

The Grapevine



Toddler, Early Childhood, Elementary and Junior High

also online at www.woodinvillemontessori.org

Volume 29:10

"Learn. Grow. Become."

Thursday, November 17, 2011

November

- 17 PA Exec Meeting, 9am, NC
- 17 AGP Parking Lot Campaign
- 17 Hopelink Food & Toy Drive (through Dec 1)
- 18 National Philanthropy Day
- 18 JH Business: Kids' Night Out, 6-10pm, NC
- 19 Admissions Open House for Prospective & Moving Up Families & Students, 9-11am, NC (All levels)
- 24-25 NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break**

December

- 1 2012-13 Financial Aid Applications Open
- 1 PA Exec Meeting, 9am, NC
- 3 NC "Grand Opening", Cookie Decorating and JH Craft Fair Pre-Sale, 10-12pm, NC

- 5 Early Bird Deadline for Winter Break Camp
- 5 JH Craft Fair Begins
- 7 BOT Exec Cmte Mtg, 4:30pm, NC
- 12 Last Week for Semester I Electives
- 14 After-school Drama Performance, 5pm, NC
- 16 Jr. High Business Event: Kids' Night Out, 6-10pm, NC
- 19-23 NO SCHOOL – Winter Break (Fig Open)**
Camp available for EC/EL students by prepaid reservation.
- 26-30 NO SCHOOL – Winter Break (Fig Closed)**
- 30 AGP Focus Period Ends (Campaign runs thru 6/30)

January

- 2 Classes Resume
- 2 Auction Procurement Begins
- 4 Volunteer Training, 7pm, WV

National Philanthropy Day and AGP

by Fiona Haynes, Fund Development Committee

Friday November 18th is National Philanthropy Day in the Seattle area, a day set aside to recognize the generosity of all who give their time and money to make a difference. In honor of this day, we invite you to make your pledge to the Annual Giving Program. As you can see below, we are half way to meeting our goal of \$110,000, which is being used to pay for the recently completed expansion of the North Creek campus so that we can improve and expand our programs.

To see your gift or potential gift in action, take a walk through the North Creek campus and admire the larger library, the beautiful new Cypress classroom in Upper Elementary, the new Club House area, and the much-needed expansion in Junior High. These improvements mean our Art and Music classes have more optimal space for our students to be creative. Our Junior High students have a dedicated new science lab and their very own room for conducting their business operations.

Our new space was also put to great use during the recent Halloween party, allowing the children to enjoy a larger Haunted House, with plenty of room to enjoy party food, and additional classroom space for games. If you have not yet seen these improvements, we invite you to see our new space at our all-school Cookie Decorating party on December 3rd.

Every gift, no matter how big or small, is gratefully received, and benefits all our children. Please remember that many companies, including Microsoft and Boeing, have a matching gifts program, which doubles the value of your gift. If you have given already, we are deeply grateful. If you have yet to do so, National Philanthropy Day would be the perfect time.

Thank you for helping us grow and become.

Participation – Annual Giving Program 2011-12

(as of Nov 7)

Fig	Apple	D Fir	Elm	Maple	Oak	Pine	Juniper	Madrona	Spruce	Willow	Cedar	Cypress	Ginkgo
22%	14%	30%	14%	40%	14%	16%	41%	35%	26%	38%	40%	37%	36%

Family	Board	Staff	Total \$
25%	100%	69%	53,117

Sat Dec 3, 10-12pm

"Grand Opening" Celebration & Cookie Decorating

Come one, come all to the Annual All-School Cookie Decorating Party! Cookies, frosting, and fun will be ready for all to sprinkle with colorful joy. We welcome all of our families to tour the entire renovated North Creek building and see how the expanded space is being used by students of all ages. See you there for a really sweet time!

 **To Do:**

- ☑ **Mark your calendar** for the All-School Cookie Decorating Party sponsored by the PA on Dec 3.
- ☑ Turn in your Annual Giving Program (AGP) pledge card today. **Please join us so we can reach our goal of 100% participation.** Your gift will make a difference.



