Welcome To Our New Teachers!

There are lots of exciting and positive changes in the air at school these days!

Our much-loved Suzanne Sanders (Upper El Teacher) will be taking the Montessori Adolescent Teaching Course this summer so that she can become the lead teacher in our new Middle School Program. She will be assisted by Rachel Scarpelli who was the assistant in the Lower El this year. Rachel and Suzanne will combine their skills in order to develop and run a program that will be rich in the sciences, arts, humanities and math.

Jason Winesburg is going to be our new Upper El Teacher. Jason earned his Montessori Certification from Loyola University and has been teaching for the past five years. He comes to us with stellar references and a clear passion for teaching. A former Montessori student himself, he chose to give up an IT career to return to the classroom. Jason will be assisted by the always-amazing Nancy Johnston. Jason’s parting words to me as I dropped him off at the airport to return home: “I will work fiendishly to do a good job.”

Because our enrollment continues to increase, we are going to open a second Lower Elementary Class (grades one – three). The new teacher for this class is Rebecca Moore (Becca). Her son, Drew, joined Kathryn’s Primary Class earlier this year. Becca has a B.A. in Elementary Education and is currently a teacher with the Kanawha County Schools. She will be starting her Montessori Elementary Training Course at the Milwaukee Center for Montessori Studies this summer. Becca will not have completed her training by the time school starts next August, so I will be Becca’s Mentor/Assistant in the class, supplementing her training and supporting her on a daily basis. David and Amanda will continue to teach the other Lower Elementary class.

We will also be welcoming a new Primary Teacher, Julianna Phillips (Jasmine’s sister), who will assist and co-teach with Lead Teacher Samantha Van den Bergh. Both Julianna and Samantha have their Bachelor’s degrees (Julianna has three!) and they will be taking their Montessori training this summer. In order to support them as they learn how to be lead Montessori teachers, our veteran teacher, Susie Newcomb, will be mentoring them, along with our beloved Kathryn Rhoads. Kathryn will take over Fran’s class, assisted by Gloria Lopez, our current Plus Program teacher.

Every class will have a familiar face or two and teaching teams were carefully formed to bring out the best in each teacher. Class lists will be sent out in a few weeks, letting you know which class your child will be in. Please know that we spend many hours compiling these lists, taking many factors into consideration including social dynamics, special needs, teacher compatibility, and academic needs. We take extreme care to make the best possible combinations of teachers and students.

You will have a chance to meet all of our new teachers in August at a special reception. Details will be included in your summer mailing packet.

In the meantime, be sure to get your registration in for our Best Summer Program Ever!

Upcoming Events

All-School Picnic at Coonskin Park - Thursday, June 5th from 11-2.

June 11 - Deadline to register in order to get discount for Summer Camp Program.

August 18 - First day of school

Office Notes

There are no words adequate enough to express the gratitude and the awe that we feel for the Gala Committee, chaired by Amy Hill.

This amazing group not only raised a record-breaking amount of money for the school, they put on an event that as Ben Zacks put it, “...was the most fun I’ve ever had at an event like this.”

We will let you know as soon as we figure it out how much money the Gala raised. For now, we just want to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
We will be offering two enriched Summer Camps programs this summer. The programs are divided up by age group and are offered in three two-week sessions:

**Arts and Sciences Camp**  
(For children entering first through sixth grades)  
9:00-3:00, June 23 through August 1  
Campers will get to choose from a menu of classes such as: Cooking, Sports, Arts & Crafts, Academic Skills, Nature Studies, Science, Drama, Scrapbooking, Fitness & Games, Track & Field, Knitting/Fiber Arts, Sewing and Music & Dancing

**Summer to Grow On Camp**  
(For children entering preschool and kindergarten)  
9:00-12:00, June 23 through August 1  
For our younger friends, we will be offering a program which will feature a different theme each week. Some examples include: Art Week, World Olympics, Music Week, Around the World in a Week, Cooking up a Storm, Fun with Water and so on. Run by our own Plus Program staff.

All of the details are on our website, and in the brochures that have been sent home. Remember to register by June 11 for the discounted rates!

