

Serving the Wyoming Valley for 45 Years!

W.V. Montessori School

FOLLOW the CHILD

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Spring/Summer 2017



Well, it's hard to believe but the end of the 2016-2017 school term is here! As the school year wound down, we had a multitude of activities with concerts, fun day, field day, the talent show, third year capstones, class trips and graduations. Special thanks to the professional staff who made all the above possible with their preparation, patience and enthusiasm. Additional thanks to Lynn Klein, Director of Admissions, and the enrollment committee for their work throughout the year focusing on student retention. Going into next term, the toddler, lower elementary and upper elementary classes are just about at capacity. The Board of Trustees, led by President Monica Hoang, has continued in their

commitment to improving the school's physical plant, providing sound financial footing and developing a long range plan relevant to today's educational horizon.

It is a bittersweet end of the year as we say goodbye to our seven sixth year students, who will be leaving WVMS to continue their educational journey in new settings. Armeen Ali, Haider Bhatti, Nathan and Zachary Kile, Lexi Kostoff, Casey McGlynn and Kasia Svendsen have not only been wonderful students, but outstanding members of the school community, working on numerous projects to help others. They will leave a foot print that we will always remember.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the parents, for entrusting your child's education and development with the Wyoming Valley Montessori School. The investment you are making will certainly pay off in the future. Special thanks to all the parent volunteers who have helped in so many ways during this year. You never let us down wherever help was needed, whether in the classroom, a special event or soliciting donations for activities.

Have a Great Summer,

Dennis Puhalla

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What Makes Montessori Unique?

Montessori schools begin with a deep respect for children as unique individuals, and they work from a deep concern for children's social and emotional development. A core concept of Montessori education is to encourage children to become independent thinkers.

Montessori schools are warm and supportive communities of students, teachers, and parents. Children don't get lost in the crowd.

Montessori education consciously teaches children to be kind and peaceful.

Montessori classrooms are bright and exciting environments for learning.

In Montessori schools, learning is not focused on rote drill and memorization. Our goal is to develop students who really understand their schoolwork.

Montessori students learn through hands-on experience, investigation, and research. They become actively engaged in their studies rather than passively waiting to be spoon fed.

Montessori education is consciously designed to recognize and address different learning styles, helping students learn to study most effectively.

We challenge and set high expectations for all our students, not only a special few.

Montessori schools normally reflect a highly diverse student body and their curriculum promotes mutual respect and a global perspective.

Montessori instills within students a love for the natural world. Natural science and outdoor education is an important element of our children's experience.

The Montessori curriculum is carefully structured and integrated to demonstrate the connections among the different subject areas. Every class teaches critical thinking, composition and research. History lessons link architecture, the arts, science and technology.

In Montessori schools, students learn to care about others through community service.

In Montessori schools, we not only teach; we facilitate learning, coach our students along, and come to know them as friends and mentors.

Students in Montessori schools are not afraid of making mistakes; they see them as natural steps in the learning process.

Montessori students learn to collaborate and work together in learning and on major projects. They strive for their personal best rather than compete against one another for the highest grade in their class.

Montessori is an education for life.



TODDLER PROGRAM (Ages 18 months - 3 years old)

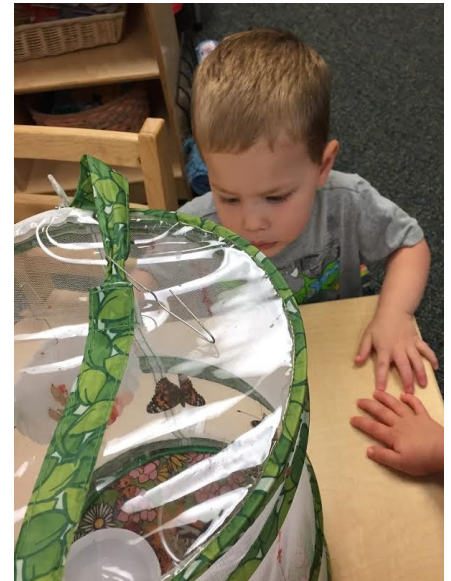


The toddler classes have been exploring the many exciting changes associated with spring. Following a visit to the butterfly tent from Folks Butterfly Farm, the toddler classes received their own tiny caterpillars to raise. We watched as the caterpillars grew bigger and bigger each day, until they hung upside down and formed their chrysalis. We waited patiently, checking each day to see if our caterpillars were ready to emerge. One warm day in May, we came to school to find beautiful Painted Lady butterflies! The toddlers were so excited to observe the butterflies, using magnifying glasses to get a closer look.

We fed them sugar water and slices of watermelon for several days until it was time to say, "Bye bye, butterflies!" When

we released them outside in our toddler playground, a few of the butterflies didn't want to leave! They hung around on the grass and bushes, and even on one friend's jacket, long enough for the toddlers to say one last goodbye.

Also on our toddler playground, the children have been able to observe the changes spring brought to our flowers and trees. Earlier in the spring, we watched our tulips and hyacinth grow and bloom. The children enjoyed smelling the flowers and feeling their petals and leaves. After the tulips and hyacinth were finished blooming, they were quickly replaced by scores of lilies of the valley. The tiny white flowers with their sweet fragrance were especially enticing to the toddlers, who carefully picked them to share with their friends and loved ones.