Pizza Thursday Continues

Pizza order forms for Dec/Jan/Feb are going home this week. See the attached order form if you need another copy.

Lunch is \$5 per order which includes two slices of pizza and fruit juice. Orders must be received by noon on Wednesday or we are unable to process your request. Thank you for supporting the Jr. High Business!

Lunchbox Leverage

Thanks to Emily & Neil from Lunchbox Leverage for sharing snacks and information about our new lunch program at the PA meeting this week. For more information, including the registration letter and current menu, see *News & Events* on the WMS website home page at www.woodinvillemontessori.org.

A few points to remember:

- all lunches are deliciously served cold
- buy 10 combo lunches and get 10% off
- order 7 days in advance for added savings
- for picky eaters, sit down and review the menu with them to see what sounds good to them. We have found that encouraging their participation in selecting their lunches, opens them up more to trying new things

Woodinville Montessori School

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PA CORNER



If you have any ideas or questions for the Parent Association, please contact Dagny Cook at dagnycook@gmail.com.

To find out how you can volunteer to help (there are plenty of jobs, big and small), you can email Cathy Mithel at cmithel@aol.com.

RSVP to volunteer@woodinvillemontessori.org if you plan to attend an upcoming Volunteer Training Session.

To record your volunteer service hours, logon to **Parents Web**, click on the Family Information tab and then select the family member whose volunteer hours you will be entering. Click on the Service Hours tab, then Add Service Hours and then Save to submit.



Thank You WMS Volunteers!

by Cathy Mithel, PA Volunteer Coordinator

The vibrancy of our WMS community is due the carefully prepared environment, dedicated teachers and staff, and supportive families. Every day at WMS, in plain sight or behind the scenes, parents are volunteering. Whether in a back office sorting files, in the classroom listening to a child read, chaperoning a field trip, serving on a committee, or at home baking cupcakes, a parent's time and commitment to our school is deeply appreciated. The willingness to step up and get involved is truly what makes our school such an amazing community. One of the keys to the success of WMS rests in people like you -- it is the family-school partnership that helps to create the ideal environment to learn, grow and become.

If you are seeking ways to fulfill your family's 20-hour commitment, look for opportunities that are listed in the *Grapevine* and in your class newsletters and emails. Or please contact me at cmithel@aol.com.

Please remember to log your family's volunteer hours. Not only so we can thank you, but also because it is a key piece of information the school needs to demonstrate commitment to potential donors and supporters. Please click now on this [link](#) to log on to ParentsWeb and record your volunteer service hours online.

With sincere gratitude we thank these families who have already fulfilled and reported their commitment (as of 11/8/11):

20+ Hours:

Ana Martinez and Marcus Kirsch
Ellen and Blaine Wastell
Katherine and Brian Schmidt
Bettina and Ronnie Chaiken
Carli and Jeffrey McSorely
Dagny and Adam Cook

30+ Hours:

Lizzie and Justin Nelson
Lee and Jon Revere

40+ Hours:

Fiona and Peter Haynes

60+ Hours:

Lying Wong and John Chu
Cathy and Navin Mithel



Save the Date! March 1, 2011
**NurtureShock Author
coming to the Eastside**

Woodinville Montessori School is excited to sponsor Ashley Merryman's lecture on *NurtureShock: New Twists That Shape Children's Success* on March 1 at Washington Cathedral in Redmond.

With Po Bronson, Ashley Merryman is the co-author of *NurtureShock: New Thinking About Children*. NurtureShock is an exploration of the cutting edge research in child development and parenting.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us! Details coming soon regarding how to purchase tickets and a special WMS exclusive pre-lecture chat with Ashley Merryman.

If you would like to help with the planning of this event, contact Ellen Wastell at ewastell@woodinvillemontessori.org.



