

THE MONTESSORI MONITOR



The newsletter of Park Road Montessori School

Important deadlines for siblings in magnet lottery

Park Road Montessori is gearing up for the Open House/Magnet Application season. All magnet applications must be submitted by Jan. 26. Parents of younger siblings, please remember that you must still enroll your child in CMS by the Jan. 12 deadline and you must also submit a lottery application. Enrollment is not guaranteed unless you follow the lottery process.



Anna Moraglia,
Principal

Car pool procedures

For some reason, we seem to be having difficulty with the car pool line this year and, unfortunately, it does not seem to be abating. Please follow these procedures to keep our students and our staff safe.

- Only enter the car pool line from Reece Road and take your place at the end of the line. The line cannot be entered from Haven Drive. Do not make a left from Haven Drive and try to cut the line.
- No one should be entering the car pool line from the Park Road Shopping Center parking lot. PRM cars are not allowed in the parking lot.
- When you drop off/pick up your child, staff cannot reach in to unbuckle or buckle your child. Children need to be ready to get out of the car quickly. Goodbyes should have been said and cars need to move on.
- If you are picking up your child, please be ready to pull away as soon as the car in front of you begins to pull away. If your child needs help with the seat belt, please pull up into the parking lot in order to provide assistance. Parents should never have a reason to get out of the car.
- Also, please refrain from talking or texting on your cell phone while in the car pool line. Again, that is a safety issue.

We have also received the following complaints from our neighbors:

- Cars blocking access to driveways and to Arbor Lane.
- Cars driving onto lawns while U-turning on Reece Road.

We always want to be good neighbors. Residents need to be able to travel down Reece Road even during car pool hours.

The Thanksgiving season will soon be upon us. Let us all remember and help instill in our children the importance of kindness to others. That is one of the most important life lessons that we can give to our children.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Nov. 26-28 Thanksgiving break
- NO SCHOOL

DECEMBER

Fri., Dec. 5 School Spirit Day;
Bike-to-School
Friday
Thu., Dec. 11 Winter Village, PTO
open meeting in
auditorium,
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 12 Bike-to-School Friday
Fri., Dec. 19 Bike-to-School Friday
Dec. 22-Jan. 2 Winter Break
- NO SCHOOL

JANUARY

Fri., Jan. 9 School Spirit Day
Mon., Jan. 19 Martin Luther King
Jr. Day
- NO SCHOOL
Fri., Jan. 23 Teacher workday
- NO SCHOOL

FEBRUARY

Fri., Feb. 6 School Spirit Day;
Snowflake Dance,
6-9 p.m.
Tue., Feb. 10 PTO open meeting,
8-9 a.m., Media
Center
Fri., Feb. 13 Teacher workday
- NO SCHOOL
Mon., Feb. 16 Presidents Day
- NO SCHOOL

MARCH

Tue., March 3 Green Marathon
campaign begins
Fri., March 3 School Spirit Day
Tue., March 10 PTO open meeting,
8-9 a.m., Media
Center
March 12-13 Teacher workdays
- NO SCHOOL
Fri., March 27 Green Marathon

APRIL

Fri., April 3 Teacher workday
- NO SCHOOL
April 6-10 Spring break
- NO SCHOOL

Invest 2014 was a success!

We set a goal as a PTO to raise a minimum of \$33,094.16 for the Invest In Your Child campaign and had 62% family participation. We knew that this was a challenge, but we were ready for it.

We started the campaign off by breaking records. We increased our first week's goal by \$2,000, which gave us great hope. We were steady through the next two weeks and really cranked up our donations the last week. It gave me such great pleasure to announce at the Fall Picnic that we not only met our goal, but exceeded it.

Invest In Your Child

Our teachers are so excited to receive new funds to help add new works and repair existing ones in their classrooms. It is so exciting seeing parents get involved and take ownership in making PRM the best it can be. Our school is a direct reflection of what we put into it.

We did have a few more donations trickle in and will always take funds, if you would like to donate. Again, our campaign was a complete success and we are so grateful. We are inspired by all of our families.

