

## Get Involved!

Are you Creative, Organized, Handy or just plain Enthusiastic?

We need your time and your talent to make our school community grow and flourish. We have jobs in all sizes that require different talents, find one that suits you to a tee.

In addition to the activities included in this booklet, you may get involved in school activities by participating as a:

- ❖ Classroom mother/father,
- ❖ Reading with the students,
- ❖ Participating in a service project (e.g., recycling; Andrea Plamondon, Coordinator),

To learn more about events and activities please check the school's website [www.montessoribatavia.com](http://www.montessoribatavia.com) or contact one of the Activity Leaders listed in the booklet to find out how you can help.

## Volunteers make our school community great.

*Snowflakes melt alone - but together they can be traffic stoppers!*

*Teamwork allows common people to attain uncommon results.*

*Some people want it to happen, some wish it to happen, others make it happen.*

*Volunteers aren't paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.*

*Anonymous*

# Parents and Patrons Organization -PPO- Events and Information 2008-2009 September 2, 2008



Montessori Academy  
595 S. River St  
Batavia, Illinois 60510  
630-879-2586

## PPO Calendar

Event	Date/Time	Activity Coordinator
Montessori Spirit Sales	September	Travis & Bridget Renn Susan Vonderheid
PPO Meeting	Wed., Sept. 3 8:30-9:30 a.m.	Susan Vonderheid
Meet & Eat at the Farm	Fri. Sept. 5 5:30-9:00 p.m.	Bronwyn Weaver Bob Archibald
Campus Clean up and Picnic Potluck	Sat., Sept. 27 9:00 a-2:30 p	Caryl Riley
Family Field Trip	TBD October	Kelle Berggren Laura Snavelly
Family Photos on Campus	Oct 18 or 19	Caryl Riley
BBQ Dinner Fundraiser	Friday, Oct 17	Vicki Stevens
Gingerbread Man Fundraiser	Nov. 7	Scott Radeztsky Melissa Willer
Poinsettia Fundraiser	Starts Friday Nov. 14	Vicki Stevens
Meet & Eat - Drum Circle at Music Matters	Friday Nov. 14 5:45 - 7:45	Andrea Plamondon
PPO Meeting	Wed., Dec. 3 8:30-9:30 a.m.	Susan Vonderheid
Meet & Eat	Friday Jan. 16 5:30-7:30 p.m.	<b>VOLUNTEER NOW</b>
PPO Meeting	Wed., Feb.4 8:30-9:30 a.m.	Susan Vonderheid
Cougars Reading Program (Kane County Cougars)	Starts Feb ends in April with game-	Talitha Mueller
Dinner Dance Fundraiser	TBD Feb/Mar	Diane Spehar Jill Stevens
Family Ski Trip	Sat., Feb 7	Andrea Plamondon
PPO Meeting	Wed., Mar. 4 8:30-9:30 a.m.	Susan Vonderheid
Meet & Skate	Fri., Mar. 6 7:00 p.m.	<b>VOLUNTEER NOW</b>
Teacher & Staff Luncheon	Fri. Mar 27	Sabrina Martin Sue Passalaqua
Campus Clean Up	Sat Apr 18	<b>VOLUNTEER NOW</b>
Loyalty Day Parade/Picnic	Sun., May 3	<b>VOLUNTEER NOW</b>

## COMMUNICATIONS

### School Newsletter

The PPO develops a school newsletter about four times per Academic year. The newsletter includes a message from Miss Liz, Director of Montessori Academy, and specific information about classroom activities from the teachers. 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 (630-906-0569 or [vonde@uic.edu](mailto:vonde@uic.edu)).

### E-mail Communications

The PPO uses email as an efficient way to communicate about activities and to look for volunteers. Watch for e-mail messages to keep you updated. If you do not want to be included in e-mail messages, please contact Susan Vonderheid (630-906-0569 or [vonde@uic.edu](mailto:vonde@uic.edu)).

### PPO Meetings

**(Sept. 3; Dec. 3; Feb. 4, 2009; Mar 4)**

General Meetings are held quarterly on Wednesday mornings from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in Ms. Stacie's Office. Activity Coordinators also will hold more specific meetings to work out details of their projects. If you'd like to get involved but are unable to attend meetings please contact Susan Vonderheid (630-906-0569 or [vonde@uic.edu](mailto:vonde@uic.edu)) or the Coordinator of the activity you are interested in.

### Website

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

### PPO Contacts

Susan Vonderheid, PPO President (630-906-0569)  
Caryl Riley, PPO Treasurer (630-442-5385)

## Classroom Support Activities

### For Small Hands – Gifts with a Montessori Philosophy in Mind

Earn free Montessori Materials for our school from **Sept. 1st to Dec. 31st.**

When you place an order for over \$25 from the online catalog [www.forsmallhands.com](http://www.forsmallhands.com) and designate Montessori Academy (#114700) as the credit recipient, our school receives 10% of the merchandise total in merchandise credit certificates.

