



dubuque **montessori** school

# THE SANDPAPER LETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

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

**2605 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Dubuque, IA 52001**

**Main Office:**  
563-556-5101

**Extended Care:**  
563-556-5121

**Office Hours:**  
M-F 8:45-3:00 pm

**Director:**  
Elizabeth Duccini

**Administrative Assistant:**  
Sherri Schmitt

**Email:**  
office@dubuque  
montessori.org

**Visit:**  
[dubuquemontessori.org](http://dubuquemontessori.org)

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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.*

## WELCOME TO THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR!

It may have been a rainy start to the school year, but inside DMS was filled with sunshine. The teachers and staff were excited to welcome back the children! The children are adjusting to their new routine, working with friends and taking pictures with the cute apple outside the school. (Thank you, DMS Parent Club!)



Every school year DMS focuses on a specific theme. This year we are excited to celebrate the "Year of the Arts." The children will learn about various artists and explore different art styles, mediums and music. We look forward to a great year ahead with all of our wonderful DMS friends!

## A FRESH LOOK AT DMS

Thank you to all of the volunteers and DMS Staff for the hard work put into prepping the classrooms, materials and school grounds for this year.

A special thank you to Ms. Beth who has been hard at work with her paint brush and tools. She painted several areas in the school, updated the office, added plants, shampooed the carpets with Ms. Jackie, helped the teachers purchase new furniture and materials for their classrooms, set-up the playground and much, MUCH more to help freshen up our school. DMS is lucky to have such dedicated staff!



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

*"The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn."*

*-Maria Montessori*

Dear DMS Families,

Welcome to Dubuque Montessori School's 2021-2022 school year! We are so happy that you are with us to celebrate "Year of the Arts." It is a new year and we continue our commitment to giving your child a true Montessori experience. The teachers have created such beautiful and well-planned environments for your children to learn and thrive. Each year when we come back after summer to set up, it is a fresh start, and we get excited to have opportunities to change and improve. This year, our inspiration is definitely our new playground! Thank you so much to our Board Co-President, Nicole Powers, for heading the project, all board members and staff for their volunteer work in helping with the progress and their input in the design, McClain fencing for the beautiful results, and my husband, Nate, for always helping put things together! The children have had so much fun on the playground this week which has been very inspiring to keep going and improving it. We will start fundraising for some much needed equipment and materials soon! Speaking of outdoor spaces - thank you to Allie and Katie Hartig and for making our gardens and front of school look so lovely! That was a lot of work and much needed!!

I want to take this opportunity to also thank our Parent Club and board for making us feel so special with a well-stocked break room, meals during set-up week, and breakfast on our first day of school! Parent Club also put on Popsicles on the Playground, which was such a lovely event and it was so great to see all the families that came! Be on the lookout for more information on how you can be a member of Parent Club and contribute to the wellbeing of our staff, families, and school.

We are well into our second week and things are falling right into place. As the children normalize to their new environment, we will give them time to adjust, respect their feelings by not rushing them and be patient on redirecting and repeating. Some children may feel comfortable from the first day, and others may need several days. It is our hope that with good communication, consistency, and patience, we can make this a wonderful experience for you and your child. We hope that you can attend our Parent Orientation evening on Wednesday, September 8th at 6:00 to learn more about the Montessori classroom and philosophy, and hear from some of our Board Members on ways you can get involved with the DMS community!

Thank you all so very much for your trust in us. It is truly a gift to have your children here at DMS. We look forward to watching them grow and discover day-by-day and to give them amazing experiences.

~Beth

## POPSICLES, PLAYGROUND & FUN

We enjoyed seeing all of you at our back-to-school event. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event a success.



### Event Feedback

In an effort to plan for future events, the DMS Parent Club would love to get your feedback on our recent Popsicles on the Playground event. [When you have a moment please complete this short survey.](#) Thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts!

## NEW & FAMILIAR FACES AT DMS

DMS welcomes FIVE new staff members and ONE familiar staff member who has returned to DMS after some time away!

- Nicole Lippstock, Assistant Teacher with Ms. Jackie
- Xochitl Vega, Assistant teacher with Ms. Hannah
- Barbara Duccini, Afternoon Assistant
- Claire Olson, Afternoon Assistant
- Kennedy Elskamp, Extended Care
- Jennifer Oney-Hooven, Cook

## A NOTE FROM THE BOARD

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I'd like to welcome all of our new and returning DMS families. I hope everyone had a great first week and is excited for the year ahead. I know I am!

The DMS Board is made up of committed parent volunteers. We usually meet on the second Monday of the month, and all parents are welcome to attend meetings in person, or to call in via Zoom. Important topics we discuss will also be included in this newsletter, so there are many ways to stay informed!

If you have any suggestions or concerns for the board, please email [charleenlynette@gmail.com](mailto:charleenlynette@gmail.com), and we'll address your topic at our next meeting. You can use the same email address to request a Zoom meeting link.

Looking forward to a great year!

Charleen Shea,  
Co-President

## SEPTEMBER 2021 CALENDAR

- 6 Labor Day - No School
- 8 Parent Orientation from 6 - 7 pm
- 13 Parent Board Meeting at 6:15 pm

### CALENDAR UPDATE

Please note, the March Parent Board Meeting has been moved to Monday, March 21 at 6:15 to accommodate for Spring Break.

## PARENT ORIENTATION

All parents are invited to join us at DMS on Wednesday, September 8th (6-7pm) for our annual Parent Orientation Night. This is a great way to get connected to your child's Montessori experience by learning more about our school, ways to get involved, and by getting to know our DMS staff and families.



## DMS QUICK LINKS



# OPERATION NEW PLAYGROUND



## PHASE 1: EXCAVATION

We are excited to share that we have completed Phase 1 of Operation New Playground. Over the summer the playground was excavated to level the play area to be ADA compliant. McClain Fencing & Excavating added a beautiful Redi-Rock retaining wall along with a new vinyl black chain link fence with safety gates. With the new layout we were able to relocate the toddler area closer to the school making it much more convenient for our youngest friends.

## PHASE 2: PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

We are now ready to begin Phase 2 - new playground equipment! The Playground Committee has begun applying for grants and will be kicking-off our capital fundraising campaign shortly. We hope to have the new playground equipment installed by Summer 2022.

### GET INVOLVED!

Contact [Nicole Powers](#) to learn more about donation & volunteer opportunities

### LEARN MORE!

[Click here to visit the DMS Website](#)