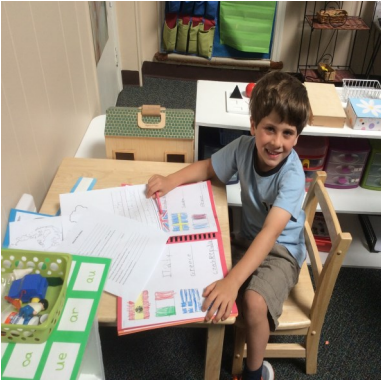
Our sweet gum tree has begun to produce its unique, spiky green seed pods, affectionately nicknamed "picky balls" by the toddlers. After a windy or rainy day, there are always some seed pods on the ground for the children to examine. Our cherry tree has also begun to produce cherries, which can often be found on the playground. We talked about how the cherries are still green, but next month when it gets hot outside, they will turn big and red. Several mama birds chose the



bushes and trees around our playground to make their nests, and the toddlers were able to find pieces of the egg shells on the ground after the baby birds had hatched. Some of our toddlers noticed a small hole in the ground near the fence by the parking lot. After a few days of observation, we discovered a baby bunny inside the hole! The bunny has made several appearances since then in the flower beds surrounding our school.

Some of our toddler friends experienced a big and exciting change of their own as they celebrated their "Moving Up" ceremony on Friday, June 9. The graduating toddlers crossed over the wooden bridge, received their diplomas, and shook hands with their new teachers from our Primary classes. We will miss our friends and wish them the best of luck in Primary!

PRIMARY PROGRAM (Ages 3 years old - 6 years old)



As we approach the summer solstice (or the longest day of daylight), it is fun looking forward to lazy, summer days, but also fun to think back to all we did this spring! Spring was a busy time for the Primary students in our geography area. Following our February Asian New Year celebration, we headed south to Africa. In March, the children learned about the climate, biomes, and animals of Africa. The children learned about safaris and heard several African folktales. We also began learning about the different classes of vertebrates, beginning with reptiles, particularly snakes and turtles. In April, the children learned about the rainforest and rainforest animals as we moved to talking and thinking about South America. We

concentrated on amphibians and birds this month focusing on the lifecycle and body parts of frogs and birds. The last of our continent studies has been Australia, where we learned about the many animals unique to this island! Whew, around in the world in 180 days! What a trip!

This spring, we also learned about insects, with a focus on butterflies. We were excited to kick off this unit with a visit from the (Butterfly People??). After learning about the body parts of butterflies, the children were able to examine them closely in the butterfly tent. On that day, we also received eight tiny caterpillars that had just hatched from eggs. We were able to watch them eat and grow, shed their skins, and eventually form chrysalises. After anxiously awaiting the emergence, we were finally rewarded with some beautiful butterflies we would keep in our classrooms for several days. At last the time came to release them, a sad but exciting day!



For much of the spring, the Kindergarteners were busy practicing and preparing for one of their most memorable days in the Primary program, the Mother's Day Tea. The children learned poems, practiced songs, made gifts, and spent much time reflecting on the special relationship they have with their mothers. The Primary classes also set up tea tables for all the children to practice the art and courtesy of sharing tea with a friend.

Besides these cultural studies, the Primary children have also been busy learning through the works in the classroom. Each child has been working at their own level on the reading skills they need

to master in order to be successful life-long independent learners. The children regularly practice identifying and recalling letter sounds, separating and blending sounds in words, recognizing rhymes, writing letters and numbers, and counting. Please continue to review letters, sounds, numerals, and name writing so that your child will retain it over the summer months. Remember you are their first and most important teacher! The ability to focus and concentrate is also important skill for learning. You can help develop your child's concentration by observing what sparks his/her interest. Set your child up with the means and materials to explore it, and let him/her work without interruption. Most of all, take time to enjoy your children. They will only be small once!



LOWER ELEMENTARY PROGRAM (Ages 6 - 9 years old)



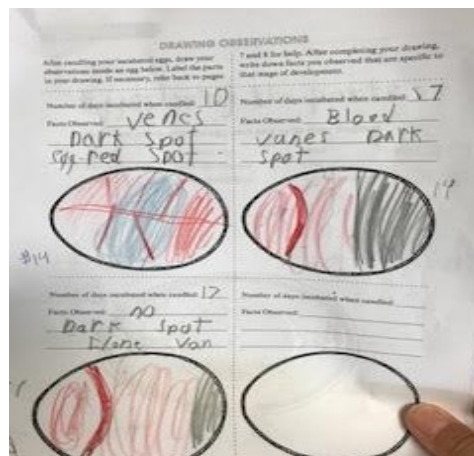
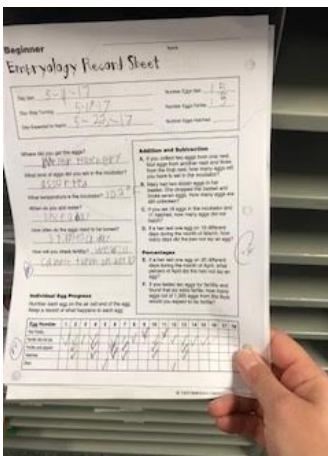
As a culminating biology study in Lower Elementary, students incubate and hatch chick eggs. They begin with the study of embryology and learning the parts of an egg. While the eggs are incubating, students candle the eggs twice to check for fertilization, development and progress of the embryo. Students learned how important keeping the eggs at the right temperature 101 degrees F and moisture level is to ensure development. Eggs were turned by an automatic egg turner until Day 18.