Thank you for Investing! – *Ginger Salmon*

PRMCares offers service opportunities

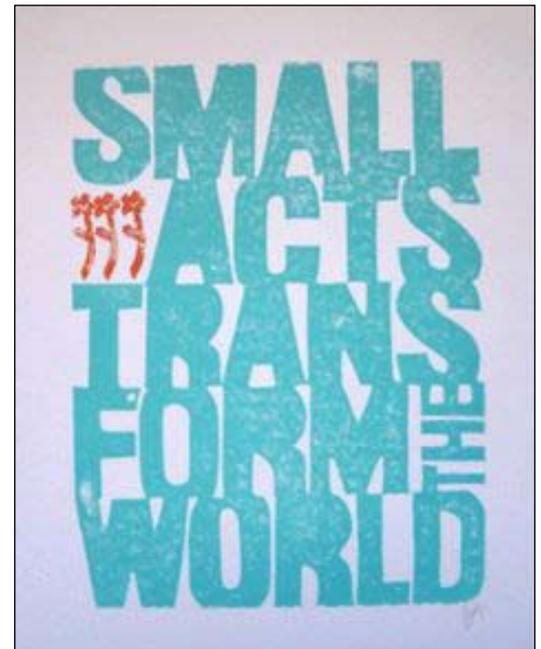
PRMCares is in its second year at Park Road Montessori. We have had a fabulous start to the school year and have completed several events thus far: our annual neighborhood cleanup, building of the Free Little Library, weekends of assistance at Loaves and Fishes Pantry and Operation Sandwiches. Each of these events has had a wonderful turnout from our school community.

Our goal for PRMCares is to provide monthly service events that we can do as a school community but also enable families to participate in service together. We strive to have a diversity of service options as well as alternate the days of service so there is a way for as many families as possible to find time throughout the year to be involved.

Through helping others, we learn that service is twofold. It aids those in need and also brings a sense of fulfillment to those who participate. We reap the rewards from helping others.

We hope to encourage the students and our school community as a whole to continue to find ways to be of service to others. November's event is Fill a Stocking for the Salvation Army. There are many different ways that families have been involved, from donating items on the "Stocking List" to helping with assembly of the stockings themselves.

Be sure to check prmcares.com for events in the new year! – *Kristen Piscitelli*



Diwali: A cultural experience

Walking into Park Road Montessori on Oct. 23 was a true cultural experience that would have made Maria Montessori so proud of our school.

The entire school community got into the spirit of learning by celebrating a festival from another continent. It was a beautiful sight to see colorful ethnic Indian outfits on our children and staff. The students worked diligently to try and replicate the rangoli patterns on the floor outside their classrooms with fresh flower petals. The Upper Elementary children did research and then took on the responsibility of sharing their new knowledge about the Festival of Light... Diwali.

The teachers in all classrooms were impressed with the articulation and enthusiasm displayed by our 5th and 6th graders. Two hundred and seventy-five little hands were adorned with henna as the children



patiently stood in line for their turn.

Diwali at Park Road Montessori was in keeping with the rich traditions of India that is celebrated all around the world. The experience was new for some and awaited by many, as it has become part of the rich cultural studies that is central to our Montessori philosophy. – *Priti Aery, Primary teacher*

Fall Picnic review: Cake, music and fun!

The Fall Picnic is a celebration of our school, Park Road Montessori, when the students from our school invite their families to come and have a good time. There are games, a food truck, treats and lots more fun activities for everyone. It is also a chance for families to go to the school Book Fair.

This year, we had some students from our school sing and play instruments. They played rock music and some people danced along with the music. There was the usual long line for the Cake Walk. It's worth the wait if you win because you get to pick out a treat like a cake, some brownies or doughnuts. There were a lot of happy faces when people won cakes!

People could get a hotdog or a hamburger from the

food truck along with a soda. Many families brought their dinner and spread blankets and lawn chairs out for a picnic with their friends.

There was also a party in the gym with no Coach Strait so that meant that people could do whatever they wanted to, not exactly safe but fun! The Book Fair was visited by lots of people and the Media Center made a lot of money and teachers got lots of great books for their classrooms. When the Book Fair closed at 8:00 pm, the other activities came to an end and everyone went home.

