



WEEKLY UPDATE – 12.13.17

Head of School Message - Ms. Martha

Recently a couple of teachers and myself were attending an annual Montessori Conference and reflecting on the history of the Montessori method and the future. The future of Montessori education is growing in its many levels: infant, toddler, primary, elementary, middle school and high school. There are Montessori Schools all over the world, including public, private, charter, small and large. I had a thoughtful conversation with an administrator whose school on the island of St. Croix has been impacted by Hurricane Maria and another from China talking about the explosive growth and popularity of their Montessori Schools. We often think of the celebrities who attended Montessori such as Sergey Brin who co-founded Google or George Clooney the actor. You may be interested to know that the famous Anne Frank attended Montessori as well in the Netherlands and Germany during World War II. The sponsoring organization of the conference found in archives in Europe some of the history of Anne Frank and her time in Montessori Schools. They found samples of her metal inset work as an elementary student and made scarves and ties based on the image. Usually you would not have elementary students using metal insets - it is more a Children's House material - but they did during that time because it was all they had. As you see from the image here, there is beautiful detail and talent. It reminds me during this holiday time to reflect on what is important and appreciate beauty where it may present itself.



May this time bring you appreciation and peace. Happy Holidays to all from your Rock Prairie Montessori Community! --Warmly, Ms. Martha



High-Speed Internet Coming

The new year will bring our school into the era of high-speed internet, thanks to a TEACH grant. There may be some hiccups along the way as we transition to WiscNet, who provides networking services to public and private higher education, K12 school districts, libraries, municipalities, and hospitals throughout Wisconsin. Should we have any unexpected internet outages, we will post status updates on our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RPMSOfficialPage/>

Winter Gathering Details

The Winter Gathering is right around the corner! Videogenics, a local Janesville company, will be taping the event in the gym and will make the DVDs available to sell after the break! In addition, they will set up a screen so those in the back will be better able to enjoy the performance. As a reminder, the event will begin at **9 am** in the gym, and **there will be no classes in the afternoon**. We also will sell 50/50 tickets that whole morning (see info below), and draw after the gathering in order to make sure everyone has a chance to participate. Please note that parking will be tight; weather permitting, parking will be allowed on grassy areas as before. We hope you can enjoy this celebration of the season with us!



Winter 50/50 Raffle for 2018-19 Tuition

RPMS is hosting a 50/50 raffle for tuition dollars. Winner takes away 50% of money raised through ticket sales to be applied to 2018-2019 school-year tuition. The more tickets sold the larger the winnings! Drawing will take place **AFTER** the Winter Gathering on

December 15, 2017, to give extra time to purchase tickets that day. Tickets will be available for purchase in the school office from 7:30 am-3:30 pm when school is in session starting November 6. \$25 each or Five for \$100. (Can't make it during office hours? No problem! You can drop off a check in the office door drop box with a note giving your name and how many tickets you want to purchase. We will then give the ticket stubs back to you to keep. You can also buy raffle tickets before the winter program on Dec. 15!)

Kidz Cafe

By Sadie Hagmann

The business was a success this December! The Upper Elementary kids learned a lot about Economics this turn. We hope in future business ventures we are as successful. The students were involved in all parts of our cafe: baking and measuring, pricing out the goods, setting up the cafe, serving the cafe, and counting out the money at the end. They really enjoyed this activity and picking a charity for the proceeds. I am proud of the students and all the efforts they put forth. Thank you all for coming to our cafe!



Please see the following reflections written by our students:

"I enjoyed Kidz Cafe. I liked baking the muffins and selling them. My favorite muffin is blueberry. I got the zest of the oranges, and put them in the batter. I also stirred the batter for the cranberry-orange. We made about a hundred dollars from the cafe and about fifty dollars from donations." --Thomas

"I think Kidz Cafe went very well. We didn't make as much as I thought we would, but the line wasn't too long and it was fun. I really like Kidz Cafe." --Jack

"I feel like we sold 4 dozen in chocolate chip. If I am wrong I know for sure that all of the chocolate chip sold out. I am pretty sure that I had a dozen left of apple cinnamon. Blueberry was a hit. Cranberry didn't go so well, I don't know why. I think that it went pretty well for my first time." --Cyrus

"Thank you for supporting Kidz Cafe. RPMS is a continually growing community and it was a very enjoyable learning experience. Together we raised \$148.25 for charities in need. It was really nice to meet and serve new people who I may not have known had we not done Kidz



Cafe. Overall I thought that it went great. Whether the best part was seeing everyone's smiling faces and serving them, learning about baking, profits and money, or knowing that all of our effort is going to a good cause, I'd say that all of the upper elementary would agree that this Kidz Cafe was a success." --Cooper

"I really enjoyed Kidz Cafe. My job was really fun. My job was to be the chocolate chip muffin girl. The chocolate chip muffins sold out fast. I think Kidz Cafe turned out pretty great this year! I baked the apple cinnamon and scooped it too! I really liked it." --Eva

"I think it went good. I loved doing my job. It was amazing how stuff turned out. Some things sold out, others didn't. I loved doing Kidz Cafe this December." --Ella

"I think Kidz Cafe went really well today. It started out fast, but went moderate after 8:10. I think chocolate chip and apple juice went fantastic. I had a good experience with doing money. I saw a lot of families enjoying their time." --Jacob

"I think Kidz Cafe went well except some of the drinks and muffins didn't sell that well. Also some kids didn't for refills of just drinks. Apple juice sold the best out of the drinks." --Brock

EVENTS

Finding Events

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

Winter Gathering / Half Day of School - December 15, **9:00 am**, no classes in the afternoon

Winter Break - December 18-January 1

School Resumes - January 2

STEM Session 3 Begins - January 9, 3:30-4:30 pm

All Montessori Compass photos will be deleted on June 1, 2018 to plan for the next school-year. Throughout the school year please download any photos you would like to keep.

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.*

Selling Scrip Cards at School



We need 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! **Don't worry**

if you can't commit to every single time for your time slot that month. Whatever you can make would be great!

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

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D4DA8AE2BA2F94-scrip5

Culvers Scoopie Night

We have four Scoopie Night fundraisers for the year, and we are looking ahead for adult servers to help at these events, with **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!

To sign up:

For Wednesday, Jan. 24 event:

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

For Tuesday, April 24 event:

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



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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 donate s.

Birthdays - January

January 15 - Amber Gresheim

January 22 - Jen Drach

January 26 - Marie Pipowski

January 30 - Laurie Mair

