



Sandpaper Newsletter September 2015

Dear DMS Families,

We warmly welcome both new and returning families as we begin our 47th year of offering a Montessori experience to the children of Dubuque County and surrounding areas. We are happy you are here, and we look forward to what the year will bring.

The staff and board of DMS have been busy preparing for the return of the children. A heartfelt thank you to our teachers and staff for the meticulous and conscious care given in preparing the classroom environment and to our parent volunteers who worked on the outdoor play yard, garden, and patio.

We also extend our thanks to those of you who were able to join us for parent orientation. We were happy to see so many faces. If you were not able to attend, please be sure to read the handout that was sent home in your child's mailbag, as well as the DMS Parent Handbook, and contact us with any questions or comments.

Did you know, Dr. Maria Montessori opened her very first "Casa de Bambini" in Rome in 1907? Still today, her method is ahead of her time. Dr. Angeline Lillard published results of an exhaustive study (Lillard, Science, September 2006) showing that Montessori children not only retained academic information more readily than students learning in a traditional environment, more importantly, they were also significantly more thoughtful and empathetic in their relationships with others.

Did you also know the young inventors of Google, Sergey Brin and Larry Page, credit Montessori for their success? Other Montessori children include, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, Berry Brazelton, Julia Child, Anne Frank, Prince William and Prince Harry and the list goes on.

With 23 years of personal experience here at DMS, I am consistently amazed with the personal success and leadership skills of our graduates. I notice former students names on honor role and awards lists. I see them on the news as leaders in civic and academic projects, as well as in the arts. I know this is largely because their parents are people who value a good education and understand the early years are vital to future success. But I also know the children entrusted to our care leave with a passion for learning that sticks with them for life.

The old saying, "It takes a village to raise a child" is so true. Our village is our Montessori community of parents, families, children, and staff. Thank you for being a part of it.

Love,
Beth

Beth Gilbreath
Director, Dubuque Montessori School
(563) 556-5101

The Normalization Period

Now that the first few days of school are behind us, and parents have had the opportunity to walk their children into their classes, we ask for your assistance as we work toward the "normalization period." Dr. Montessori spoke about the "normalized" child—one who is able to function appropriately in the environment. This results in a well-balanced child capable of achieving his or her goals. The characteristics of a "normalized" child are self-discipline, self-motivation, love of learning, enjoyment of repetition, finds pleasure in his/her work, does not need external rewards, and acts independently. To attain these characteristics, our staff will be working with the children to help them practice the rules of the environment, bonding with them, and providing them with experiences and opportunities to help them feel safe and loved so that they will then be ready to explore all that is available to them.

If your child does not use extended-day services and arrives just in time for the preschool class, we respectfully ask that you allow our staff to greet the children at the door beginning at 8:55am. If you drop off in extended-day, please sign your child in, say your good-byes lovingly and reassuringly, and then quickly exit. Our staff is skilled at easing the transition for the children, and we will let you know if there is a problem. Groups of parents lingering in the school or around the outdoor play area in view of the children can affect an otherwise calm routine. If you have any concerns regarding if your child has settled, please feel free to call the office as often as you would like. We are happy to check in on them for you. Fostering this independence in your children is important to the "normalization" process and we thank you for supporting the teachers in their efforts to build a productive learning environment. Once the children have settled we welcome and encourage parent observations.



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Thank you!

- Thank you to Christine Darr and the Kids Care Club for the addition of the Little Free Library in the front of the school!
- Thank you to the Castaneda-Henkel, Allred-Clements, Bird and Bunte-Klavitter families for weeding and beautifying the outdoor play space, patio, and garden.

We need your help!

As a parent-run not-for-profit school, we rely on the help and support of our parent volunteers. Please consider how you can help, complete your parent volunteer form, and return it to the school office. Thank you!

Save the Date for Kids Expo-Dubuque County

Who: Families/caregivers and children age 0 through elementary-school age

What: Kids Expo-Dubuque County is a free family resource and fun fair.

When: Saturday, October 10, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Where: Grand River Center, 500 Bell Street, Dubuque, IA

For more info, go to www.dcearlychild.org.

DMS Board Meeting

Who: All DMS parents are welcome

What: DMS Monthly Board Meeting

When: Monday, September 28, 6:15 p.m.

Where: DMS

Stay in Touch

Please "Like" us on Facebook.

Green Vision Tip

Consider composting your food scraps!

DMS Office Hours

M, T, W: 7:30–4:00

Th, F: 7:30–1:00