



dubuque **montessori** school

# THE SANDPAPER LETTER

NOVEMBER 2021

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

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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.*

## MAKING MONTESSORI MEMORIES

This fall has been full of fun! Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped with both our Special Someone's Night and Pumpkins in the Park.

### A SPECIAL NIGHT WITH SPECIAL FRIENDS

We're not sure who had more fun - the children or the adults! We had lots of special friends join us at Special Someone's Night where the children enjoyed giving tours of their classroom and work. Don't miss the next Special Someone's Night on March 22nd.



### FALL FUN

We also enjoyed a beautiful fall day for our annual fall event, Pumpkins in the Park. Families had fun painting pumpkins, making tissue paper wreaths and pinecone bird feeders while visiting with DMS friends. A big thank you to everyone who donated food & supplies!





# A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

*"It will be necessary to look to children for help if the world is to be made better."*

*-Maria Montessori*

Dear DMS Families,

The teachers had a wonderful time speaking with you at conferences. We are very appreciative of the time you gave to discuss your child's progress thus far. Communication is the key to a successful experience & education, so please never hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. Also, please be sure to look at weekly lesson plans sent from your child's teacher. Children often can't communicate what they are doing in school, so this can help spark conversations about the work they do.

Chilly weather is here to stay for awhile, please be sure to dress your child appropriately for playing outdoors. The wind gets strong out on the playground, so start sending a hat & mittens daily. Once snow is here you will need to send boots & snow pants too. We thank you for labeling all outerwear items! Be sure to [watch](#) one of our favorite practical life items to teach the children - how to easily put on their coats & jackets!



Wishing you all a very happy & healthy November with many things to be grateful for!

Beth

## Montessori at Home TIPS FROM MS. BETH



Just as we do here at school, encourage your child to take on roles at home that involve real work & independence. It is in every child's nature to watch & imitate many of the daily tasks that we consider mundane. To them, it is so interesting & important. In the Montessori Class room we call these "Practical Life" activities and they are one of the most important areas in the classroom. With each work, you will find many opportunities for the child to develop their fine motor, math, language, and sensorial skills. Just to name a few!

Start small and at the child's level. Sweeping, washing dishes, folding towels, & matching socks are all important skills for your little ones to learn. Setting the table is also a great task you can give your child. Start by giving them one item such as the forks or cups to place on the table. I decided to purchase a set of dishes from the dollar store for when my son Frankie helps set the table, if a dish breaks it is no big deal. He has yet to drop one! If he did, our trusty broom & dustpan would be there & another learning experience would present itself. No matter the task, be sure to always let your child know that it is okay to make mistakes & that mistakes help us learn how to improve!

Thank you for reading my "Montessori at Home" tip this month. On the next page you will find several links to several items that are great for children to use at home. Remember to be proud of all of the work that you do daily in your own homes.

## MONTESSORI AT HOME - MS. BETH'S FAVORITE ITEMS

Below are links to some of Ms. Beth's favorite items to have in the home for children to help encourage independence and exploration for practical life activities.



### Cleaning Items

- [Dustpan & Hand Broom Set](#)
- [Child-sized Broom/Dustpan and Mop Set](#)
- [Ceramic Soap Dispenser & Bamboo Dish Brush](#)



### Watering Cans

I like both of these sizes of watering cans. The 15 oz one works well for smaller indoor plants like succulents. If your child can handle the big one, it makes for fewer trips back to the sink for more water.

- [Watering Can- 40 oz](#)
- [Watering Can- 15 oz](#)



### Spray Bottles

These spray bottles are fantastic and easy for kids to use for plant misting and cleaning. The glass gives the child more of a sensorial experience.

- [Cobalt Blue Glass Spray Bottles](#)



### Kitchen Items

- [Glass Pitcher with Lid](#)
- [Nylon Knife Set](#)
- [Mortar and Pestle](#)
- [Small Silicone Cooking Utensil Set](#)



### Stepstools & Learning Towers

A step stepstool is one of the most important things to have for your child to be independent in the home. I like this foldable learning tower and it is height adjustable. There are a lot of varieties of these and some do take up a lot of space, but if you have the room, they are wonderful and a lot safer than regular high step stools.

- [Foldable Learning Tower](#)

We use this one in the kitchen a lot and I love it for myself to be able to reach higher cupboards and shelves.

- [Cosco 2 step folding step stool](#)



If possible, each bathroom should have a small step stool such as this one.

- [Small step stool](#)



Remember to set DMS as your  
designated non-profit on  
Amazon Smile!



## HOLIDAY CLASSROOM WISH LISTS



We have received several questions from families regarding how they can support their child's teacher & classroom over the holidays. We have asked each teacher to create a "Wish List" of items for their classroom. We are forever grateful for the thoughtfulness of our DMS families!