Contact: Susan Vonderheid ([vonde@uic.edu](mailto:vonde@uic.edu) or 630-906-0569)



### BoxTops for Education

Box Tops offers three easy ways to earn cash for our school through everyday activities like buying groceries, shopping on-line and making purchases with a credit card – **all at no additional cost to you.** Remember to tell your friends and family to sign up too.

- **Clip:** Clip Box Tops from hundreds of participating products from General Mills, Dow, Pillsbury and Kimberly Clark. Box Tops are worth 10¢ each when our school redeems them for Box Tops for Education. **Please drop off your Box Tops in a baggie to the Office.**
- **Shop:** Shop your favorite on-line stores at the Box Tops Marketplace. Up to 8% of each qualifying purchase is donated to our school. Remember that you must go to the Box Tops website ([www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)), log-in, select “Marketplace” and select the store you want to shop at. It then takes you to the store’s website and you continue as you usually do when ordering on-line.
- **Charge:** Earn a full 1% on every purchase for our school with the Box Tops Visa card.

Contact: Deb Flanagan, Lower-El (630-761-0892)

### Campbell Soup Labels for Education

You can help Montessori earn free merchandise such as books, computers, A/V equipment, physical education equipment, and more simply by collecting Campbell product proofs of purchase and forwarding them to Montessori. It's easy to pitch in. Simply save product proofs of purchase and send them in to school.

Contact: Sue Passalacqua ([Suzi0221@aol.com](mailto:Suzi0221@aol.com) or 630-892-4975)



### Scholastic Book Orders

Help expand your child’s library at home while at the same time helping to expand the classroom libraries. Age appropriate Book catalogs and order forms will be sent home with your child on a monthly basis.

Contact: Sue Passalacqua ([Suzi0221@aol.com](mailto:Suzi0221@aol.com) or 630-892-4975)

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Welcome to the new academic year at Montessori Academy. The information in this booklet will help you learn about the many different ways that families and friends can participate in your child's school activities. Greater involvement will foster a greater sense of caring in our school community. Whether you have one hour or more, we hope that you are able to join us as we have fun together throughout the year. These are fun and simple ways to get involved at the school! ---The PPO

### Family Activities

#### Meet & Eat: Friday Night Family Get-Together

(September 5, November 14, January 16, March 6 and April Cougar's Game)

Several times each year families come together to share a meal, let the children play together and engage in an activity. Each Meet & Eat presents an opportunity to get to know one another and fosters a sense of community at our school. Stop by anytime and stay as long as you like.

Our first Meet & Eat will be Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at Bob and Bronwyn Archibald's farm ([hpmfarm.com](http://hpmfarm.com)). Contact Bronwyn at [bron@hpmfarm.com](mailto:bron@hpmfarm.com) or 630-443-8253 by September 4<sup>th</sup> to RSVP. Watch for flyers for additional information about this fun filled time!

**Get Involved:** Volunteers are needed to organize the January and March Meet & Eat.

Contact: Susan Vonderheid (630-906-0569 or [vonde@uic.edu](mailto:vonde@uic.edu)).

#### Campus Picnics

(Saturday, September 27 and Sunday, May 3)

While the majority of Meet & Eat events are on Fridays, this year we are planning two potluck picnics to coincide with other activities on campus.

Look for more information and for volunteer sign-up sheets in classrooms.



#### Tuition Reimbursement Program – TRIP (Monthly Orders)



Want to be reimbursed for part of your tuition and help the school raise money at the same time? The TRIP Gift Card program will pay you for your participation! The program is simple. Gift Cards can be used to purchase anything from groceries, fuel, clothing, toys, and cosmetics to entertainment, electronics, home improvement, or household services (over 300 stores). To see a complete list of stores go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com). Gift Cards are also a great gift idea for anyone and for any occasion.

You purchase the cards, use them to purchase things you would purchase anyway and earn credit towards your tuition. Our families participating in the program have earned more than \$1,500 in tuition credits! We have several order periods throughout the year. You may order directly online, or you may use hard-copy order forms (available in Ms. Stacie's office). Tuition Credits will be applied for January and May tuitions payments.

Contact: Caryl Riley at 630-442-5385 or [mommyzilla@comcast.net](mailto:mommyzilla@comcast.net)

#### Dinner Dance Fundraiser

(TBD – Feb/Mar)

Montessori Academy will host the First Annual Dinner Dance Fundraiser to be held this winter, Feb-Mar 2009. Funds will go towards sustaining student enrichment programs and continuing education for teachers among other school needs. The event will be open to teachers, staff, parents and friends of Montessori Academy. Possible activities include "Silent Auction" and wine tasting among others.