It's a great event and everyone has a good time. We look forward to next year and hope to see you there!

– *Tate Moody and Lucy Seitz, Community 24*



A scene from a play in Ms. Ann's class at Winter Village last year. Producing a play has become a class Winter Village tradition.

What is Winter Village?

Each year our school celebrates the winter holiday season with a gathering of family, fun, food (sometimes) and unique celebrations that are orchestrated by each individual class community. Winter Village 2014 will be on Dec. 11. Hope to see you there!

Reports from Winter Village 2013:

Our class has an established Winter Village tradition of writing and performing a play based on one of the Great Lessons every year. There are five great lessons in lower el, but we usually only do one of the first three. Last year we had fun showing the parents the third great lesson about the coming of humans, so this year we will start the process over again and perform the first great lesson, the story of the beginning of the universe. In this way, all of our parents get to see the great lessons during the time that their child is in our class. – Ms. Ann Palin, Lower El teacher

Last year at Winter Village, we attempted a cookie exchange with small drinks and a cookie or two for everyone who attended. We watched our class slide show of photos taken of the children at work and at play during the school year. The slide show was made into a gift for the parents to take home. – Ms. Ruth Tencati, Primary teacher

It is tradition in our class for each student to choose a lesson they have had in the school year so far. They practice giving the lesson and make follow-up work. On the day of Winter Village, they each set up their lesson in the classroom to give to their families in the evening. In this way, each student has a chance to showcase their accomplishments, and parents and families get a chance to see some of the work their child does at school all day! – Ms. Christy Geiger, Upper El teacher

ParkRoadMontessori.com: Did you know?

- There is a Calendar of Events on every main page to keep you in the know
- Important happenings at PRM and new from CMS are shown on our home page
- The site was created by one of our PRM parents in WordPress during the summer 2013
- On our site, you can sign up to receive the eBulletin (Very important communications tool at PRM, sent each week to everyone registered for it)
- The site is maintained by PRM PTO volunteers (Are you tech savvy and a good writer? Want to help? Contact hmspeet@dezinz.com for more information.)

Here is a site overview, as of Nov. 2014.

Information:

- Read about the Montessori philosophy and watch videos of lessons (so you can better understand how PRM children are learning in the classroom)
- Read past issues of the Montessori Monitor (PRM's newsletter, published 3x each year)
- Read past issues of the eBulletin (PRM's weekly news bulletin, published each and every week)

Staff:

- Access teacher, specials and staff portal pages (still in development, they will take you to the class' blog or photo page, as well.)
- View and download the Staff's Favorite Things
- Find a list of all teachers and staff at PRM, and their email addresses

Resources:

- Download our logos and logo guidelines
- Find links to Montessori information and history of Montessori
- Advocate for learning and download CMS budget info
- Connect with PRMCares

PTO:

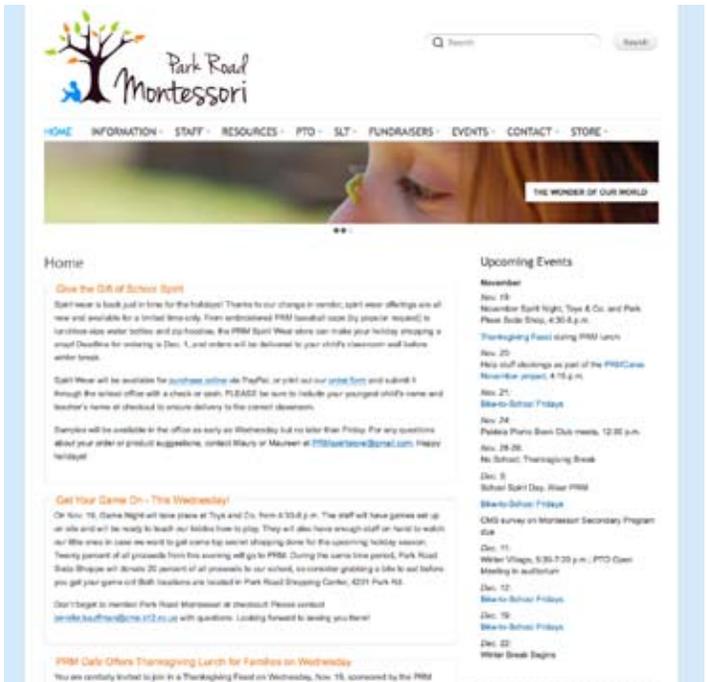
- Read minutes from PTO meetings
- Learn about PTO committees and initiatives
- Find out who is on the executive board
- View the PTO schedule of meetings
- View PRM PTO's budget and download forms managed by PTO

