



WEEKLY UPDATE
8.31.17

Head of School Message - Ms. Martha

Welcome to another great year at Rock Prairie Montessori School! It is so exciting to be a part of this magnificent community. We do have amazing families, educators, staff and students. Our theme for the year is **Give your voice, lend a hand. Create a culture of shared responsibility in the classroom and school community.** In my travels to many Montessori schools and working with many Montessori student teachers and administrators, I am always humbled by how lucky I am to be here and to have such an amazing community. This is my 21st year at RPMS!



Unless you have a Toddler with a delayed start date (please check your yellow sheet from your welcome packets mailed to you for start date), our **first day of school is Tuesday, September 5**, beginning at 8:30 am. Staff will be outside at 8:15 for those that will be utilizing our drop-off line.

If your child has before care, these are the rooms they would go to:

- Children's House - Mayflower (Rm 11)
- Kindergarten and Elementary - Coneflower (Rm 14)
- Toddler - Sunflower (Rm 1)

As a reminder, we do not provide lunch, so please ensure that your child has lunch if they stay past 11:30 am. We do, however, provide healthy snacks in the morning and afternoon, including milk.

Scrip Change

Starting next week, orders (including payments for online orders) will need to be in **by Mondays at 9:00 am**, in order to have non-inventory stock ready for pickup by Friday of that same week.

Scrip will run 6/1/17 to 5/31/18. Families can choose to either purchase \$2000 in Scrip before May 31, or \$100 in rebate, whichever comes first. After \$100 rebate is earned, we split the extra rebate with you (your choice of cash, tuition for next year, or



donation to the school - whichever you designated on your TADS form when you signed up for this year.

Remember: you can have family and friends stop by to buy Scrip cards in your name. Have a home project? Buy your cards here first and give yourself rebate credit. We have had several families earn hundreds of dollars back in scrip rebates this way!

Commons Area Changes

How exciting that our programs are growing! As part of utilizing our spaces as efficiently as possible, we have placed some upper elementary works out in our Commons area for those students to use during their school day. There are activities in those works that include small parts and pieces so we ask our adult community to help ensure those works are only being used by our elementary students. For activities that are open to all classes and visitors of all ages, our librarian, Ms. Jen Drach, rotates fun works on her library tables. The library is open for anyone to visit and we encourage our whole school community to take advantage of this beautiful space!

STAFF NEWS

We are pleased to introduce our new staff this year:

Brittany Andrews - Toddler House Assistant (Ms. Tracey's Room)

Sadie Hagmann - Elementary Teacher

Kelly Ludeman - Toddler House and Montessori Enrichment Assistant (Ms. Tracey's Room)

Marren McCulloch - Montessori Enrichment Assistant

Rachel Nelson - After Care Toddler Assistant

Susan Stubbendick - Toddler House Assistant (Ms. Stacy's Room)

Michelle Vechinsky - Reading Specialist for Kindergarten and Elementary

We are excited to welcome these new friends to our Montessori community and will have more information on them in upcoming newsletters.

We also want to congratulate **Mrs. Amber Grefsheim** (previously Bovre) on her recent nuptials and wish the happy couple the very best!

Drop-Off Lane

We offer a drop-off service in the morning before school. Simply pull up in the drop-off lane in the front of the school and we will help bring your child to their classroom. Drop-off service begins at 8:15 and ends at 8:30 am. We ask that parents walking their children into school to please park in designated parking spaces and use the drop-off lane only for drop-off. A quick note for our returning families: Mr. Rich and Ms. Bonnie will be out of town the first couple of days but will be excited to see all you next week when they return!

EVENTS

Finding Events

Besides our weekly update, events are also posted on our [online Parent Google Calendar](#).

STEM after school classes begin - September 12
Toddler House Parent Orientation - September 14, 6:30 pm
Montessori Beginnings starts - September 19
Culver's Scoopie Night - September 26, 4:00-8:00 pm

Toddlers' House Parent Orientation Meeting

Ms. Tracey and Ms. Stacy will be holding a Parent Orientation Meeting for both Toddlers' House parents on **Thursday, September 14, at 6:30 pm.** This meeting will give you a chance to meet other parents and learn more about the Toddlers' House Program. If you have an infant in arms, they are welcome to attend with you. Otherwise, this is an adults only meeting. *Because this is an educational meeting, please remember to log your Parent Service Hours in the foyer or [online](#) for this event.*



SAVE THE DATE - Bonfire Bash

Our annual Bonfire Bash will be held on Saturday, October 21 here at RPMS (time to be determined). More information about this fun RPMS community event will be coming your way soon with opportunities to volunteer your time.

