



dubuque **montessori** school

THE SANDPAPER LETTER

MAY 2021

**A Non-Profit,
Parent-Run Organization**

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Dubuque, IA 52001**

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The mission of Dubuque Montessori School is to bring together children of all social, economic and cultural backgrounds in an atmosphere that encourages children to develop to their fullest potential, using proven, child-directed Montessori methods and materials in a warm, nurturing safe and loving environment.

MONTESSORI AT HOME

As we get ready to head into summer, here are a few tips on how to continue the Montessori method and environment at home.



1. Organize the environment.

"A place for everything and everything in its place" is one of the critical principles of Montessori. If you designate a place for everything, your child will quickly recognize where it goes. This is great for teaching children to be responsible for their belongings and cleaning up their messes. Parents are also encouraged to rotate toys and books every few weeks. Here are a few tips to incorporate:

- Store clothing at low levels
- Step stools in kitchen and bathroom
- Snacks on low shelves in refrigerator so they can help themselves
- Storing toys on low shelves or baskets so they are easily accessible and separate into various bins and baskets.

2. Emphasize and foster life skills.

Every young child is capable of helping around the house, just remember to match age and abilities. By teaching them to take care of themselves and the space around them, you will set your child up to be a responsible, capable adult later on. This may require extra time teaching them. Examples of appropriate tasks for younger children include watering the plants, feeding pets, wiping the table, clearing their dishes and picking up their toys.

3. Teach concentration.

The Montessori method of thought is to cultivate focus and concentration while they are young. You can do this by identifying what they are interested in and setting them up with materials and space they need to explore more thoroughly. It is important to also consider how your child works best, some prefer solitude away from others and some prefer to work at the kitchen table in the middle of the house.

4. Focus on inner motivation, not extrinsic rewards.

The Montessori method isn't big on giving children extrinsic rewards for behavior, such as stickers or candy. Verbal praise is valued, although it's important to make sure it is given in moderation. The key is that you should teach your children to enjoy and seek the feelings of pleasure and pride that come with learning something new or completing a task.

Adapted from "Sapientia Montessori"

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

"Do not tell them how to do it. Show them how to do it. and do not say a word. If you tell them, they will watch your lips move. If you show them, they will want to do it themselves."

-Maria Montessori

I want to start my letter off by first saying a big thank you to everyone that donated items to our Kids Care Club necessity drive for the Dubuque Rescue Mission. We obtained a very substantial amount to give them! Jeff from the mission stopped by last Friday to pick everything up and he was very appreciative. We have been doing this drive for many years now, and it has always been one of our more successful ones. It is such a beautiful thing to come together as a community to help others out and we appreciate your support in teaching our children that!

Our auction was a huge success! Thank you to all that bid on items. It looks like some great deals were had! We came so close to our goal with making \$3,735 and are beyond elated! As you know, a lot of volunteered time was put into the auction by our fundraising chair, Gabriela Vega Bauerly. She put countless hours in at getting donations, and setting up the auction website. So much organizing went into this. Our focus this year was on local and semi-local small businesses. Businesses and individuals that donated items were recognized on social media. It is our hopes that they will receive some extra patronage with the advertising she did. We encourage you to support these establishments as much as you can! A list of donors will be sent out.

Teacher appreciation week is this week! Parent club has taken all of the envelopes returned and will distribute the cards and gifts this week. I am writing this letter on Sunday as I need to get it sent to Nicole and Gaby who put the newsletters together (which by the way, have been awesome this year!), and knowing that you will all see this on Wednesday, the 5th, I wanted to mention how appreciative we are for your support! The teachers have been through a year like no other, but the children and you, as parents, have too, and we are just in awe at how we have worked together to come this far!

Here we are in the last month of our school year. May is always a reflective time for us as we step back and remember the year from the very first day up until the present. With these reflections, come many mixed emotions. We are excited and pleased with all that was accomplished, getting to be a part of the child's development and knowing them personally, and looking forward to another year with many of our students. On the other hand, there is sadness as many of our families that we grew close to will be moving on. I am sure that you, as parents, are doing the same reflecting and are experiencing the same emotions.

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I want you to know that, whether you have spent one year with us, or several, you will always be a part of DMS. We have many former students stop by to visit and it is always so wonderful to stay connected. We do have a guest reader program that encourages our alumni to come back to read to the students. This usually happens on 2 hour late arrival days. This year we were not able to do this, but hopefully we can start back up soon! I have been here long enough, to even see past students start to work here, which is beyond joyful to see a person you knew when they were small, and now a young adult responsible enough to have a job. When we start back our summer camps, we also look for alumni students to help out. Usually by 11 or 12 years old. This is another chance we get to see them again and to help nurture their confidence and responsibility. So, all that said, please stay connected and keep Montessori in your life!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this difficult year one of the best! Your giving of donations, fundraiser participation, and overall support of our staff and school has been immeasurable. We are grateful for every day we have spent with your children. I hope you all have a fantastic summer and we look forward to the new year in August!

Peace and love,
Beth

THANK YOU'S

Thank you to all that sent items for the Dubuque Rescue Mission necessity drive. They are very appreciative of the support!

Thank you to everyone that has made our auction a success, which includes Gaby, board members, teachers, all of our bidders, and of course the generous donors. We raised \$3,735! That will help us out immensely!

Thank you to Siebe Studio and Outside the Lines Art Gallery for their monetary donations towards our fundraising efforts, we greatly appreciate your ongoing support!

Thank you to all that took time and gave to make Teacher Appreciation week very special for the staff! We appreciate everything you have done for us throughout the year!

Thank you to Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral, the Visiting Nurse Association, Iowa Department of Human Services, and Keystone AEA, for all of your collaboration and support this year!

FROM THE PARENT CLUB CO-CHAIRS

Thank you for your monetary and food contributions this year. With your help, we've been able to provide the staff with several meals during in-service and conference days; we've stocked and replenished their break room with food and drinks; and we have some great things in store for Teacher Appreciation Week (May 3-7). Thank you for supporting our wonderful DMS staff!

-The Parent Club Co-Chairs
(Hilarie Welsh & Karah Spahn)

LEAVE US A REVIEW

We would love to hear your experience at DMS, please leave us a review on [Google](#) or [Facebook](#)!



MAY 2021 CALENDAR

- 10 Parent Board Meeting @ DMS 6:15 pm
- 13 Great Give Day through the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque
- 21 Last Day of School for 2 day Toddlers
- 25 Last Day of School for 3 day and 3 & 5 day Toddlers
- 26 Last Day of School for 5 day 3-6 year old classroom

50/50 RAFFLE

Didn't win the basket you had your eye on during the auction? You're in luck! We are ending our fundraising efforts for this school year with a 50/50 Raffle, supported by Dupaco! Our theme this year is "Bee a supporter of DMS"!

Tickets to enter are \$25/each and will be on sale at the DMS Office during operating hours. The final amount will be announced on or before the drawing date based on how many tickets are sold. One lucky winner will be announced on Friday, May 21, 2021 via the DMS Facebook page.

APRIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY

- This was the Annual Parents Board Meeting so presentations of Montessori work and personal Montessori journey stories were given by Ms. Christine, Ms. Jackie and Ms. Hannah.
- Each committee on the Board gave their end-of-the year reports.
- Ms. Beth also gave an annual end-of-the-year administrative report highlighting the DRA grant, enrollment numbers for upcoming school year, QRS rating system and the lack of summer camps this year due to COVID-19.
- Encouraged parents if interested in serving on the Board of Directors to complete the online Board of Interest Form.

If you have any input for the Board of Directors, please contact our co-president Charleen via email at charleenlynette@gmail.com.



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50/50 RAFFLE FUNDRAISER: \$25/TICKET

Winner will be drawn on Friday, May 21st 2021.

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