SLT:

- Read minutes from SLT meetings
- Find out who is on the SLT board this year
- Read PRM's School Improvement Plan

Fundraisers:

- Register for Montessori Mornings
- Contribute and send family to support our fundraiser events such as Invest In Your Child,



Green Marathon, Book Fair, Art By Me, Upper El Fundraisers and Small Fundraisers (Boxtops and Target Red cards)

Events:

- Learn more about our annual PRM events such as Peace Day, Earth Day, International Spring Picnic, Fall Picnic, gardening days and Snowflake Dance

Contact:

- See our school address, phone numbers, fax and bell schedule
- Register your family for the PRM Family/Student Directory
- If you are registered for the directory, you may download it here (password protected, all registered families are given the password)

Store:

- Order Spirit Wear/Merchandise (in season)
- Order yearbooks
- Become PTO member, pay annual dues of \$5

Q&A with Carey Montgomery

What is your role at Park Road Montessori?

I am currently teaching a primary level class at PRM. I was an assistant to Ms. Jeanne for seven years and an assistant to Ms. Kimberly the year before that.

Why did you choose a Montessori school over a more traditional school?

I was an education major in college and didn't like the traditional teaching philosophy so I switched to family and community development and public policy. I have always done volunteer work advocating for children. When my children were young, I looked into Montessori for them because when I moved to a new town when I was in middle school, several of my friends had gone to a Montessori school in that town. I am still friends with them today and admire that they followed their inner guide and love what they do for a living. I wanted that for my children as well.

When my youngest daughter was 3, I went to see Linda Kiser, the principal of PRM at that time, and told her that I was interested in becoming a Montessori teacher. She asked me if I was interested in a part-time job working as an instructional assistant. I took the job and applied to Montessori Teacher Education at Charlotte. I was accepted and started my teacher education program to become a Montessori teacher. I then went onto to get my M.Ed. and take additional "traditional" course work to meet state standards.

How long have you been with PRM and how long have you been with CMS?

This is my ninth year with CMS.

What you do like most about your work at Park Road Montessori?

I like the community at Park Road Montessori; when I say community, I mean the staff, parents and children. I believe that everyone's intention at PRM is to do their best at whatever they are working towards and that our first priority is to be kind and respectful. I also love that I can "follow the child" rather than trying to make them fit into the pace and curriculum that CMS would otherwise prescribe.



What's the most rewarding part of what you do every day?

The most rewarding part of my day is to see the children smile and hear them say that they want to come to school. When they ask for a lesson, I know they are eager to learn. I hopefully am helping them to set a foundation of loving to learn. If they can continue to love to learn throughout their life span then they too will "love what they do" for a living.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I spend a lot of time at soccer fields as my daughters play travel soccer. It is fun to watch them play. I played many years ago. I also enjoy doing yoga and walking my dogs in the woods. I love being with my family. When I need down time, I like to read. I am also very passionate about the progression and acceptance of Montessori in the state of North Carolina. I am working closely with the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) to help bring change and recognition for Montessori teachers and programs within our state and school system. MACTE is recognized by the United States Department of Education and is a crucial organization for the acceptance of Montessori in our state and on a national level.



The space right in front of the school, before and after its transformation to a rain garden.

Creating new gardens



Students and parents helped spruce up the front entrance to Park Road Montessori.



Ms. Charlotte, who leads our school's nature studies, envisions the gardens as not only providing beauty and interest to our entrance but also using them as teaching tools about why we used all native plants, how important it is to provide food for pollinators and what a rain garden is. We turned a mud hole into an appealing garden feature that will provide birds, butterflies and bees with food.