A MONTESSORI SUMMER

**Fran’s Class**

Montessorians believe parents are the primary teachers in a child’s life. Parents often ask what they can “work on” over the summer months. In this plane of development (3-6 years), children need order, routine, and exploration. With that in mind, here is your summer homework: If possible, slow down. Take advantage of the summer pace. After all, how can we provide sufficient opportunities for children to care for themselves and the environment when we are rushing about? How can we encourage independence when we intervene to move faster from point A to point B? How can we truly enjoy our children when rushing from here to there? What a gift to ourselves and to our children when we can move more gracefully through the day. We can really listen. We can really see them. Second, snuggle up and read, read, read to your child. Finally, think rich sensorial experience. The kitchen and the outdoors offer much for the small child. Maria Montessori said, “A man is not what he is because of the teachers he has had, but because of what he has done.”

Each year, parents, teachers, and administrators continue working together to protect and respect these precious beings in our care. As we wind down the school year, Maria and I agree it has been an honor to be your partners in this educational process. May you have a safe, happy, healthy summer.

KATHRYN’S CLASS - A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS
This past Thursday, the Junior Elementary class took a bus trip to Cranberry Glades. Cranberry Glades is a botanical nature preserve in Monogalia National Forest located near Richwood, West Virginia. This was a long trip for the 6-9 year old class, but it was well worth the drive!

Cranberry Glades is the largest natural acidic wetland in West Virginia. It is a mountaintop swamp or “bog”. There are a wide variety of plants there that are also found in the northernmost regions of Canada. Pink orchids, pitcher plants, mosses, lichen and trees such as red spruce, eastern hemlock, yellow birch, American beech, sugar maple, black cherry, white ash and magnolia pervade the area.

At the Cranberry Glades Nature Center we met Mr. Roy Moose, a retired schoolteacher who introduced us to a grouping of indigenous snakes! He showed us a live rattlesnake, a copperhead, a milk snake, a black snake, a garter snake, a Northern redbellied snake and a smooth green snake; just some of the 21 species of snakes in West Virginia. Mr. Moose is a snake expert who loves his job! The children sat spellbound for almost an hour while he answered their questions and shared the snakes with them. Our students proved to be very knowledgeable about reptiles and their habitats.

In early May, the Advanced Elementary students went on a three-day field trip to Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown, Virginia. As a finale to this year’s U.S. history lessons, they got to walk in the footsteps of John Smith and Pocahontas, Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and Lord Cornwallis.

The trip started in Colonial Williamsburg, as the students learned about various professional trades and how, in the 1700s, children as young as they might have served as apprentices to learn a wage-earning skill. They also got to tour the reconstructed colonial capitol and governor’s mansion not to mention the historic jail. That night, they all enlisted in the Continental Army and drilled like soldiers. To put it lightly, not too many will be volunteering to re-enlist; however, they did get a better understanding of the dedication and commitment of the farmers who won America’s independence.

The next day included visits to Jamestown and Yorktown, or, as our guide noted, “where the 13 colonies began and where they ended.” Jamestown Settlement offered a close-up look into our nation’s first permanent English settlement. The students got to try their hands at making ship knots; toured a recreation of the Susan Constant, one of the three original ships that arrived in Jamestown; try on period armor and helmets; and scrape a deer skin with a reproduction Indian scraper. Meanwhile, they learned about the human costs of English settlement—the near genocide of Indians living in eastern Virginia, the enslavement of Africans, and the startling high death rates of Jamestown’s pioneer settlers.

At the Yorktown Victory Center, they got a closer look at how Revolutionary War soldiers fought and lived and then made a quick stop at the Yorktown battlefield—where America’s independence was won. All the while, they witnessed (and heard very loudly!) numerous demonstrations of period muskets and rifles.

The last two stops on the trip were perhaps the most fun. The students (and chaperones) got to play authentic African percussion instruments and create their own dances. As part of this session, they learned about African culture and the importance of social activities on colonial slave plantations. The last day offered a chance to let loose at Busch Gardens amusement park, where they rode coasters and rapids and got completely soaked on the Last Days of Pompeii water ride.

It was an exhausting but exciting trip. Hopefully, all the students created lasting memories they will remember the rest of their lives.
MMS Faces & Places

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