

**Newsletter • May 17, 2007**

*Greetings!* We have great parents who are always willing to pitch in and show our appreciation to teachers, make our campus beautiful, and foster the sense of community at school. Thank You! We are always looking for families interested in getting involved. The next major activity we need help coordinating is the Summer Picnic. Please volunteer in any way you can to help make this and other activities successful! *The Parent Organization*

**Highlights of activities and topics of study:**

**Preschool - North Room**

Our classroom is beginning an end of the year unit on Ocean life. The children are transforming the North room into a beautiful underwater world, as we study the amazing and strange creatures that live in our oceans and seas. One of the many ocean animals that we will be studying is the endangered Leatherback turtle. The children are raising money to help purchase land reserved for nesting grounds in Playa Garde on the coast of Costa Rico. This is such a wonderful opportunity to make a difference. Please help us save the Leatherback Turtles (send your pennies to the North room!) - Ms. Joey and Ms. Janel

**Preschool - East Room**

In the months of April and May we are exploring the cultural values of the children who live in different parts of the world. The children will gain exposure to various languages, food, clothing and regional crafts. We would like to thank all of the parents who have given their time and efforts to make this unit a success and for helping our students expand their knowledge on diversity. - Ms. Nadia and Ms. Vandana

**Preschool - West Room**

The chicks hatched last week and lived in our classroom for a week. The children were so excited to see the new little birds. Thank you to the Plamondons for donating the eggs and equipment for the third year. It is an experience students will not soon forget. We are busy learning about the solar system. The children created the Sun and all the planets from paper mache. It was a sticky mess and most loved it! - Ms. Tammy and Ms. Melissa

**Kindergarten**

The children are excited about the spring weather and practicing our graduation in May! The kindergarten students are beginning to create a time-line of their day, to reinforce reading and the concept of time. Thank you to all of the parents who listened to the Kindergartners read this year! - Ms. Tammy and Ms. Joey

**Lower Elementary**

The Lower El is buzzing with little busy bees this spring as we continue with math, language, science, and cultural studies. We have recently begun our study of spring birds and flowers and our last continent study of Africa. The children are enchanted by the African land, people, and particular, the animals. Our spring drama will consist of authentic African tales which are already stirring much excitement and enthusiasm, as well as outbursts of artistic expression, in the classroom. - Ms. Trixie and Ms. Rachel

## Upper Elementary

In our classroom, sometimes math and science come together in a very beautiful way. This happens when we study Weights and Measures. The children learn the metric system through measuring length, capacity, and weight. All children have a partner as they work in these three areas. If you see some of our upper elementary students on the playground with meter sticks, they are measuring outdoor equipment. They are also finding the perimeter and area of our playground. In the classroom, as the children measure liquids of different temperatures, they discover that water boils a little below 100 degrees centigrade because we live above sea level. They also become good at estimating the weight of objects when they use our metric scale. The children are discovering the logic and beauty of this system of scientific measurement as they estimate, measure, and record their findings. - Ms. Liz

## Junior High

As the school year quickly comes to a close, it is time to bid our graduating eighth graders good-bye. It is always sad to see them leave, but at the same time it is exciting as we witness a whole new world opening to them. Our current eighth grade class will be attending five different schools. James Norris and Alec DeCaro will be attending Marmion Academy in Aurora. Sara Mueller will go to Rosary and Brian Page will be a student at Aurora Central Catholic. Hayley Garside will go to Wheaton Academy. Brienne Tingley will be traveling to upper Michigan to attend Interlochen Fine Arts Academy. We wish all of these fine young people the very best. - Ms. Helen

## Blooming Plants: Donations Needed

If you have summer or fall blooming plants you are splitting out this spring, the sunny, elementary courtyard very much needs your donations. Please contact Ms. Liz about the plants you are willing to share and she can help you find a place to plant them.

## Parent Organization Activities

### Past Activities

- The March **Meet and Greet** at Funway Ultimate Entertainment Center was a huge hit! It was wonderful to have a large number of families sharing laughter and fun!
- The **Teacher Appreciation Lunch** was greatly enjoyed by the teachers. Thanks to Sabrina Budasi Martin for spearheading this delicious Spanish feast and a big thank you to the numerous volunteers that made this lunch special. Recipes for the delicious dishes served are available on the school's website.
- Spring **Campus clean up** helped beautify the grounds. Our children are so fortunate to have the opportunity to interact with nature within their school environment. Take a moment to walk around and see the flowers and plants emerging from their winter's rest and listen to the many birds singing their songs. Thank you to everyone that participated.
- Loyalty Day Parade was excellent!** Thanks to Vicki Stevens and Regis Snyder (Ms. Helen's husband) for working with the teachers to integrate the theme, "Vietnam Veterans, Yesterdays Heroes, Today's Leaders", into the classroom. We also thank Vicki Stevens for coordinating our schools' float for the parade.
- The May **Meet and Greet** was lots of fun! Thanks to our hosts the Weaver - Archibald Family.
- Planning for Next School Year: An Evening Meeting** brought together input from more families. We will have some morning and evening meetings next school year. If you want to be more involved and share your ideas for future activities and events to support our school community-we want you!!! If you would like to participate but were unable to attend meetings please contact Andrea Plamondon at 630-443-1031.

## Upcoming Activities

•**Waffle Wednesdays.** What's a Waffle Wednesday? Has your child come home talking about Waffle Wednesday? Wonder what that's all about? Waffle Wednesday started as an early morning birthday celebration for one family. Over time, other families got wind of the idea and now, a small group of families meet between 7 and 7:30 am at the Waffle House just north of school on Rt. 25. Jessica, the world's most patient waitress makes sure we are out of there before 8:20 so we can make it to school on time. If you are a morning person or you need incentive to get your little one out of bed easily, join us on Wednesdays. There are only 2 more Waffle Wednesdays this school year. Hope to see you there!

•**Volunteers needed** for the following activities over the summer:

- **Summer picnic** (June 16<sup>th</sup>): We need support persons. Thanks to Lisa Staheli for coordinating the event. Contact Lisa Staheli at 847-841-1474 to volunteer.
- **Campus Prairie Restoration Project:** We need 3 - 5 parents interested in being on the steering committee. We will work with some local naturalists and experts to develop and implement a plan to restore the prairie along the river behind the school. Contact Andrea Plamondon at 630-443-1031 to volunteer.

•We send a heartfelt *thank you* to Andrea Plamondon for her strong commitment to the Parent Organization and school community. Andrea successfully planned numerous activities throughout the year such as the Campus Clean Up, Meet and Greets, and 4-H Club.

•Check the calendar on the website ([www.MontessoriBatavia.com](http://www.MontessoriBatavia.com)) and bulletin boards for more information about ongoing and future events and activities.

The primary purpose of this newsletter is to inform families about the activities in the Montessori environment so that we can work together for the education of the children. If you have topics that you want to see in this newsletter please contact Susan Vonderheid Radeztsky at [vonde@uic.edu](mailto:vonde@uic.edu) or 630-906-0569.