



THE MESSENGER

THANK YOU!

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CALENDAR EVENTS:

- 6/12 *Friends of WHMS* End-of-Year Picnic
- 6/15 LE/UE/MS **Field Day** Yearbooks distributed.
- **6/18** Moving Up/Graduation
- 6/22 Sue LaVigne's retirement party, 5 p.m.
- 6/21 - 6/25 Enrichment Week
- 6/28 Summer Program begins
- 7/4 Independence Day 
- 8/22 WHMS night at the Tri-City Valley Cats
- 8/27 Summer Program ends
- 8/30 - 9/3 Enrichment Week
- 9/6 Labor Day
- 9/7 Phase-In week begins

Summertime Fun
Enrichment ~ It's not too soon to sign up for **June!**

We dedicate this Messenger to all of our fantastic volunteers.

Spring Clean-Up

Burroughs/Bennett Family
Endler/Hafner Family
Fearn Family
Lazar/Kane Family



Sonalee Hardikar,
Diwali celebration organizer



Lise Hafner and Jennifer Krygowski,
Gala co-chairs.

Cheryl Ledet and Erin Wallace,
Silent Auction Co-chairs.

Erica Nickens, Decorations chair.

Ellen DePan, Honorary Committee chair

Eric Ledet and Vince LaBella, Video production

Hugo "Buddy" Walpurgis, On-line Auction

Ken Wise and Paula McBath, 5th-8th grade basketball team coaches.

Fernando Febus and Justin Hurlburt,
2nd - 4th grade team coaches.

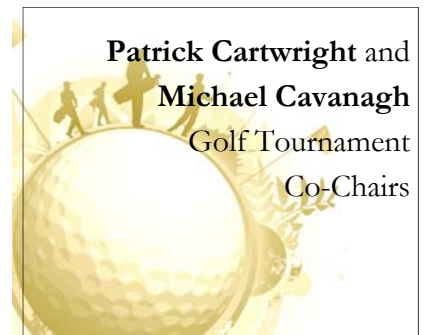


Thank you for your kindness and service to Woodland Hill.



Ann Marie Haber and Mitch Cohen
Heidi Nathanielzs
Planted a garden

Patrick Cartwright and Michael Cavanagh
Golf Tournament
Co-Chairs



Middle School Coffee House Parent Volunteers

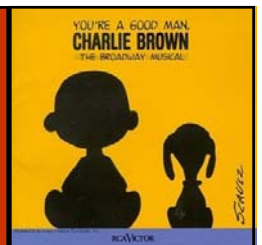


Cindy Bishop
Karen Cavanagh
Nieves Gonzalez
Roxanna Julia
Laura Koennecke
Diane McGinn
Dennis Phayre

Sandra McCarthy

Corey Jamison

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"



PRIMARY FIELD DAY- JUNE 8



Primary Field Day was held on Tuesday, June 8.

The children had a wonderful time at the stations that included: Rub-on tattoos, parachute play, bubbles, water play, sno cones, paper airplanes, water balloons, a scavenger hunt, and cage ball.



Thanks to Jake Colwell and all of the parent volunteers for making Field Day so much fun!





Thank you to those families who have contributed to the Susan LaVigne Scholarship Fund

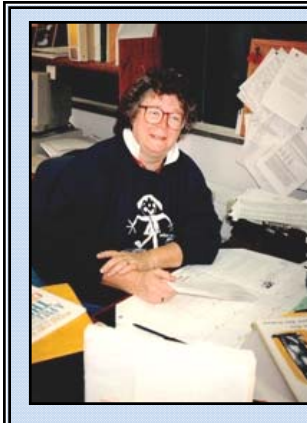
The Abbott Family
 Kathryn Allen and John Baackes
 William Bracken and Linda Delfs
 Rob, Christine and Justin Bruck
 Liz and Tim Cahrenger
 Marianne DeMario and Paul Simeone
 Emil and Pat DeToffol
 Michael Endler and Lise Hafner
 Rebecca, Peter and Jean Endryck
 The Haggerty Family

Marion Newton and Chris Heller
 Robert and Jocelyn Kivort
 Lisa and PJ LaVigne
 The Ledet Family
 Olga Litvak
 Peter and Diane McCorkle
 The Oberting Family
 Meg Parascandola
 Moira Klingaman Rienzo
 Jolanta Slepska and Sestilio Botti

\$3,325 has been raised so far! The Susan LaVigne Scholarship Fund will allow us to provide greater amounts of financial aid, making WHMS more affordable to a wider range of families.

To make your donation now, go to

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



Help us say *Thank You* to Sue LaVigne for **23 years** at WHMS (formerly MSA). Sue started way back when... "*110 years ago*," she said. As a fitting tribute to her years of service to our community, we have planned a celebration to honor her, bid her a fond farewell and remind her how much she is loved.