This simulates the mother hen rolling the eggs to prevent the embryo sticking to the shell. Eggs must be turned at least three times a day. They also learned that in the cycle of life, it often is the survival of the fittest and not all of the embryos survive.

This year, six out of sixteen eggs hatched successfully. Chicks hatched on Day 21, Day 23 and Day 24. It takes about 24 hours for a chick to fully hatch. When the chick breaks free from the egg, the shell is in two pieces. Typically an egg hatches on Day 21. Eggs that hatch after Day 23 have a higher risk of not surviving.

Once the chick hatched, it remained in the incubator for one day to fully dry and help maintain heat. When transferred to the brooder box, a heat lamp was used to keep the chicks warm. Chicks do best when in small groups. Students learned the parts of a chick and were able to observe how quickly the chicks develop. In just a week, the chicks grew in size and ate, drank (and pooped) often. By the end of the first week, chicks were showing their natural scratching behavior, growing their adult wings and tail feathers. The egg tooth that was used to pip the egg had almost disappeared. All of WVMS were invited into LE to visit with the chicks. All six chicks combined with six other newly hatched chicks to live locally.



UPPER ELEMENTARY PROGRAM (Ages 9 - 12 years old)

The Upper Elementary students recently spent three fun filled days in Boston. The Upper El students used AJ Limo to travel from Kingston, Pa. to Boston, Mass. Along with their teachers and parent chaperones, the students stayed at Residence Inn by Marriott.

Their trip first included a visit to the Tea Party Museum. While at the museum, the students were able to relive the American Revolution by “throwing tea” overboard for the Boston Tea Party. They also experienced interactive exhibits, full-scale restored 18th Century sailing vessels, historic artifacts, and the award-winning multi-sensory documentary “Let It Begin Here” while at the museum. One of our sixth grade students was even chosen to participate in a colonial town meeting with Samuel Adams during this rebellious Boston of 1773.



The students also visited the Museum of Science on the second day of their trip. During their time there, the students blasted off into outer space by experiencing The Charles Hayden Planetarium, the most technologically advanced digital theater in New England. They also had a chance to learn hands on with many of the museums 700 interactive permanent



exhibits and live presentations.

Later that evening, the students explored the North End by visiting both Paul Revere’s house and the Old North Church. The students also enjoyed a pizza party at Ducali’s and were treated to a pastry at Mike’s Pastries in the North End.



The second day included a guided tour of Fenway Park. The tour begins as the students walk through the same opening as did three elephants in June of 1914



before going to their new home at the Franklin Park Zoo. The students sat in the press box and learned about a secret morse code message written on the Green Monster scoreboard and the “lone red seat” before finishing up their tour.

Afterwards, the students also had a guided tour of the Freedom Trail. The students learned and recalled information about various historic markers that tell the story of the American



Revolution and beyond. Students interacted and impressed their tour guide with knowledge they retained from their History studies in the classroom.

Some of the places visited or discussed during the tour were the Massachusetts State House, Old Corner Bookstore, Benjamin Franklin Statue & Boston Latin School, Old State House, Faneuil Hall with Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Bunker Hill Monument, and Granary Burying Ground, to name a few. They had a chance to experience and enjoy dinner at the famous restaurant, “*Cheers*” that night.



On the third day, the students went to historic Salem. They had a chance to learn about Salem’s old jail, the site of the Old Witch Gaol (prison), the Witch Trial Memorial, and a cemetery where a Witch Trial Hysteria judge is buried. Just before heading back to the Wyoming Valley, they concluded with lunch at Red’s Sandwich Shop, the place where locals meet to eat.



Special Thanks
to our parent
chaperones,
Dr. Jeffery Kile
and Mrs. Shelly
Kostoff for
joining us on
our 3 Day Trip
to Boston!





Talent Show

Thank You!

Our heartfelt thanks to out-going Parents Association President, Valarie Nat! Thank you for all the time and effort you put into each PA sponsored event at WVMS! We appreciate all you do!

Heaps of additional gratitude to all of our parent volunteers, our 2017 Gala Chair, Corrin Stella, Gala Committee Members, and all parents who lent a hand throughout the year!!!

LOST & FOUND

The lost and found bin is located in the Great Room. Stop by next time you're here to check the bin for your child's lost treasures.



Summer Camps

18 months thru 6th grade
Toddler • Primary • Elementary

**Community Camp • Cooking • Water
• Craft • Adventure • Tech**

Limited space available!

Wyoming Valley
Montessori

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