STEM now for beginner and advanced!

With some of our students having taken STEM programming and robotics over the last year and/or over the summer, we are now offering advanced in addition to beginning sessions for grades 1-6. Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 pm, starting on September 12 with Session 1. Please [click here](#) to view session descriptions and to sign up.

Girl Scouts

Kindergarten girls are invited to take part in local Girl Scout Troop 9045. To sign up, visit gsbadgerland.org, click on "Become a Girl Scout", complete the form, select your troop, and join up! If you have any questions, please call 800-236-2710 or email info@gsbadgerland.org.

OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Communication With the Office

Please do not send forms or notes for the school office in your child's backpack. Teachers do not check backpacks for things coming from home. If you need to fax something to the office our fax number is 608-868-5965. Otherwise, please drop off office communication in the office.

Health Reports and Immunization Records

The school asks for all health reports and immunization records to be turned into the office by the first day of school. If you have not yet submitted these documents, please do so as soon as possible. If you haven't turned in your forms and you have a doctor appointment scheduled, please let the office know. Thank you!

Tardy Procedure

Children who arrive to school after 8:30 am are considered tardy. If your child is tardy, please walk them into the school, sign them in at the office, and then walk them to their classroom. This procedure helps us keep accurate attendance in case of an emergency situation. Thank you for your understanding.

Absences

For planned absences (doctors appointments, vacations, etc.) please inform the school office in writing. You can either drop a written note off in the office or email Ms. Amber at agrefsheim@rockprairiemontessori.com. If the absence is not planned (illness, family emergency, etc.), please call the school at 608-868-4844 and leave a message in the Absentee Mailbox. If a child is absent and the school has not been notified, a member of the office staff will phone the child's parents. This procedure helps us keep accurate attendance in case of an emergency situation.

Family Mailboxes and Emails

To be sure you are receiving all pertinent information, please be sure to check your family mailbox each day your child attends and your emails daily. We do our best to communicate most information electronically, but do have certain communication that must be distributed via paper.

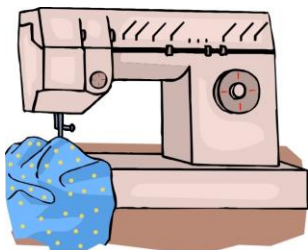
TADS / Billing

For any questions with invoice charges, please contact Melissa Badger (mbadger@rockprairiemontessori.com). For questions such as changing your billing account information such as bank routing or credit card numbers, please contact the TADS support folks at: 888-477-8237 or support@tads.com. We can take cash or checks in the office and apply it to your account. Otherwise, when you login to your account, you can choose to pay online via credit card or by entering your bank info. *(Please note there is a fee when using a credit card.)* Any changes to tuition program or guarantee care must be made with 30 days notice; drop-in care is available with 48 hours notice provided space is available.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Family Volunteer Hours

RPMS families are asked to contribute 10 volunteer hours before the end of April 2018. Parent meetings, parent education events, and conferences are included in these hours; double attendance means double the hours! Always refer to the Weekly Update for volunteer opportunities. Families can log their volunteer hours in the binder found in the school foyer, or online at: <http://bit.ly/Vol1718>. *Any unfulfilled hours will be invoiced at \$10/hour after April.*



Sewing Skills Needed

We are looking for someone to make some tablecloths for Toddler tables, including sewing on settings (for a cup, plate, etc) or drawing them on with a permanent fabric marker/paint. The Toddler classes also need napkins; someone who has a Serger and can make those napkins is also needed. If you have any questions on the scope of the projects or would like to volunteer, please contact Ms. Tracey at thall@rockprairiemontessori.com.

Animal Care

Mudd, the gerbil in Ms. Tracey's room, needs his cage's bedding changed twice a month and we are looking for a volunteer to be in charge of this. We need another volunteer to do monthly maintenance of the fish tank in that room. If you are able to assist with either of these tasks, please contact Ms. Tracey at thall@rockprairiemontessori.com.

