

THE MESSENGER



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CALENDAR EVENTS:

- 10/13-11/13 MS Food Drive
- 11/10 Go Home Early Drill for bus students
- 11/10 Parent Child Night
- 11/11 Veterans' Day
No School / Enrichment Available
- 11/12 Wildlife Demonstration
LE/ UE/ MS - 9:30 am
- 11/19 MS Coffee House
- 11/20 Small Hands Orders Due
- 11/25 Thanksgiving Recess
No School / Enrichment Available
- 11/26, 27 Thanksgiving Recess
*No School / **NO Enrichment***
- 11/30 Hoffman Carwash
Certificate Sale
- 12/3 and 12/5 *Seussical, Jr.*

RE-ACCREDITATION TEAM

Next week, a team of educators will be visiting Woodland Hill Montessori School as part of the year-long re-accreditation process. The two phases of the re-accreditation process are a self-study and an on-site peer visit.

Since January, Steering Committee Chair Patricia Altman has been coordinating the effort, along with Susan Kambrich, Moira Rienzo and Diane Carusone-McGinn. The first step was submission of a self-study in June to the Middle States Association of College and Schools and the American Montessori Society. Teachers Sherrie Clune, Liz Cahrenger, Nancy Hillengas, Valerie Ang, along with Moira Rienzo, Michael Endler and Jennifer Krygowski all chaired subcommittees and led committees comprised largely of faculty that explored the many ways we serve children. The teachers met over many weeks to determine what these attributes, qualities and programs are that define our Montessori program at WHMS. Each committee wrote a section of the self-study reflecting the essential qualities of our school.

AMS Accreditation is a voluntary process undertaken by schools that are committed to continuous school improvement. Through a documentation of compliance with AMS Standards and a comprehensive self-study process, a school defines itself in terms of strengths and areas that need improvement.

According to the AMS website, "the real value resides in the good things that happen to the school as it achieves and maintains accreditation. The self-study process is one of discovery and empowerment. The school's self-study examines itself in light of its own philosophy, involving all its constituents. It results in strong self-evaluation and a strategic plan that fosters continuing school improvement. The school complies with Standards for American Montessori Schools and six essential qualities established by research

and consensus as the essence of the educational nature of Montessori education."

The essential qualities are:

- The Montessori Learning Environment
- Montessori's Learning Activities
- Montessori Learning Relationships
- Montessori Spirituality
- What the Montessori Teacher Is
- What the Montessori Teacher Does

From November 17-20, Woodland Hill will be visited by the Visiting Committee Chair, Kathy Roemer, Executive Director of Twin Parks Montessori Schools in New York City, and members of the Visiting Committee: Bob Reveri, Assistant Head of School and Elementary Teacher at Metropolitan Montessori School in New York City; Joan Colangione, a teacher at Holy Spirit School in East Greenbush; and Karen Kelley, AMS Teacher at Oak Meadow Montessori School in Littleton, Mass.

As part of their site visit, the team will spend next week at WHMS meeting with teachers, parents and administrators, touring the school, visiting classrooms, and having lunch meetings with Lower El, Upper El, and Middle School students. They will also meet with the WHMS Board of Trustees. On Thursday, November 19, they will attend the Middle School Coffee House and a Friends of WHMS meeting. They will also observe the Specials Classes (PE, Music and Spanish), Recess, Drop-Off, Dismissal and School Care.

We look forward to welcoming our guests and continuing our process of self-improvement.

PARENT CHILD NIGHT

Parent –Child Night is scheduled for Tuesday, **November 10.**

Primary ~ last names beginning with
A-L 5:00 - 5:30pm
M-Z 5:30 - 6:00pm

Lower El ~ last names beginning with
A-L 6:00 - 6:30pm
M-Z 6:30 - 7:00pm

Upper El ~ last names beginning with
A-L 5:00 - 5:30pm
M-Z 5:30 - 6:00pm

Middle School ~
All Families 5:00 pm.

Attend the Parent-Child Night with your child and spend some quality time together.

Enjoy the evening while your child guides you through the classroom. Take the time to understand what happens during a typical school day. As he or she proudly shows you the classroom, your child will explain current projects, presenting the perfect opportunity for parents to offer positive feedback, encouragement and support.

You don't want to miss it!



Do not erase the designs the child makes in the soft wax of his inner life.
Dr. Maria Montessori

OTTO THE AUTO

Otto the Auto rolled into WHMS on Monday.

Otto the Auto, the friendly talking car, helps educate children about the lifesaving rules of traffic safety. The program is sponsored by AAA and offered free to schools served by AAA Hudson Valley.

Otto the Auto made a pit stop at WHMS on Monday, November 2, and shared important tips on passenger, pedestrian and bike safety. Otto is a remote control robot car that teaches children the importance of traffic safety. Throughout the interactive presentation

Otto asked the children questions about proper use of seatbelts and car seat installation rules and how and when to cross a street.

To the tune of "Coming Round the Mountain," Otto led the children in a chorus of his favorite song. Together they sang "You should buckle up your seatbelt when you ride..."

The "School's Open, Drive Carefully" campaign is a nationwide effort to remind drivers to watch for children. Statistics demonstrate that the time period when school is in session accounts for more

than one third of all child vehicle related deaths. Not only does the program aim to urge drivers to slow down, but it also educates children about the hazards of traffic and how to stay out of harm's way.

Michael Sweeney, a Traffic Safety Educator with AAA, says the program is designed for the preschool to second grade children.

"Through the Otto program," he says, "we've reached approximately 4,500 children in Albany, Rensselaer, Greene and Columbia Counties."



Just a reminder...

Dangling scarves are not permitted at playtime and electronic devices are not permitted during school hours.

Friends of WOODLANDHILL MONTESSORI SCHOOL

FRIENDS GATHER FOR A HARVEST POT LUCK

Friends of WHMS hosted a **Harvest Pot Luck Dinner** on Sunday, November 8, from 4 to 6 pm in the gymnasium.

ated placemats with a harvest theme.

At the dinner, Friends sponsored a “Share the Warmth” drive for the needy. Families brought winter items – new, or gently used condition – which will be delivered to a local shelter.

Nearly 80 WHMS community members attended and brought with them a dish to share. Friends provided hot and cold beverages; coffee, hot cider, milk and juice.

As a special treat Ryan Jordan entertained the crowd with guitar and piano music.

With the help of Erica Razek, (Dexter’s mom), children designed and cre-

The Pie Judging contest winners were announced and the winning pie was a buttermilk pie made by Monty Ray, Everett’s dad. Second place was awarded to Alison Glock. Third place went to Erica Razek.



Buttermilk Pie by Monty Ray

Crust: Flour, Butter
Pie filling: 2 cups sugar, 1 cup buttermilk
 3 eggs, 1 tbsp flour
 4 tbsp butter, 1 tsp vanilla

Directions:

Start with the crust, mix 3 Tbsp. melted butter with a cup flour in a blender with a dough-hook. Add water until the crust begins to clump together in the bowl. Then take the crust out and roll it out to a large enough size to fill the pie pan. Don't fold it.

For the filling, the ingredients are just mixed together in a bowl. The filling is poured into the pie pan with crust. The oven should be preheated to 350 F. Start baking, and check after 30 minutes. When a fork goes into the pie and comes out clean it is done. This is usually a total of an hour, but the trick is to get the pie done without over-browning the top. If the top starts to brown too fast, you can put the pie on the bottom rack and put something over it on the next rack, which will slow down the browning. You can also reduce the temperature to 325 or even 300 after the pie starts to brown.



“It is true that we cannot make a genius. We can only give to each child the chance to fulfill his potential possibilities.”


Dr. Maria Montessori

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

YOU CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE

Make your donation to this year’s Annual Fund.

Donate on line at:
woodlandhill.org/giving

The Woodland Hill CYO Basketball Program helps create a true partnership among parents, coaches and athletes. Students will learn good sportsmanship, teamwork, and a lifetime skill.

WHMS is a member of the Troy-area CYO. At WHMS this program is for students in grades 2 through 8 who are interested in developing their talents as athletes. There will be several girls’ teams and boys’ teams.

Practices will be during the week at 4:30 pm or 5 pm and games will be at 6 pm weekdays or on the weekends.

SMALL HANDS FUNDRAISER

Catalogs were recently sent home . 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.



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H1N1 INFORMATION


Thanks to Dr. Anna Flik, Asst. Prof Albany Medical College, pediatrician and WHMS parent. Dr. Flik spoke to WHMS parents on Wednesday regarding the H1N1 flu pandemic. The talk was very helpful and informative. In addition to general information, she helped parents understand more about what treatments and vaccinations are available.