Tree of Thanks

Students in the Maple Classroom (Early Childhood) created this beautiful "tree of thanks." Every day they take some time to reflect on the things they are thankful for. Then they write these things on leaves and attach them to the tree.



Battery Recycling

by JH Environmental Committee

There will be a box in the front desk area for collecting batteries to be recycled. They will be taken to one of the King County Library System libraries by a junior high student, where they are recycled. Families and classes are requested to bring their batteries in.

phi-lan-thro-py (noun)

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."

~ Aristotle

Jr. High Student Business
Upcoming Events

- **Kids' Night Out (K.N.O)** - a Harvest theme for this week's KNO on Friday, November 18th from 6-10p.m.
- **Craft and Bake Sale** - come shop for great holiday gifts, cards, food and fun on Dec. 5 – 9.
- **Popcorn** is now being sold at two NC locations, at the front door and at the new Club House entrance.
- Look for the new **pizza** order forms coming out this week for December, January, and February.



Nov. 17 – Dec. 1

2011 Hopelink Holiday Food & Toy Drive

by Livia H., 6th grade student

For the next two weeks the 6th graders are doing their annual Hopelink Food and Toy Drive. This amazing project:

- **Helps teens and kids** have a wonderful holiday that they will never forget.
- **Provides food for families** who struggle to put necessities on the table.
- **Offers a message of hope and caring** at a time of increased need and stress for our less fortunate families.

Collection boxes will be located at both the Woodinville and North Creek campuses.

Please give generously with:

- **NEW, unwrapped items such as toys.**
- **Food donations of either staples** (pasta, soup, rice, tuna, peanut butter, canned fruits or veggies, cereal, flour, sugar, or oil) **or special holiday food supplies** (stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, baking mixes, cookie decorating items and ethnic delicacies).
- **Also for babies**, formula and diapers.

This is such a great and wonderful project to do. All of the kids get so excited, and the 6th grade students will collect and deliver all of your generous donations to Hopelink on December 2nd.

Please be a part of this wonderful school tradition!

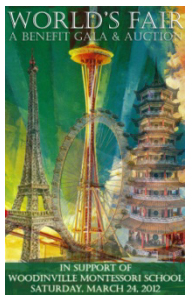
Looking for some gift suggestions?

Almost half of Hopelink's clients are children from birth through age 18. While it is lovely to find gifts for infants and toddlers, Hopelink has great need of gifts for teens and older kids too. Gift cards and certificates are always welcome and appreciated. If you want to know more about Hopelink go to www.hope-link.org.

Let's make a child's holiday wish come true!



- Thanks to **Sujata Banerjea, Chen Chen and Lilac Muller** for their help with the Annual Giving Program mailing to alumni & friends.
- Thanks to **Saila Pippalla and Payal Patel** for their help with the Annual Report mailing to current families, alumni and friends.
- A very warm thank you goes out to the **Teacher and Staff Appreciation Committee** for the wonderful soup lunch for all of the staff.
- Many thanks to the **parents, teachers and staff members** who attended the PA meeting with presenter Maryam Sadrzadeh, the center director from Evergreen Speech and Hearing on Tuesday, Nov. 15! It was an informative discussion about speech and communication development. Thanks to all those who volunteered their time. The next PA Parent Meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2012 and the PA would like to host another educational evening. Suggestions for topics are welcome.



Auction News

We are excited to announce that this year's auction will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2012! The room parents will soon be reaching out for help in coordinating and creating the art, craft, or handiwork that each class will provide as auction items, so please start thinking of those creative ideas that will help us raise the big bucks! This year's theme will be "World's Fair," which is a fun and meaningful platform to work with. More to come soon!

North Creek Drop off and Pick up Reminders

Thanks to everyone who helped make our adjustment to a second car line a fairly smooth process. Here are some reminders and further information about issues that have arisen as we activated this process.

