



MOUNTAINEER MONTESSORI SCHOOL

December 15, 2014

Calendar Review

- 12/15 Board Meeting, 6 PM
- 12/19 Winter Concert, 11 AM,
Columbia Gas Auditorium,
1700 MacCorkle Avenue (main
entrance) followed by noon
dismissal from concert
- 12/19 School closes at noon until January
5, 2015. Plus Program Closed for
school break.
- 1/5/15 School Resumes
- 1/13 Parent Education Night 6PM
(Reserve Plus Program-no charge)
- 1/19 Board Meeting, 6 PM

Winter Concert

This is a first for MMS! The concert will be held at Columbia Gas Auditorium, 1700 MacCorkle Avenue. Park and enter the building through the main entrance. Each family is asked to bring a snack to share (enough for 10 people). All children will be walking to the auditorium from school.

Following the concert, there will be refreshments and dismissal from the auditorium. We look forward to seeing you

Book Fair & Food Sale Wrap-up

Many thanks to all for supporting the book fair and food sale. We appreciated the variety of homemade goods. We are grateful for the parents and grandparents who volunteered during the sale and for the coordinators – Diana Johnson, Lee Roush, Elizabeth Scharman. Net funds raised for the school were about \$2000.

Re-enrollment for 2015-16

Re-enrollment for the 2015-16 school year is right around the corner. Look for more information in mid to late January.

Our Website/Social Media

Be sure to keep abreast of all that is on our website, www.MountaineerMontessori.org. It connects to our Facebook page and twitter feed too. Parent and Board Member, JoEllen Zacks, keeps it updated with happenings at our school and interesting, impactful articles about Montessori education.

From our Staff and Board:

We wish our families a safe and relaxing break and look forward to our work together in the new year!

Special Thanks to...

- Shelly Winowich, volunteer extraordinaire, She is the brainchild of our spaghetti dinners, a *delicious*, community building event. She has worked countless hours on all functions at MMS – galas, spaghetti dinners, book fairs, Destination Imagination, Original Artworks, field trip driver. Whatever needed to be done, Shelly did it. Her charge, Gabe Glasser, and his family are relocating to NC. We sadly bade goodbye to the Glassers and wish them well. We will miss them all.
- Jennifer and David Carriger for a wonderful staff luncheon. David's famous chocolate chip cookies were over the top!
- The members of our board, led by Harry Bell, for their continued kindness, generosity and thoughtful care of MMS.

"Barrie Kaufman: New Glass" at the Clay Center



Congratulations to our art teacher, Barrie Kaufman, whose latest work opened recently in an exhibit at the Clay Center. "Barrie Kaufman: New Glass" is the title of her unique work which includes the large glass piece she created and cast in the Czech Republic last year. Barrie's work explores the natural world and the impact humans have on animals and the environment. You can visit now through Jan. 4, Wednesdays-Sundays at the Clay Center.



Classroom News

Middle School:

Middle School students are presenting their idea to build and maintain a Little Free Library to the South Hills Neighborhood Association. Students have received approval to place the library in the corner of Unity Church's parking lot at the start of the Carriage Trail. Students have designed a brochure, priced out materials for construction, developed a budget and are next seeking start-up funds from the neighborhood association.

The students are currently planning a Thai cooking class with Raj Pongsugree. She will come to our school and teach the students to make homemade Pad Thai and they will all have a delicious lunch after the lesson. The class has attended ballet and theater shows that feature our students. They saw Zahra in The Nutcracker and Julia Carriger in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

Middle schoolers have been involved in community service at Kanawha State Forest with Assistant Superintendent Kevin Dials. They hiked the trail on which he will guide people during his New Year's Day hike. The students picked up trash and made sure the trail was clear of brush. This week they will be blazing the eastern border of the forest with paint.

Upper Elementary:

The upper elementary students have begun their second large-scale writing project, a persuasive essay! Each student takes an issue of their choice that they feel passionately about, builds a strong argument defending their issue, and answers the most common objections to their argument. We have discussed comparing viewpoints, examining sources for bias, and interpreting statistical evidence. Their exposure to statistics during this project will lead into work with graphing in mathematics and genetics in biology. Students have also been constructing cultural projects about the ancient Romans, with the focus on feats of martial prowess and engineering mastery. We have also recently been building projects about the composition of the earth, focusing on plate tectonics.



Lower Elementary:

The Lower Elementary classes will be going to The Clay Center on December 17th to experience the new science activities and to tour Barrie's exhibit. They recently enjoyed a tour of the Charleston Broom and Mop Company in Loudendale and a trip to the Blenko Glass Factory. In addition to lessons and classroom work, including research projects and science experiments, the children have been working hard to prepare for the Winter Concert.

Primary:

Samantha reports: there has been a map craze in my class recently and so the sounds of the continent song are resounding throughout our days! Our extended day group has been partaking in a continual "study/observation" of the changing seasons. Every two weeks we walk to UC and talk about how the trees/weather has changed and sketch the various impressions as interpreted by each child. We have been spending time talking about feelings and practicing acknowledging the kind deeds of others by giving compliments. Our community has become so close knit and loving, the children find great joy in being little leaders and throughout the days children check in, letting me know how they have helped others!

Kathryn reports: Joy fills the classroom as the children spontaneously sing songs of the season such as *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* and *Frosty the Snowman*. Making maps, encoding words with the movable alphabet, and playing the *Bank Game* are a few of the more popular work choices of the recent past. Energy and excitement are present, in all ways, always.

