



WEEKLY UPDATE – 1.4.18

Head of School Message - Ms. Martha

Happy New Year! It is definitely a very cold start to the year...hopefully just a temporary thing!



One of our goals for your children is to help them truly contribute to the community and therein, be a valued member that we count on. That is why in all levels of the school, the children learn those practical life skills of washing dishes and setting the table for the next person, etc. There is a way to follow up in a similar way at home. I suggest this option of a chores board. I made this recently for one of my grandsons. You can have fun with this, perhaps write something simple as the chore “Put your clean clothes in your dresser” and then also make it fun “Sing a song after dinner please”. I remember such a board when I was growing up one of 5 girls but the best was my cousins who had 12 children in their family. Their chores board was amazing, detailed and had a check off when the chore was finished. Their home functioned like a machine and all of the now adults have an amazing work ethic.

Any way you may choose, having a way to foster a work ethic in children at a young age is essential for laying the groundwork in the future. Consider a chores board.

TAX STATEMENTS ONLINE

Thanks to our online TADS billing system, families can access their tax statements directly from their TADS account. **To print your tax statement for 2017, please log in to your TADS account, and you'll find the tax statement report option under the Billing tab.** Not all of the transactions on your statement will qualify as tax deductible. To ensure proper reporting, please review this with your tax professional. If you have any questions or need help, please contact Melissa (mbadger@rockprairiemontessori.com).

While you may have known that Toddler and Children's House payments can be deducted for daycare purposes on your taxes, did you know you can deduct kindergarten and elementary tuition as well? **State law allows Wisconsin parents to deduct private school tuition on their taxes.** Under the program, parents statewide can deduct up to \$4,000 per student in grades K-8, and up to \$10,000 per high school student. More information on this program is available at: <https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/faqs/ise-privscht.aspx#privscht1>.



Proud Alumni!

In case you missed it on [Facebook](#), we featured three of our alumni who have progressed on to more learning adventures. Pictured left to right: Sarah Gilbertson (Iowa State), Hannah Gray (Iowa State), and Brynn Lunas (Air Force Academy). While it is always bittersweet seeing one of our students leave the nest, it warms our hearts to see them take wing and find success!

Calling All Crafters!

Our Reading Specialist and Kindergarten Assistant, Michelle Vechinsky, will be holding a card-making event, here at the school on **Friday, January 26, from 5:45-8:00 pm**. This relaxed workshop will provide the opportunity for guests to make 10 Valentine cards (5 designs, 2 of each design); envelopes will also be included. All materials will be provided, along with guidance and support from Michelle - all this and snacks for only \$25 per person (billed via TADS). Beginning crafters are welcome! The event is limited to 12 participants, so please RSVP to Melissa Badger - mbadger@rockprairiemontessori.com - as soon as possible. *(In case that the school is closed due to weather that day, the "snow date" will be January 30.)*



Romaine Lettuce Concern

Over the past seven weeks, 58 people in the U.S. and Canada have become ill from a dangerous strain of E. coli bacteria, likely from eating romaine lettuce. While the U.S. CDC has not done any formal recall, Consumer Reports food safety experts are advising that consumers stop eating romaine lettuce until the cause of the outbreak is identified and the offending product is removed from store shelves. [Click here to find more information.](#)



New Staff Feature

Ms. Michelle Vechinsky works with elementary students in Reading Groups in the mornings, and assists with Kindergarten students with Ms. Mary in the afternoons. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with a minor in EBD and Special Education from UW-Stevens Point. Her classroom experiences include grades 1, 3, and 4 in regular education as well as K-5 Special Education, in both public and parochial school settings. Ms. Michelle is the mom of two teenagers, has two cats, and a husband at home. In her spare time she enjoys creating a multitude of craft projects, gardening, and spending time laughing with her family.

EVENTS

Finding Events

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

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

No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - January 15

Culvers Scoopie Night - January 24, 4-8 pm

RPMS Night at Panera - February 8, 4-8 pm (show flyer to get part of your meal donated to RPMS)

No School - Staff Inservice Day - February 9

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

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

www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4da8ae2ba2f94-scrip6

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