- All walk-in students, parents and staff need to continue to enter and leave via the front door of the building.
- The new Club House door is only for car drop off or car pick up during arrival and dismissal times; or for walk up Club House pick up and drop off at other times.
- Please do not exit between the two buildings at arrival/dismissal. Drive past the north building and exit at the north end or, if the north exit is blocked, at the middle exit of the parking lot.

At this time we also want to remind you that we ask you not drop students younger than Junior High off at the front door without parking and walking them in. We have a growing number of families skipping the car lines and dropping kids off at the front door or in the parking lot. The fewer the number of people walking through the parking lot at arrival and dismissal the safer it is for all. Thanks for your cooperation.

Montessori Thoughts

Reprinted from Cypress Class News

I showed my son, a former student here, now a senior in high school, around the school a few days ago and I realized how proud I am of this school. Not only the new physical spaces, which Cypress has quickly become accustomed to, but the commitment of the staff and the community of parents. And, of course, the students, who bring a diversity of abilities and talents and interests.

I fell in love with Montessori when my own children were in preschool and I entered what must have been a "normalized" classroom, where children were quietly working in a fairly absorbed fashion. I have worked as an assistant and a lead teacher in early childhood, a co-teacher in lower elementary and now, for three years, as a co-teacher in this upper elementary class. I have seen a lot of changes in this school over the years, as my children and I came here when this school was two buildings at what is now the Woodinville campus.

I have every reason to believe that the school is heading in a positive direction, based on the steps that have happened so far. Although there may be, no will be, bobbles and challenges as we move into the future, I feel confident that this is a place that supports people and believes in children specifically. Montessori thought that we do not teach children but rather guide them and help them unfold and blossom into what they have the potential to be. This is not a cookie-cutter approach but an individualized one, where each person also needs to be aware of the importance of the contributions of others and, indeed, those throughout the world.

Our approach was validated at a recent educator conference where many of us heard Sal Kahn, who has put together thousands now of free online videos teaching math and a variety of other topics. He spoke about new ideas in education, and I was amazed to hear him promoting many concepts that sound like what we are already doing in Montessori education. He talked about "differentiated" education (individualized learning), mixed-age classrooms with peer mentorship and collaboration, and the role of the teacher being to observe and intervene when kids need help. "Do we have to separate kids by age?" he asked. "Not necessarily." And: "We want people to take charge of their own learning and interact more."

So I felt happy to be in a cutting-edge environment! My happiness was reinforced yesterday when our class, or rather, the sixth-graders, received a packet of beautiful thank-you notes from students in one of the lower elementary classes. They were sending them in gratitude for the sixth-year students' work on the Halloween party. They were beautiful, thoughtful notes. We are succeeding, I thought, in what we are doing.

- Liz Wimmer, Cypress Class Teacher

WMS Jr. High PIZZA TIME!

Dear Parents,

Thursdays the Jr. High will be ordering pizza for the Lower and Upper Elementary classes. To order, we need your child's name, their class name, and the number of lunches you would like to order. Please include your e-mail so we may contact you if necessary. Please check your child's calendar as we cannot credit for field trips or illnesses.

Lunch is \$5 per order, which includes two slices of pizza and fruit juice. You may fill out this form to pre-order or pick up an order form outside of your child's classroom and turn them in no later than Wednesday at 12:00.

Below is a list of dates that pizza will be available. Please circle the Thursday that you would like to order Pizza and turn it into the Jr. High with your payment (**checks only** made out to WMS please). Thank you!

Student Name: _____ Classroom: _____

e-mail address: _____

of lunches ordered: _____ Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Please check the box for your pizza selection.

	Cheese	Pepperoni	Veggie
Dec 1st			
Dec. 8th			
Dec. 15th			
Jan.5th			
Jan. 12th			
Jan. 19th	NO Pizza Jr. High off	campus. No Pizza Jr. High o	off campus.
Jan. 26th			
Feb. 2nd			
Feb. 9th			
Feb. 16th			