GALA FAQ's

When and where is the Gala this year:
The Gala will be held on Saturday, May 31st at Berry Hills Country Club.

What is the “Prom” theme about?
We chose the prom theme because we think it will be such good fun to recreate a special time in our lives (or, in some cases, give us a second chance to get it right)!

What am I supposed to wear?
You can choose to take the idea seriously and go all out with your prom attire, or you can have a little fun with it and go “retro”, recreating your prom look from high school, or you can go for the LBD (little black dress) look. Your choice.

Why aren’t there going to be children there this year?
This was a very tough choice to make since the children were such an important and wonderful part of last year’s Gala. We decided to showcase them on a different night, though, so that this year’s Gala could be a fun, relaxing, grown-up evening. We will get to see the children perform in all their glory in a concert on Wednesday, May 14th (see sidebar).

Why should I go to the Gala?
We are hoping the every family will come this year. It’s about so much more than raising money for the school. It’s about coming together as a community and enjoying each other’s company. It’s events like this that make a school community more like a family and helps all the different sectors of our community connect with each other.

Is there anything particularly special about this year’s Gala?
As a matter of fact, there is one pretty amazing thing in addition to all of the special fun that is planned. The legendary WVU Coach, Bob Huggins, will be our special guest speaker. This is an extremely rare chance to hear one of the “greats” tell his stories and get up close and personal.

Will there be Luminaria Awards this year?
For this year, we decided to honor some special people who are closely connected to our school in a simple ceremony at the Gala.

What else will be happening at the Gala?
Lots! There will be a silent auction, a live auction, live music, a sit-down dinner, an open bar, and – of course – dancing.

How are the children going to be involved?
Each class is preparing a project to donate to the Gala to be auctioned off. Every student will be contributing to their class projects. Look for some beautiful and unique works of art.

Can I still buy tickets for the Free Tuition Raffle?
There are a very few tickets left. Please call or see Beth if you’d like one.

How can I help?
We need items for the silent auction and we need sponsors. Silent auction items do not need to be big, expensive things. We can take small donations and put them together to make really lovely packages, so please feel free to ask for small donations from the businesses you regularly deal with, or to donate things from home that you think might be good to auction. And, please consider sponsoring the event. All of the details for these opportunities will be sent to you in a letter shortly.
THE SMALLEST PINK CUBE

Fran’s Class

It’s gone again. This happens. The smallest pink cube is missing. Every Montessorian recognizes the pink tower and its beloved smallest piece. Apart from conveying abstract mathematical concepts through concrete, sensorial experience…it’s just plain cute. Dr. Montessori recognized the child’s sensitive period for small objects. I don’t think any other piece of the Montessori material draws the affection of the child as does the smallest pink cube.

As if the cube has its own personality and plans, it makes its way into the strangest places. It even finds its way into the pockets and homes of children only to return. Sometimes it mysteriously reappears in its place of order. Sometimes there is a ripple of excitement when it has been found again.

For some reason, this phenomenon of the ‘leaving and returning’ pink cube reminds me of the many Montessorians who return to MMS each year to say hello and revisit their classrooms. They recognize the impact of this educational foundation. They are thankful for this foundation in both their academic and social development. For many, seeing the materials is like seeing old friends. After all, it was through handling these materials they were able to internalize abstract concepts and construct their intellect.

It was through open dialogue and research they learned to ask more questions and love learning. It is interesting to talk to those who had the privilege of experiencing a Montessori foundation. Perhaps there is a piece to this foundation that is unconscious yet invaluable. A woman I met said, “I really don’t remember much about my first years in Montessori, but I remember knowing that my teacher loved me.” (She’s a Montessori teacher now.)

KATHRYN’S CLASS

There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature, the assurance that the dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter.” There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature, the assurance that the dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter.” Spring has sprung forth in the spirit of our young friends. The emotions and impressions of the senses are the fertile soil in which the seeds of knowledge root and grow. The children have been learning about the component parts of a seed and are propagating plants, eagerly anticipating their growth and development. They check the plant’s progress daily, sometimes hourly, to see if they observe any changes. Other changes in the natural environment have been observed, as well. The buds on the trees have captured the attention of our young friends, and they have noticed, in detail, how these buds grow and change with increasing sunlight and rain. The reemergence of perennials: snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, and jonquils, brought forth joyful rediscovery. The variety of birds, each having a unique song, has inspired many to learn more about birds - those which winter here, and those which return in migration. We explored the development of a bird embryo, and we talked about the ways humans use eggs for both nutrition and art. We have a guest artist scheduled on our return from spring break, who will demonstrate the art of Pysanky, Ukrainian egg decorating. Children discover, in intricate detail, the myriad ways the Earth is adorned. Perhaps, because they themselves are small, and closer to the ground, they notice and delight in what is small and inconspicuous. It is there, where nature’s most exquisite handiwork is on a miniature scale, that wonder and inquiry guide the children, and their discoveries fundamentally shape who they will become.
JUNIOR ELEMENTARY
Peace Curriculum (cont. from last issue)

Those who received the “South Wind” are representing the warmth of the South Wind that “softens us to have goodness in our hearts and mildness in our speech.” And the group that received the “West Wind” are developing a skit around the idea that, (end of part 1)

“When we see the setting sun gift us with thankfulness for a day well spent.”

Jr. Elementary students are also writing essays about Peace. When asked how Peace appears in our lives the children came up with the following essay and discussion topics:

- Love and Friendship
- Fairness and Fun
- Respect and Integrity
- Caring and Compassion
- Helpful Citizens
- Cooperation and Teamwork
- Empathy and Diversity
- Hopefulness and Positive Attitude

Sky Kershner will also join our class once per week in order to help the students study Peaceful Conflict Resolution. We are honored to have his professional input regarding the development of our Peace Curriculum.

The Montessori Peace Curriculum really begins with the study of “Practical Life” in the Primary Classroom. The Primary students learn how to take care of their learning materials and their environment. By the time the students reach Jr. Elementary age this consciousness extends beyond the classroom to the local environment and ultimately the world in which we live.

Maria Montessori believed that the needs of the whole child must be met through education. Montessori had been a victim of Italian fascism during WWII and developed her Peace Curriculum while in exile in India.

ADVANCED ELEMENTARY
Passport to the World Day at U.C.

On April 3, our Advanced Elementary class had a chance to attend the annual WorldFest, presented by The University of Charleston Global Student Organization (GSO). This year’s theme was “Passport to the World.” It featured internationally themed food, language-learning workshops, exhibits representing different countries, student performances, and an international fashion show. The event provided our students with a unique opportunity to learn about different cultures and worldviews.

MMS students visited the various countries’ booths to sample foods, talk with GSO students, and learn how their names are written and pronounced in different languages. Some were able to connect with GSO students from their parents’ homelands. Others filled passports, which were distributed by the university, with stamps from all the countries represented.

After examining the artifacts and other materials at each booth, the students took their seats to enjoy a fashion show and musical performance. We were all wowed by the beautiful clothing and traditional songs and dances. At the end, most joined in on a traditional Middle East Folklore dance called Debka on stage. It was a thrill to see their smiles and laughter as they snaked around the room, arm in arm with older students from around the world.
MMS FACES & PLACES

Connect with us: