


THE MESSENGER



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CALENDAR EVENTS:

- 10/12 Columbus Day
No School / Enrichment Available
- 10/13 MS Food Drive Begins
- 10/15 MS to Albany Institute of History and Art
- 10/17 Fall Family Hike
- 10/18 - 10/21 MS to UN
- 10/23 Staff Development
No School / Enrichment Available
- 10/26 Puppetree Assembly
- 10/27 - 28 School Pictures
- 10/29 MS Hot Lunch Available
- 10/31 Halloween 
- 11/2 - 3 Parent/Teacher Conferences Call to sign up! *No School / Enrichment Available*
- 11/3 Election Day

Dear Parents,

The classrooms are buzzing with activity! Our classrooms are 'normalizing,' a term (translated from Italian) that Montessori used to describe when the students are productively working, with concentration and self-discipline. Students in a normalized classroom are able to socialize appropriately, make good work choices, and become absorbed in their work. Of course, we have ebb and flow to our days and each of our students has days when he/she has more concentration than others. Maybe a more modern term is 'on task' or 'in the zone!' Normalization comes about when children follow a three step cycle of work:

(1) The first step is preparation. Preparation for an activity involves gathering together the necessary material to do the work. The movement and the thought involved in the preparation serves to focus the mind on the activity.

(2) The second step is concentration. The work that the child does engages the child in deep concentration. We all recognize this step as essential in helping children learn.

(3) The third step is rest, which is characterized by a general feeling of satisfaction and well-being. In the third step, the child is

putting away materials, perhaps talking with friends, and is satisfied and proud of himself.

We recognize this cycle as the normal work cycle in a Montessori environment, and one which I hope you can witness for yourself. We invite you to visit your child's classroom. Please call Kris to schedule your appointment to come in. The Montessori environment is a very special place!

I also urge you to attend the October 24th Voyage of Discovery on the English Language Program. The teachers will be coming in on that Saturday to teach you about the language curriculum, the Montessori way. If you attended the Fall Family Fun day, and the Book Fair you know what great events they were. The Friends Committee did a wonderful job in organizing these events. Are you ready to get involved? We need help on our spring Gala! Email or call Moira Rienzo at 283-5400 or mrienzo@woodlandhill.org.

Finally, and this seems like a much less important topic, but please label your child's belongings. I took home a bag of clothing from the summer that I am going to donate to the Goodwill, but we will gladly return all belongings to our students if they are labeled. You would be very surprised what turns up in the lost and found.

-Susan

WHMS FAMILY HIKE

Join us on Saturday, October 17, at Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center (<http://dykenpond.org/>) for a family hike on the center's "Long Trail" at this beautiful site on the Rensselaer Plateau in Cropseyville.

Parking is available but limited at Dyken Pond, so if you live west of the Hudson please con-

sider meeting at WHMS to car-pool (it's pretty much on the way). Dyken Pond is about 40 minutes from WHMS.

Hikers should plan to meet at the amphitheatre, which is in the woods to the right of the lawn near the parking lot, at 10:30 a.m. Hikers can meet for lunch in that same area.

The hike may proceed in a light rain, but will be held on October 18th in the case of substantial rainfall.

If you have any questions, call Sandra McGinnis at 522-0067.





FALL FAMILY - SO MUCH - FUN

The 5th Annual Fall Family Fun Day as held on Saturday, October 3, 2009. Hundreds took part in the event.

Music by Andy the Music Man, was a big hit with kids and parents alike.

The Craft Fair, Carnival Games, Bouncy-Bounce, Musical Petting Zoo provided plenty of fun for everyone.

There was plenty of delicious goodies to eat and cookies to decorate.

Thank you to Chair, Erin Walborn-Sterantino and the Friends Fall Family Fun committee.



"One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child."

- Dr. Maria Montessori

MS FOOD DRIVE

*Community Service ~
Helping Local Families
Through Concerns U*

The Middle School students are holding a food drive from October 13 through November 18.

Donations will help Concerns U, a human services organization, provide over 250 families in southern Rensselaer County with a Thanksgiving meal.

Concerns U is in desperate need of ingredients to complete Thanksgiving baskets for our area's neediest families.

Additionally, Concerns U provides food to over 700 families on an on-going basis. Concerns U welcomes additional donations of any kind of non-perishable canned or boxed food.

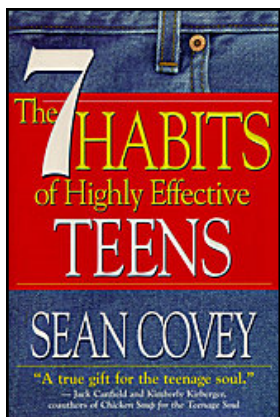
Thank you for your generosity during the holidays.

Donations will be collected in both the lobby and the atrium (new lobby) Tuesday, October 13 - Wednesday, November 18.

Most requested items for Thanksgiving baskets include:

- Canned Sweet Potatoes or Yams
- Canned Cranberry Sauce
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Jars of Gravy





MS STUDENTS MEET AUTHOR SEAN COVEY

Students from the Middle School visited the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce on Monday where they met Sean Covey, author of the national best seller, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*.



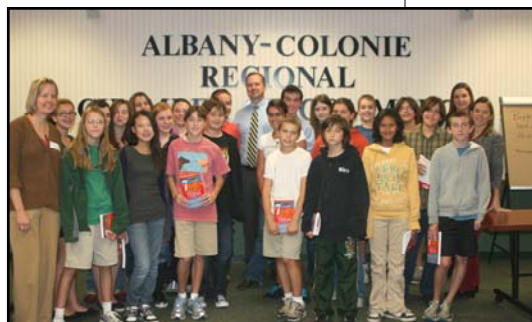
Teens, as part of their Middle School curriculum.

Susan Kambrich says "They did a great job representing our school with self-confidence and poise."

As part of the Leader in Me Program, Mr. Covey presented an overview of his father, Dr. Stephen Covey's famous *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. Sean Covey outlined the innovative education

system being put into action in schools across the country. The Leader in Me Program helps teens to develop the skills and traits they need to be successful in the 21st century. As part of the round table discussion, WHMS students, Lucas Phayre-Gonzalez, Grace McCarthy and Sierra Wallace talked about how they use Covey's book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective*

Sean Covey applies the timeless principles of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* to teens and the tough issues and life-changing decisions they face. It is designed to help teens improve their self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve goals, get along with parents, and more.



CHILDREN CROSSING!

Parents are reminded that dismissal time is from 2:40-3:00 p.m. Children who ride the bus are excused from class at 2:40 p.m. Car line children are sent out at 2:45 p.m.

Please exercise extreme caution when driving up the hill during car line! We try very hard to keep the line moving. When you pull up, please proceed to the end of the sidewalk. The staff will escort children to the first ten vehicles in line. After the children get into the vehicles, the first ten cars will pull out and then all cars in line will move up to reposition themselves. During car line times, please do not pull in front of any vehicle in line, **DO NOT MAKE U-TURNS**. For the safety of our children, PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

Woodland Hill Montessori School

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North Greenbush, NY 12144

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WATCH FOR THE FOR SMALL HANDS FUNDRAISER!

Catalogs will be send home next week. When you place an order of \$25 or more through their website (<http://www.forsmallhands.com>), WHMS will receive a 10% credit, which will be used by our faculty to order Montessori materials for their classrooms. The program runs through December 31, although December 14 is the order deadline for guaranteed holiday delivery.



BOOK FAIR 2009

The Friends of WHMS sold \$5,821 worth of books through the Book Ends Book Fair.

Friends also purchased \$1,370 worth of books for our teachers!

Thanks to Tracy Berger, Rachel Eveleth and all of the Friends volunteers!



WANTED!
Volunteer Basketball Coaches
 WHMS needs coaches for our elementary and middle school basketball teams.
 Please contact Meg if you are interested in sharing your skills with the students in grades 3 through 8.
 The season runs from December through February.



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the Voyage of Discovery
 The Montessori English Language Curriculum
Saturday, October 24, 2009
 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

You are invited to join members of the WHMS faculty as we present a very popular Montessori parent education program. Teachers will lead you through lessons in English Language from the primary level through middle school. This is a wonderful way to gain a deeper understanding of how your child learns the Montessori way.