- [Ms. Jackie's Wish List](#)
- [Ms. Christine's Wish List](#)
- [Ms. Hannah's Wish List](#)
- [Office Wish List](#)

## NAVIGATING THE HOLIDAYS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

As the holidays approach, many families may start to feel overwhelmed with the additional responsibilities and events. In the Montessori classroom, teachers strive to keep celebrations simple. Children will spend time focusing on gratitude, grace and courtesy. For the Winter Solstice, the children will prepare Stone Soup as a wonderful reminder about the joy of sharing and community.

Family traditions are amazing to your little ones. You are the child's memory maker. Holidays look a little different with young children, but these are the days to cherish.



### HELPFUL TIPS FROM OUR DMS TEACHERS:

#### **Keep schedules in mind**

There will often be late nights, encourage the child to nap before the event.

#### **When traveling try to stick close to your family's normal schedule**

This will keep the child from becoming overtired. Bring their favorite blankets or stuffed animals to provide comfort in the new environment.

#### **Pay attention to attire**

Holiday outfits are adorable but not always comfortable for children. If an event goes late, pack their pajamas. They can fall asleep in the car and head right to bed.

#### **Keep the gifts simple**

Ask relatives for time instead of toys, taking the child to the museum or a movie.

#### **Let the children help**

They can assist with setting the table, folding napkins, creating an art piece for the table, baking, and wrapping presents. They will be proud to show their work!

#### **Holiday toys**

It's fun to have toys that only come out during the holidays. Children look forward to seeing them annually!

#### **Family crafts**

Paper chain links are an easy way to stay busy and calm!

#### **Get fresh air**

Take a break and spend time outside.



## NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



In an effort to streamline communication and requests, we will be consolidating all volunteer opportunities into one sign up form each month. Opportunities will range from classroom volunteers, meals for staff meetings, materials for events, to small maintenance requests and projects. As always, we greatly appreciate all of the time, talents & treasures that our wonderful families provide to support DMS.

[CLICK HERE FOR CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES](#)

## WE APPRECIATE YOU!

Thank you so much

### DMS Parent Club & Parent Volunteers

Thank you to the DMS Parent Club & all of our parent volunteers for making Pumpkins in the Park so much fun! The Parent Club also provided lunch from Jersey Mike's for our recent staff in-service. Thank you!

### Dittmar Farms

A big thank you to Dittmar Farms for donating our pumpkins for this year's Pumpkins in the Park. Be sure to stop by their beautiful farm next year!

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE



## OPERATION NEW PLAYGROUND

We are so appreciative of the generous support that we have already received for Operation New Playground! We have an ambitious fundraising goal but are motivated to make our playground safe and enjoyable for all.

We have heard from many of you that potential donors (grandparents) would like to hear directly from students. To help, we have created a [coloring sheet](#) for the children to color and send to any family members, businesses or community members who you feel might be interested in learning more about or supporting our playground renovation. Thank you for your help in spreading the word!

[LEARN MORE](#)

CONTACT THE COMMITTEE

FUNDRAISING WEBSITE

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

DONATE USING PAYPAL

\$14,328

18%

\$0

\$80,000 GOAL

[CLICK HERE FOR THE COLORING SHEET](#)



Donate online via PayPal by searching "office@dubuquemontessori.org" and noting that it is playground donation.

**NEW!**

## NOVEMBER 2021 CALENDAR

- 8 Parent Board Meeting @ 6:15 pm
- 24 No School: Staff Professional Development Day
- 25 No School: Holiday Break
- 26 No School: Holiday Break

## DMS QUICK LINKS



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NOV BOARD MEETING

8

Monday, November 8 at 6:15pm at DMS

All DMS parents are welcome to our monthly board meetings which occur the second Monday of every month at DMS unless otherwise stated. Board Meetings are a great way to learn more about what is going on at DMS and to directly connect with your child's Montessori experience. A zoom link is available upon request for those who wish to join by phone.

[Click Here if you plan to attend](#)



DUBUQUE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

# Necessities Drive

BENEFITTING THE DUBUQUE RESCUE MISSION

Collecting Items November 1 -12

The mission of the DMS Kids Care Club is to nurture our student's natural instinct for empathy by extending charity into the community. As a part of the Kids Care Club, we will be collecting toiletry items (full or travel size) for the Dubuque Rescue Mission from November 1-12.

### Dubuque Rescue Mission's Wish List:

- Deodorant
- Shaving cream/razors
- Toothbrushes/toothpaste
- Body wash
- Shampoo
- High-efficiency laundry detergent
- Socks
- Towels/washcloths
- Men's underwear
- Hats/scarves/gloves
- Blankets
- Hot chocolate, coffee, tea