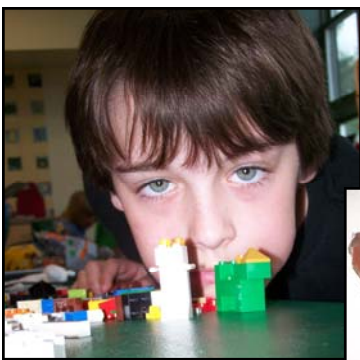
History Fair — Lower El, Upper El and Middle School students researched their favorite historical subject and displayed their findings at the 2010 History Fair. Topics were varied, ranging from the Civil War, to Lake George to the history of Hershey’s chocolate, from Formula One Racing to the Space Race, The Nimipuu Indians to Amelia Earhart. Projects were **well researched** lending a great deal of information for visitors.



Julie and Astra’s class performed the *Rumpus in the Rainforest* to the delight of several audiences. The play included singing and dancing, mischievous monkeys, chattering cheetahs, adorable Army ants, slippery snakes, sleepy sloths, and a pair of jungle explorers. The performers did a wonderful job. Congratulations!



Enrichment week (April 2 – 9) was fun-filled as the elementary students created **papier-mâché** projects including animals of all kinds. There were Legos, games and plenty of outdoor fun. There was even some quiet time for sharing a good book.



Primary students had their fair share of enrichment fun, too!



“The stars, Earth, stones, all kinds of life form a **whole relation** with each other, and so close is this relation that we cannot understand a stone without some understanding of the **great sun!**”

Dr. Maria Montessori

Grandparents’ and Special Friends’ Day
Friday, May 7
Primary Guests 9 a.m.
Elementary & MS Guests 10:30 a.m.

RSVP to Meg Parascandola
 283-5400 ext. 10
 megp@woodlandhill.org

LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF LIFE

MONTESSORI CHILDREN HANDLE BIG WORDS AND BIG IDEAS

Edward Fidellow

As a parent I was surprised about the words my children knew and used correctly (no, not the bad ones.) We've experienced them going from crying to making sounds, from sounds to their first words (mama, dada), from words to phrases (me go) to sentences – "I want candy." It seems like a long (and sometimes frustrating) process for both children and adults to begin to communicate. We can't wait for them to start talking and then ironically, we spend a lot of time telling them to be quiet.

The beginning formation of their language skills is "ice bergian." Ninety percent of what they know supports the ten percent that is audible. The structure of their language has been constructed by and large with little direct input. They have been sorting out the complexity of words and phrases. They don't yet possess all the building tools to communicate to the world they inhabit. That is why at an early age two phrases dominate their conversation – "Why?" and "What's that?" They are continually constructing and they need solid linguistic materials to build with.

Baby talk is sweet but does not contribute to linguistic development or communications. At an early age, at least by three if not sooner, children are ready (and capable) of big words and big ideas. A **Montessori** education builds on this sensitive period for language and learning by **introducing advanced concepts**. Parents are often amazed that their child can say "equilateral triangle" let alone know what it means. But is equilateral triangle any more complex linguistically than Elizabeth Washington?

A Montessori classroom is constantly introducing **new concepts** and con-

structs and a major part of this introduction is linguistic. It does little good to point out squares or circles unless you can call them by name, define them and find them again. Montessori education is noted for its **"Three Period Lesson."** First, you present the article. "This is red." "This is blue." Second, you ask, "Can you touch the red?" "Can you touch the blue?" (You see if they have understood the vocabulary.) Third, you ask, "What is this?" They answer "red." "What is this?" They answer "blue." (You see if they have mastered the vocabulary and the concept.)

Language starts with the concrete – mama, doggie, cat and proceeds to action – "me go, I jump." And then it begins to add the color of adjectives – tall, short, biggest, smallest (all demonstrated in the classroom) until **language blooms into conversation**, discussion (and debate).

When our son started Montessori at 17 months we wanted to be good Montessori parents by offering him choices he could make. Everyday for breakfast we held up two boxes of cereal and asked, "Do you want this or that?" Cereal, thereafter, became known as "dis and dat." (In hindsight, we should have been correct and named the cereals for him – but it would have ruined a good story!)

It is important that we correctly name the words and actions of their lives. A Montessori classroom is **constantly adding vocabulary** to a child's linguistic development. Studies have indicated that extensive vocabularies are a hallmark of successful adults. This process and habit of vocabulary acquisition is a **foundational concept** of your child's Montessori experience.

While we do use body language and facial gestures, oral language is the predominant means of communication. Helping your child communicate clearly their needs, desires, frustrations, etc helps them to

move on to the **more complex use of language** and culture – the ability to define (and embrace) intangible concepts like love, hope and faith. Ironically, (and I don't know how it comes about) the first intangible concept they latch on to is wrapped up in the words, "It's not fair." But it is from there that justice, respect, duty, honor, honesty, loyalty begin to form with the child and are defined.

One of Montessori education's great gifts to your child is the emphasis and focus **on observation**. Your child is given training and time to become an observer. As has been said, "You can see a lot if you just look." The materials and exercises of the classroom are designed to aid your child during these earliest formative years to develop the habit of not only observing but of naming and defining the experience.

It is never just the accumulation of knowledge (or vocabulary) **but the ability to use that knowledge to think, to communicate and to formulate the actions that are necessary for success**. The more you talk with your child the more you develop the communication skills your child needs to succeed in the world.



GALA 2010 ROCKIN' THE SAPPHIRE BLUES



Moving Up to the Next Level Friday, April 30

All Kindergarteners, Lower Elementary third years and Upper Elementary sixth years will “visit up” to the next level of the Montessori program to start preparing for the next school year. The visits will provide the children with the chance to see first hand all of the exciting work that goes on at the next level of learning at Woodland Hill. Please call or email Kris with any questions.



ANNUAL FUND DRIVE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Make your donation to this year's
Annual Fund.

Make your pledge on-line at

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

**WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP TO
REACH OUR GOAL OF \$30,000.**



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
Koethi Zan & Stephen Metcalf

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
James and Erika Nickens
The Wynne Family
Meng and Yan Wu

Dr. & Mrs. James Adrian,
in honor of Marilyn Adrian
Ann and Adam Ayers
Cody Anderson
Nancy D. Allen
Taeim Bang, *in honor of grandsons
Alex and Nicholas Bang*
Marcia J. Banta, *in honor of the Banta children*
Johanna Binneweg,
in honor of Dan, John and Gus McCorkle
Cheryl Bovair and Michael Ardman
James A. Bovair
Steven Bush and Brian Frank
Liz and Tim Cahrenger
The Chan Family
Mark and Barbara Changizi
Emmy and Jim Cole
Dora and Gerald Connolly,
in honor of Jack Altman
Terry Cunningham
The Day Family
Donna DeLong-Pugliese and Lou Pugliese,
in honor of Mairin Kelly
Pat and Emil DeToffol
Rahim and Salimah Dhanani,
in honor of Zoya and Maheen Dhanani
Terry Dott
Mary-Jo Ehrlich
Charlotte M. Endler,
in honor of Jeffrey and Kit Endler
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

Friends

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
Karl and Sharon Klein
Ernest and Evelyn Lail
Diane Lanci
PJ and Lisa LaVigne, *in honor of Sue LaVigne*
Susan LaVigne
Marion Newton and Christian Heller
David Nichols and Kathryn Eastman
Fathima Magdon-Ismael
Tony and Rosann Mancini
Laura and Josh Mandel
Daniel & Emilie-Anne Michaud
Mohamed and Sithy Muhsin,
in honor of Zain and Deen Magdon-Ismael
Betsy Nicholson, *in honor of Cadence R. Young*
Stanley and Arlene Nickerson
Hiroshi and Helen Nishiyama,
in honor of Alex Nishiyama
Meg Parascandola
Mr. & Mrs. Cyril & Lydia Rodriguez
Moira Rienzo
Janis and John Rink
Catherine Rinn
Dick and Judy Schmonsky
Luke, Maggie and Molly Schmonsky
Cora and Olaf Stackelberg
Paul and Megan Stackelberg
Peggy & Larry Suek, *in honor of Ty Ardman*
Denise and Hugo Walpurgis
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*