



An live auction of student art projects is an annual highlight of the Montessori Spring Gala.



Getting the party started!



At Mountaineer Montessori, we're spreading our wings!



community news

By JoEllen Zacks

The spring gala helps Mountaineer Montessori offer nearly \$50,000 in financial aid each year.



Mountaineer Montessori is building the future today.



MontesSOAR!

An uplifting evening of great music, art and food will take off on Saturday, May 18, when Mountaineer Montessori School presents its annual spring gala, "Spreading Our Wings," at the Woman's Club of Charleston. The event celebrates education that elevates, with proceeds benefiting the MMS financial aid fund, which provides nearly \$50,000 in tuition grants and scholarships to local families each year.

The evening will feature cocktails and hors-d'oeuvres with dancing to Vinyl Village. Guests will have the opportunity to bid on an array of unique silent auction prizes, including a private morel mushroom hunting tour of the Kanawha State Forest. A highlight of the evening will be a live auction of one-of-a-kind class art projects created by MMS students and celebrity artists. Many other surprises are in store for guests.

Founded in 1976, Mountaineer Montessori is

West Virginia's original and largest Montessori school, offering a world-class, student-centered education experience to 140 students ages three through eighth grade at campuses at the University of Charleston and South Hills. MMS receives no government support, and events such as "Spreading Our Wings" provide critical funding for financial aid as well as teacher appreciation and specialty programming. Come Montes-SOAR with us on May 18!

Tickets start at \$85, with sponsorships available at \$250 and up. To make a reservation or to make an auction or financial donation, please go to www.mountaineermontessori.org.

**JoEllen Zacks is a South Hills mother, lawyer and education advocate.*



Rise to the occasion for education on May 18!