BARNES & NOBLE BOOKFAIR

SAVE THE DATE Woodland Hill Montessori School
 Play for Power-The Water Project
Barnes & Noble BOOKFAIR
 Thursday, December 10, 2009
 Barnes & Noble
 Colonie Center, Albany, NY

Play for Power – Play for Water – Play for Peace

- Learn about the water project and a sister school in Tanzania
- Meet the students who visited Tanzania and will go again this summer
 - Enjoy story time with our teachers
- Meet the engineers who designed the playground that generates power
 - Hear students from the African drumming club perform
- Contact Cindy Bishop (cbishop@woodlandhill.org or 283-5400) or Laura Koennecke (ljk59@yahoo.com or 813-0500) for more information



The
**Cheesecake
 Factory**

Stop the Presses!

Plan to attend the

Barnes & Noble Book Fair to support
Play for Power – the Water Project

Thursday, December 10

Play for Power-the Water Project is holding a book fair December 10 at Barnes & Noble to raise money for teachers and middle school students to participate in the 2010 July trip to visit our sister school in Babati, Tanzania.

Just bring one of our vouchers to Barnes & Noble at Colonie Center on Wolf Road on December 10 and hand it in with your purchase. A percentage of your purchase will go towards the Water Project! (If you forget the voucher, just mention the school's name when you check out.)

Visit our table at the fair to learn about the water project and our sister school in Tanzania. Meet the students who visited Tanzania and plan to go again this summer. Meet the engineers who designed the playground. Hear students from the African drumming club perform and enjoy story time with our teachers - events will be scheduled throughout the day.

Books, maps, games, music, and café

items, anything the store sells (except gift cards and membership cards) count toward the fundraiser.

Faculty and staff will have wish lists for items for their classrooms that parents and other supporters can purchase. We plan on having a dedicated wish list table for the Sinai School in Babati as well. These items will be displayed, and can be purchased, on the day of the fair – providing both materials for the classrooms and support for next year's trip.

Do you like cheesecake?

Supporters can also pre-order cheesecakes and café items to be picked up and paid for on the day of the fair. The Cheesecake Factory-made cheesecakes (\$35) will be frozen so you can keep them for the holidays. Pre-orders are due December 2 – but don't worry if you forget, they'll have extra on hand so you can still pick one up December 10.

Visit our website to download a voucher and Cheesecake order form.

SHOE DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS

We asked the community to clean out their closets and donate new or gently used shoes to support the "Shoes for the Shoeless" campaign.

Those closets sure were cleaned out!

Thanks to the generosity of the Woodland Hill Montessori School families, the Lower Elementary classes were able to collect **311** pairs of shoes for the "Shoes for the Shoeless" campaign.



Two shoes did not have mates. If you are missing a red Mary-Jane shoe (size 10), or a brown Mary-Jane shoe (Stride Rite, size 7), contact Ann Ayers.

This campaign was coordinated by Gail Leonardo Sundling, owner of the Delmar Bootery in Stuyvesant Plaza and the shoes are being distributed to families in need throughout Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia. Over 11,000 pairs were collected this year for this great organization.

Many thanks to all for your support, and to Ann Ayers for coordinating the effort at WHMS!

JOY & ABUNDANCE WITH JOSEPH CARDILLO

On Tuesday, November 17, author and speaker, Joseph Cardillo will be at WHMS for a discussion of his book,

Can I Have Your Attention?

How to Think Fast, Find Your Focus, and Sharpen Your Concentration.

Best-selling author and blogger for Psychology Today, Joseph Cardillo, will be speaking about a topic that affects all of us in everything we do: the science of human attention and how we can all

train ourselves to think faster and clearer than ever. The discussion includes how attention training can improve focus, self-esteem, motivation, inter-personal relationships, decision making, and goal achievement in children and adults.

Doors Open At 6:30pm

Discussion Starts Promptly at 6:45pm

No Admission Fee

For information on Joseph Cardillo visit: www.josephcardillo.com.

For more information on the event please contact Linda Fennell at baylyfennell@msn.com or 275-0166.