#### Get involved:

- ∇ Developing a theme
- ∇ Finding a location for Dinner/Dance
- ∇ Finding vendors for "Silent Auction"
- ∇ Inviting individuals to purchase tickets to the dinner/dance
- ∇ Determining entertainment, if necessary.

The school's PPO welcomes financial donations that will help sponsor this event, and/or products/services that can be auctioned off at the event.

Those interested in volunteering, making a donation or underwriting the event can contact Diane Spehar (630-327-6391 or [d.spehar@mchsi.com](mailto:d.spehar@mchsi.com)), Event Coordinator, or Jill Stevens (630-326-9282) for additional information.

## Fund Raising Activities (con't)

### **BBQ Dinner Fundraiser** (Friday, October 17)

Montessori Academy will host its annual Friday evening Drive-Thru BBQ Dinner in October. We enlist both student and parental help as we assist "5-B's BBQ" in serving the hundreds of chicken and pork dinners to our school families and supporters. Tickets are mostly pre-sold via information that is sent home to each family, with last minute drive-by tickets also being sold that evening.

**Get Involved:** We are looking for parents to assist in putting together the dinner take-out trays and generally keeping the working students organized. It's an easy, one evening event that takes about 3 hours total time!

Contact: Vicki Stevens 630-443-5385 or [vstevens@firstindustrial.com](mailto:vstevens@firstindustrial.com) .

### **Poinsettia Fundraiser** (Sales in November – Delivery in December)



This is a very easy fundraiser that takes place before Christmas. These poinsettias make great personal and corporate gifts! This will be our second year selling poinsettias. We work with a local nursery that provides florist-grade plants. A poinsettia order form and a cover letter explaining the fundraiser is distributed to each family. We ask that the order form and monies be returned to the school office by a certain date.

**Get Involved:** We are looking for parents to assist in classroom coordination for the sale and distributing the orders when they arrive. It's an easy, one afternoon event that takes about 2 hours total time!

Contact: Vicki Stevens 630-443-5385 or [vstevens@firstindustrial.com](mailto:vstevens@firstindustrial.com).

### **Gingerbread Man Fundraiser** (Order by Nov. 7 & return by Dec. 9)

Show your family creativity this year! We will be selling undecorated yard signs in the shape of gingerbread men. Families are invited to decorate their gingerbread men and return their completed projects to campus by Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> so we may display them on campus during the holiday season. Students will vote for their favorites and prizes will be awarded (just for fun!) The display will be placed along the campus drive. You may pick up your Gingerbread man before Holiday Break. Figures will be approximately 2x2 feet. A limited number of figures will be available, so place your order early



Contact: Susan Vonderheid (630-906-0569 or [vonde@uic.edu](mailto:vonde@uic.edu)) or Melissa Willer (630-205-5349 or [mwiller@mybpl.org](mailto:mwiller@mybpl.org))

## Family Activities (con't)

### **Campus Clean-Up** (Sat., Sept. 27 and Sat., Apr. 18)

Help beautify the grounds and spruce up our equipment at this Fall and Spring event. Our children are so fortunate to have the opportunity to interact with nature within their school environment. The activity is ideal for the entire family and the children have a lot of fun helping. Plan to attend our **Potluck Picnic** after the Clean-up in September.

**Get Involved:** Volunteers are needed to help pull weeds, plant flowers, clean-up our back woods (chainsaws and saws needed) and general sprucing up of the campus and equipment.

Contact: Caryl Riley at 630-418-2619 or [mommyzilla@comcast.net](mailto:mommyzilla@comcast.net).

### **Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon** (Friday, March 27)

Every year the PPO provides all Montessori Academy teachers and staff an opportunity to enjoy a fabulous gourmet lunch together --- with no interruptions. It's our way of saying "thanks" and gives us an opportunity to do a little something special for our teachers and staff once a year.

**Get involved:** Volunteers are needed to support the following activities:

- ▽ Prepare/cook food
- ▽ Prepare decorations, table settings
- ▽ Set up and clean up
- ▽ Child care during the event

Contact: Sabrina Martin (630-879-0952 or [budamart@comcast.net](mailto:budamart@comcast.net)) or Sue Passalacqua (630-892-4975 or [Suzi0221@aol.com](mailto:Suzi0221@aol.com))

### **4-H Club** (Meets at school once a month)

Does participation in a 4-H Club make a difference in a young person's life? – YES!. Several of our students entered projects in the Kane County Fair this year. The history about the national 4-H Club can be found at [www.national4-hheadquarters.gov](http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov) We are fortunate to have Andrea Plamondon (630-443-1031 or [andrea.c.plamondon@accenture.com](mailto:andrea.c.plamondon@accenture.com)) and Sabrina Martin (630-879-0952 or [budamart@comcast.net](mailto:budamart@comcast.net)) coordinate this exciting program at our school. Watch for flyers about additional information.