Gerbil Care



Modge Podge

We have some modpodging of wooden language cards that need to be completed for our Sunflower Toddler House. All materials are provided. We just need a volunteer to put on a few coats of modpodge on the cards. If interested, please contact Ms. Tracey at thall@rockprairiemontessori.com.

Selling Scrip Cards at School

We are in need of volunteers to sell Scrip cards on school days, during the busy times of day. This helps us stay in compliance with the IRS in having the majority of the program run by volunteers. Tasks include taking orders for inventory/non-inventory stock, taking money, and distributing in-stock cards. Help is always right across the hall in the front office!

To sign up for shifts in September, please go to:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D4DA8AE2BA2F94-scrip1

To sign up for shifts in October, please go to:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D4DA8AE2BA2F94-scrip2

Culvers Scoopie Night

We have four Scoopie Night fundraisers for the year, with our first taking place on **Tuesday, September 26**, from 4 to 8 pm. We are looking for adult servers for **one-hour shifts**. And of course, your kids are welcome to help! This is a fun way to get your volunteer hours in and get some pics for the memory books! Even if you can't volunteer, swing by for dinner or a dessert, and part of the proceeds go back to RPMS. Yum!

For Tuesday, September 26 event:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D4DA8AE2BA2F94-culvers10

Would you like to sign up for a Culvers Scoopie night, but can't make it to the September 26 event? The next three are also posted and ready for volunteers to sign up:

For Monday, Nov. 13 event:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D4DA8AE2BA2F94-culvers11

For Wednesday, Jan. 24 event:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D4DA8AE2BA2F94-culvers12

For Tuesday, April 24 event:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D4DA8AE2BA2F94-culvers13



Fundraisers

Besides Scrip, we collect the following items to turn in for funds:

Box Tops for Education

You can find Box Top labels on [hundreds of products](#). Clip these labels and drop them off in our collections bin that sits on top of the family mailboxes in the front vestibule. Box tops are worth ten cents each and add up fast!



Daniels Sentry Foods Receipts

To participate, shop at either the east side or west side Daniels Sentry Foods, and ask for a "Funds for Friends" sticker for your receipt at the checkout. These can also be dropped of in our collections bin. We receive 1% of all sales.



Milk Moola Caps

Our school receives 5¢ for each milk cap or bag top collected. The program will only accept specially marked caps and bag tops that feature the Milk Moola symbol. (This is different from Kids Caps & Cash, Kemps, and other milk cap programs.) These can go into our collections bin.



Recycled Technology

We participate in the Planet Green E-Waste Recycling Program. Things we can turn in for funds include:

- Inkjet Cartridges (NOT laserjet or toner cartridges)
- Cell Phones/Pagers & Accessories
- GPS & Radar Detectors
- Mobile Hot Spots
- Calculators
- eBook Readers
- iPods/MP3 Players
- Digital/Video Cameras
- PDAs
- iPads/Tablets
- Video Game Consoles & Handhelds
- Video Games & Accessories

Please place these items in the bins above the parent mailboxes in the lobby.

Unfortunately, **Campbell's Labels for Education is being discontinued**. We have submitted our final labels and received many materials for our school as a result of all the labels parents have turned in this year. Thanks so much for your support!

Coats for Kids Drive

Donations for families in Janesville and Northern Rock County via the Salvation Army will be collected in our school foyer September 22-October 16. Clean coats for children and adults, snow pants, scarves, hats, gloves, and boots are appreciated. Please be mindful to not donate adult dress coats, lightweight coats, summer clothing or items with broken zippers or rips.

Attention Amazon Shoppers!

Shop at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate to Rock Prairie Montessori Inc! No expiration date, no special products to buy.

Simply start your Amazon shopping trip at:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1782889> and Amazon donates.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

“It is not enough for the teacher to love the child. She must first love and understand the universe. She must prepare herself, and truly work at it.”

“Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war.”



Happy Birthday Maria Montessori

Born August 31st 1870 - died May 6th 1952

Today we celebrate your birthday by appreciating the gifts you gave to the world.