Please join us at the Normanside Country Club on Tuesday, June 22, 2010 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Tickets are \$35 per person.

RSVP by June 18 to Moira Rienzo at mrienzo@woodlandhill.org.



Elementary and Middle School Field Day
 Tuesday, June 15

"There is nothing in the mind that is not first in the hands."

BECOME A MATHLETE!!

Clifton Park-Halfmoon
Public Library

Registration required beginning
Thursday, July 1. For students
entering Grades 6-8 in the Fall.



Do you love math? Do you want to learn how to solve challenging math problems? This 4-week math enrichment program will help students hone their math skills and prepare them to participate in the regional Math Olympiad.

Students should plan to attend **all four sessions**.
PLEASE NOTE: This program is geared toward students who excel in math.

Presented by Gabi Kosoy, a senior at the Emma Willard School, and experienced Math Olympiad participant.
Thursdays: July 15, 22, 29 & August 5 at 11 a.m.
www.cphlibrary.org
371-8622

MONTESSORI AND THE MYTH OF LOW STUDENT-TEACHER RATIOS

Edward Fidell

As parents we have to judge what makes a good educational program for our children. We ask our friends, we look at the school – is it clean and orderly and bright? We look at the children – do they seem happy? We observe the teacher - is she engaged and interested in the children? These are things that we can judge. And then we remember that we've heard that a low student-teacher ratio is important for a good educational approach and outcome. (It must be true because all of the governmental agencies are always trying to lower the ratios.)

But it is a myth as far as Montessori education is concerned. Traditionally, a low student-teacher ratio is desired if you are trying to make everyone do the same thing at the same time. (It is a lot like herding cats – the less you have, the easier it might be to perform.) Ratios aren't critical in Montessori for three reasons.

1. In Montessori education you do not teach classes (numbers) you teach children (individuals.)
2. The goal in the classroom is not just to teach the material but to facilitate the child's ability to learn on her own – which in effect makes the learning one on one. And because of the nature of the classroom where children are encouraged to help each other – the five year olds teach the four year olds and the fours teach the threes – you literally have more teachers than students.

Parents wonder still – “If there were fewer students wouldn't my child get more attention from the teacher?” Interestingly, it is not just the amount of time your child needs but the amount of focused time (time spent directly on your child's priorities and needs) that effectively contributes to her learning.

A Montessori teacher can be compared to a juggler who spins plates on a stick. She will begin spinning the first plate, then the second, third and fourth. She might go back and give the first plate a spin before she spins the fifth and sixth. She might then spin the second plate – and that first plate might need another spin before she gets the seventh plate rotating. Likewise, the teacher notes each of her students and what it takes to power up the learning gyroscope in each child – so the child can keep the learning plates spinning on her own. A low ratio is good if you are driving the learning – not as consequential if you are leading it.

Continued on page 6

YEAR-END CELEBRATIONS!

You are invited to join us
for our
**Primary Moving Up
Ceremony**
Friday, June 18, 2010 **10:00am**
This is an exciting
end of the year event
All of the primary students will
be performing

JOIN US FOR
**ELEMENTARY MOVING-UP
&
MIDDLE SCHOOL
GRADUATION CEREMONY**
FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2010
5:00PM
This is an exciting end of year event
All of the Elementary and Middle School
students will be performing

THANK YOU! (CONTINUED)

Patricia Altman, Jennifer Krygowski and Diane Carusone-McGinn for serving on the Re-Accreditation Team. Thanks so much for all that you did for this significant undertaking!

A Very Special Thank-you to **Diane Carusone-McGinn**, who seemed to help at *every* event this year! We appreciate your talent, patience and attention to detail.

Rachel Eveleth,
Piano concert volunteer



Denise Walpurgis,
master cookie baker and snack maker

Natasha Bang,
Sarah Hazel,
and
Jennifer Krygowski
Classroom
Volunteers



Maryann Montgomery
and
Dennis Phayre,
UN trip

Ann Zubrick,
Library and
Violin concert
volunteer

Vince Ang,
website developer



Ken Wise, MS team-building
chaperone



Jennifer Krygowski, President

Diane Carusone-McGinn,
Co-Vice-President

Blythe Thompson Hurlburt,
Co-Vice-President

Mary Houghton, Treasurer
Susan Pantano, Secretary
Diane Lanci, Pizza lunch

coordinator and School banking
coordinator

Jolanta Slepska, School banking
and Family Picnic

Event Chairs:

Erin Sterantino-Walborn
Fall Family Fun Day

John Bennett , Erika Razek
Harvest Dinner

Rachel Eveleth, Tracy Berger
Book Fair and Book Swap

Diana and David Ehrlich
Silver Graphics

Diane Carusone-McGinn
Staff Appreciation Lunch

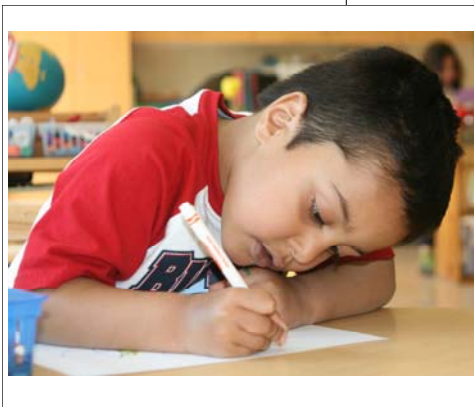
Kristen Clemente, Family Picnic

Sarah Hazel, Family Picnic and
Boutique coordinator



STUDENT TEACHER RATIOS

continued from pg. 4



Now, because the teacher doesn't spend all of her time driving the learning, she has time to study each child: to study her needs, her skills, her aptitudes and personalities. All the ratios in the world are meaningless – unless you know your student.

Ironically, there are many advantages of not having a low student-teacher ratio in the classroom.

1. Children aren't smothered by attention. They are given the opportunity to breathe and explore. The teacher does not feel compelled to guide and fill their every moment.
2. Because the teacher does not dominate the society, the classroom becomes a community of interaction and learning. Cooperation is a virtue (instead of "Go back to your seat and mind your own business.")
3. With the adult not hovering and micromanaging, the child is free to develop initiative. This initiative creates the fantastic learning that comes out of a Montessori classroom (which a teacher would be hard pressed to produce in a traditional setting.)
4. The child develops a personal sense of responsibility over the learning she has initiated.

5. The child develops the ability to make meaningful choices – instead of just following directions.
6. The power to choose wisely is a growing marker of maturity.
7. Real choice making needs the opportunity to make mistakes, to correct them, to recover from them and to learn from them. (That is hard to do when someone is hurrying you along to get to the next lesson.)

All of this allows the student to build confidence in herself. When the student assumes responsibility for the learning she begins to build confidence in her ability to navigate in the world as it is being opened to her through the classroom, the classroom community and the world of knowledge.

Montessori teachers have to train themselves in the art of not interfering with the internal learning process of the student. They have to train themselves to observe the child, to know how the child learns and how to allow the child to learn.

Ultimately, they have to learn how to help the child learn for herself – which is always one on one.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Team Kivort Steel raised \$54,376 for the Tour de Cure, the largest amount of any team. WHMS families that rode on Sunday, June 6, included **Robert and Jocelyn Kivort, Michael Endler and Lise Hafner, Susan Kambrich, and Anthony Dawson.**



*Show your
WHMS Pride!
Pick up your
FREE WHMS
bumper sticker
and tell the world you
love Woodland Hill*



Sierra Carlen was named ***Kid of the Week*** on the radio station B-95.5. She was nominated by her former teacher for writing an original screenplay "The Twisted Tale of Oz," a fractured tale of the original Wizard of Oz with twists and turns.

2010 TEXTBOOK RETURN SCHEDULES

QUESTAR III

<http://www.capitalregionboces.org/Textbooks/PDFs/PickUpSchedule2010-2011WebVersion.pdf>

Text books from the 2009-2010 school year must be returned by **June 30, 2010**. Books returned late will incur a **\$10.00/book late fee, not to exceed \$50.00**.

CAPITAL REGION BOCES

<https://www.questar.org/services/textbook/schedule.htm>

ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF TROY

NOTICE: TEXTBOOK RETURNS FOR TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ALL textbooks must be RETURNED to the Troy School District Book loan by **JUNE 30, 2010**. Thereafter, **late fees** will apply (including books left in lockers, classrooms, hallways, etc.) The FULL COST of books will be charged for non-returned or damaged books. Books missing bar-codes (DMS & THS only) will NOT be credited to any student.

THIS BOOK LOAN POLICY IS STRICTLY ENFORCED!

DOYLE MIDDLE SCHOOL:

The DMS Book loan Will Be Open

In The DMS Small Gym:

Wednesday, June 16th through Friday, June 18th

8:30 – 3:00

TROY HIGH SCHOOL, CCHS, LSI, PRIVATE & PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

Return textbooks to the THS BOOKLOAN OFFICE, located in the Shop Wing/Annex of THS June 1st through June 30th
7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and July 1st through August 31st 8 a.m. – NOON

A **\$10 late fee per book** will apply during this period

SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

All books on loan for the 2009-2010 school year are due back to Schenectady by June 30. Books may be dropped of at Schenectady City School District

108 Education Drive

Schenectady, NY 12303

RENSSELAER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Text books should be returned on June 16, 23 and 29 from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. to :

Rensselaer Middle/High School

25 Van Rensselaer Drive

Rensselaer, NY 12144