Joy is the evidence of internal growth.
Dr. Maria Montessori

THE VOYAGE ~ WRITING

Thank you to faculty members Nancy Hillengas, Maryann Montgomery, Sherrie Clune and Terry Cunningham for the many hours of preparation for the voyage. Also for their time on a Saturday morning providing our parents with such an incredible opportunity to experience the Montessori curriculum first hand.

Below are parent comments on their experience at the October 24, 2009 Voyage focusing on Writing:

The lesson presentations and the faculty were THE highlight for me; the luncheon was wonderful too!

Seeing the teacher as a

guide, someone who assists the child with exploration and mastery.

It is amazing to see how concepts begin with the concrete and then move to the abstract as the children move up through the grade/age levels.

I appreciated seeing how basic and important concepts are carried through and expanded upon without the child really realizing just what they are mastering.

I really enjoyed being able to take a look into the process each step of the way. The fact that WHMS considers "the whole child" and not just "test scores" or "one goal/outcome" is very important to me.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

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, provides 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

Call for Members

If you are interested in participating in the diversity committee, or have any issues or topics which you feel should be addressed, then please contact the committee chair, David Devaprasad at sdd@danielsporco.com

The next Diversity Committee meeting is on Tuesday, December 8 at 9 a.m.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

The WHMS Diversity Committee is an inclusive working group of parents, teachers, staff, and students, who are committed to increasing the awareness of diversity issues within the school community. Through an active admissions recruitment and administrative hiring process we are growing a diverse school community that recognizes and respects differences across race, ethnicity, religious, socio-economic class, physical ability, sex, sexual

orientation, and gender expression. In accordance with the philosophies of Maria Montessori, who believed education should assist children in being socially responsible citizens of the world, the Diversity Committee values a multi-cultural and anti-bias focused curriculum. We seek to provide a safe, open environment where children are exposed to non-sexist, multi-cultural learning experiences and are able to explore bias issues in an age-appropriate

way as part of their daily routines.

The Diversity Committee's purpose is to increase awareness and appreciation of the benefits of diversity for all of our children and the entire school community.



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

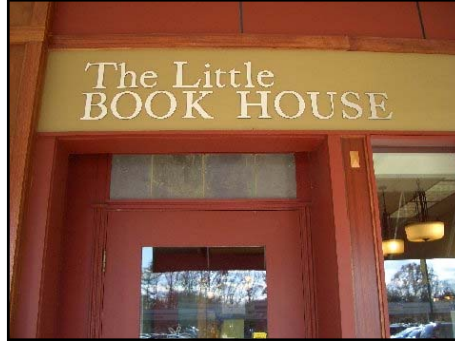
WHMS greatly appreciates your involvement in any of these programs.

Participation is, of course, voluntary but we hope that each family will find a way to chip in.



STUDENTS' ART ON DISPLAY

Lower Elementary students learned about the Iroquois Indians and then drew landscapes reflecting mountains and lakes and other land forms using crayon and chalk. The art work will be on display at The Little Book House in Stuyvesant Plaza until the end of the month for all to enjoy!



Be sure to stop by The Little Book House to view the pieces created by : Brian Shim, Addison Oberting, Isabella Mesko, Kelsey Nickens, Jason Eveleth, Olive Snider, Berkely Thompson, Marguerite Gilman, Abigail Litvak, Leyland Rodrigo, August McCorkle, Tibor Lazar, Valentina Allen, Caroline Galt, and Rowan Adrian.



SOLAR AND WIND WORKSHOP

The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) held a workshop, "A Solar Kit for the Classroom," at the Robert C. Parker School on Saturday, November 7. The event was open to educators and targeted at teachers in grades K-8 but with a focus mainly on grades 3-6.

Two of our teachers, Andrew McClain and Sandy Blakeman attended the workshop to learn more about solar and wind energy concepts.

"It was a very valuable workshop on solar and wind energy," said Andrew.

We can integrate the lessons with our curriculum surrounding the development of our playground.

They provided us with hands-on materials that we can offer to our Montessori students.

"A Solar Kit for the Classroom" is a free professional development workshop for educators on solar energy education. The workshop affords educators to become familiar with solar energy concepts. They had the opportunity to test out the experiments and give their students the tools they need to understand solar technologies.



UPPER EL VISITS PRIMARY

Students in Cindy's Upper Elementary class visited Primary students in Emmy and Diane's class.

The big kids spent some time sharing a story. As a pilot mentoring program, students in Cindy's class will visit Emmy's class every Wednesday.