### **Kane County Cougar Reading Program**

(Starts in February, Attend Game with school in April - TBD)

Jump into reading and join in the school for a Cougar's Baseball Night at Elfstrom Stadium. Students and their parents read a certain period of time each week, track their progress, and if they complete the program earn a free baseball ticket to a Cougars Game. The program is open to all students, preschool – Jr. High, and their families. It is an 8-week voluntary reading program. More information will be sent out in the spring.

Contact: Talitha Mueller 630-406-7688

## Family Activities (con't)

### Montessori Family Field Trips

We have two Montessori Family Field Trips to have adventure and fun while fostering a sense of school community! In the past, for the Autumn Trip we visited the Adler Planetarium and the Field Museum.

This autumn, we would like to have your ideas for the field trip. Would you like to explore the Morton Arboretum, Peck Farm Park, or some other exciting place?

**Get Involved:** To help with ideas and activities

**Contact:** Kelle Berggren 312-498-4701 or Laura Snavelly 630-402-0094

**Winter Field Trip to Wilmot Ski Hill** (Saturday Feb. 7, conditions permitting). Watch for flyers with additional information.

Contact: Andrea Plamondon 630-443-1031 or [andrea.c.plamondon@accenture.com](mailto:andrea.c.plamondon@accenture.com)

### Loyalty Day Parade and Picnic (Sunday, May 3)

Are you creative? Like parades? Enjoy working with students? This is the activity for you! Montessori again will be entering a float in the Annual Loyalty Day Parade. Participation in this parade is important for Montessori Academy as a Batavia community member.



The parade, started in 1975, is sponsored, organized, and operated by the Batavia VFW. This is a day of loyalty to the Flag, and the Servicemen and women who have kept our country free. Every year the parade grows bigger with all the community members who participate. The parade has been and is the Best Loyalty Day Parade in the State of Illinois for six straight years.

The Jr. High and Upper-El Students work hard to create the float and the entire school can participate on parade day.

**Get involved** as an event coordinator(s) or as a support person. Volunteers are needed to:

- ▽ Collaborate with teachers and students to develop our school's float,
- ▽ Create decorations and construct the float,
- ▽ Participate in the parade, attend the parade and school picnic afterwards

Contact: Susan Vonderheid 630-906-0569 or [vonde@uic.edu](mailto:vonde@uic.edu)

## School Spirit

### Montessori Academy Sportswear and Magnet Sales (Sept/Oct)

Show your school spirit and stay warm in cooler weather! We offer one-stop shopping for sweatshirts, t-shirts, caps and other exciting items with the Montessori Academy logo. Apparel is fairly priced and easy to order. In addition to being worn by students and parents, this apparel makes great gifts for extended family members who enjoy showing their school pride! Look for order forms the beginning of school.

**Get involved** as a coordinator(s) or as a support person

**Contact:** Susan Vonderheid 630-906-0569 or [vonde@uic.edu](mailto:vonde@uic.edu)

## Fund Raising Activities

The Montessori Academy fundraising activities focus on two major areas to maximize our children's learning environments: 1) Enrichment of the classroom and curriculum; and 2) Maintenance and improvements to the school campus.

The majority of funds we raise are used to purchase special items for the enrichment of the classrooms. Last year, we purchased Montessori Work cabinets for the Preschool and Kindergarten; Montessori Materials, Cushions and Reading Pillows for Lower-El; New Montessori Time-lines for Upper-El; and Chairs for Jr. High. We also purchased new Gym Equipment, shrubs, plants and mulch for the campus, as well as funded enrichment classes in Dance and culture for Kindergarten, Lower- and Upper-el classrooms.

We offer a variety of fund-raising efforts in the hopes that one will "suit you." Please don't feel obligated to participate in any fund-raiser that does not fit your family budget or schedule.

### Family Photos on Campus (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend of October)

If you are planning to go to the photographer for a family holiday photo, why not schedule your family photo (pets too) at our Family Photo Day? Photos are taken outside on our beautiful grounds. With your photo package you may purchase a photo CD for purchase so you can make your own holiday cards, mugs, etc. Space is limited and appointments are on a first-come basis.

Contact: Caryl Riley at 630-418-2619 or [mommyzilla@comcast.net](mailto:mommyzilla@comcast.net).