A delicious catered luncheon from *Spice of Life* will be served.
 RSVP to Kris Gernert-Dott at 283-5400 or kris@woodlandhill.org by Thursday, October 22, 2009

WOODLANDHILL MONTESSORI SCHOOL
 An Education for Life
 WWW.WOODLANDHILL.ORG
 100 MONTESSORI PLACE • NORTH GREENBUSH, NY 12144

PARENT EDUCATION EVENT ~ THE VOYAGE

Looking ahead:
 Find out more about what your child is learning!
 Come learn the answer to that question and so much more! On Saturday morning **October 24, 2009** from 8:30am -12:30 pm, we will host our bi-annual parent education event called **the Voyage of Discovery**. You will experience hands on Montessori lessons **at all four levels (Primary through Middle School), and come to understand how and why it works so well.** Please plan to have at least one parent per family

join us for this extraordinary Montessori parent experience. The Fall Voyage will focus on lessons in the **English Language curriculum**; our Montessori teachers (Nancy Hillegas- Primary, Maryann Montgomery- Lower Elementary, Sherrie Clune- Upper Elementary, and Terry Cunningham- Middle School) will take you on a journey (or voyage if you will), allowing you to experience first hand the continuity in the Montessori Language curriculum from the Primary program through the Middle School. Come experience school as your

child does every day. We will end the morning's lessons with a delicious catered lunch.
Childcare is available (please register in advance) for \$12.00 for the first child and \$8 for each additional child in the family. Siblings are welcome to attend childcare but must be toilet trained. Please pack a peanut free lunch for your child (ren). Please RSVP by Thursday, October 22, for the Voyage and childcare by calling or emailing Kris (Kris@woodlandhill.org).

Join Us in Our No Effort Fund Raising

This year we are once again focusing on the following programs:

- Price Chopper Tools for Schools
- Hannaford Helps Schools
- Target Take Charge of Education
- Funding Factory

WHMS greatly appreciates your participation in any of these programs. Participation is, of course, voluntary but we hope that each family will find a way to participate.



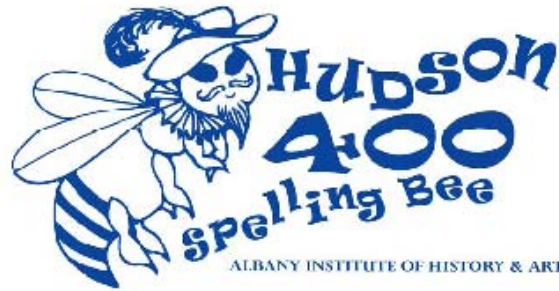
Parent Education Breakfast!

Thank you, Friends!



WHAT SHOULD WE FEED THE KIDS?

Jackie Davis from the Honest Weight Food Co-Op shared tasty and fun ways to make your family meals nutritious, as well as appealing, to young children.



What? When? Where?

The Albany Institute of History & Art presents the Hudson 400 Spelling Bee on Sunday, November 15 at 1:00 pm. Spelling bee words will be taken from the text of the museum's Quadracentennial exhibition *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Art, and Culture*, available in the Albany Institute's galleries during museum hours and in a downloadable PDF starting November 2: www.albanyinstitute.org.

Who?

Free registration is open to children ages 8 to 14 from public, private, parochial and home schools. Participants must enroll on or before 5:00 pm November 2, 2009. To register send an email with student name, parent/guardian name, address, age of student and phone number to Barbara Collins, Education Coordinator, collinsb@albanyinstitute.org, or call 518-463-4478, ext. 405 to enroll over the phone. For questions about the program, contact Josie Madison, Education Program Manager at madisonj@albanyinstitute.org or (518) 463-4478, ext. 435.

Postmarked entries will not be accepted. Awards to be announced.

Sponsored by the Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau through a New York State Legislative Grant



BUS SAFETY



On Tuesday, October 6, Marie Staats from the East Greenbush Transportation Department led a bus safety program for students in Kindergarten and Lower Elementary classes.

Reminding them to always be mindful of the school bus Danger Zones – these are the areas of the bus that the driver cannot see from the driver's seat, the proper use of their seatbelts and to always wait for the driver's signal and remember to look both ways.

