



WEEKLY UPDATE – 1.25.18

Head of School Message - Ms. Martha

It's tough to be a parent! We get it, we really do. This one job of being a parent or grandparent does not come with training and there can be many challenges with our busy, busy lives. We use a positive discipline approach at RPMS and are always looking for new ideas and strategies to support and understand our students, families and teachers on this journey of life. I would like to recommend the website Conscious Discipline <https://consciousdiscipline.com/> for free resources to help with parenting. They have many levels of support and I invite you to take a look to see if it speaks to you. We find it complementary to positive discipline and it dives further into the social emotional piece. There is a good deal to see and choose from, and by registering you have access to a great deal more.

February is Classroom Observation Month

Observation is an inherent tenet of Montessori education which is based on scientific observation. You are encouraged to sign up for your child's class and any other class as well. Sign up sheets are outside each classroom and will be there for the next month and a half. Observations count as parent service hours and they are generally 20 minutes long. You will enter, children will continue their work and you will have a reference paper to guide your observation.

You may want to also consider visiting another level that you may be curious about. All kindergarten parents that are interested in registering for our elementary program are required to observe first.

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@rockpraiemontessori.com).

As a reminder: **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>.

LATEST TAX NEWS: Recently passed federal tax legislation allows parents to invest in 529 plans to be used for elementary private school tuition! Please consult a financial professional to see if this option fits your situation and would be beneficial.

Bids 4 Kids - Looking for Donations



Not sure what to donate? We are looking for:

- Bottles of Wine (for wine pull)
- Items to help pull baskets together such as sporting equipment, home improvement and decor, art, beauty items, memorabilia, kids' fun, wellness, experiences, etc.
- Baskets (to put items in)
- Sponsorships

If you have a business you'd like to ask for donations, we have on the table in the vestibule: B4K Letter of Request, Donation form and Sponsorship form (which lists levels of sponsorship). Remember that donations count for volunteer hours! (approx. \$10 = 1 volunteer hour).

The event will be Saturday, April 7, starting at 6 pm at The Armory in downtown Janesville. This year's theme is Wild West - so start looking for those cowboy boots and hats! **Tickets bought in advance (in the school office are \$10 each; admission at the door will be \$15.**



Card Making - Last Call!

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 as soon as possible (can RSVP by stopping by the office or emailing Melissa Badger - mbadger@rockprairiemontessori.com).

EVENTS

Finding Events

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

Valentine's Day Card Making Workshop - January 26, 5:45-8 pm (\$25, *rsvp to* mbadger@rockprairiemontessori.com *or stop by office. Samples on vestibule table.*)

February 1 - Re-enrollment begins! (*a link will be sent to you via an email from TADS*)

Elementary Presentation Night - February 1, 6-7:30 pm (childcare for Toddler House and Children's House available for \$10 and signup for care by [clicking here](#))

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

March 26-April 2 - Spring Break (school resumes April 3)

Bids 4 Kids "Wild Wild West" - Saturday, April 7, 6-10 pm (*Tickets on sale!*)

Spring Pictures - April 11 (Toddler, Elementary and Siblings) and April 12 (Children's House)

SAVE THE DATE! - April 25, 6 pm: Dr. Paul Epstein Presentation/Discussion on Middle School and Montessori education. Child care will be available.

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 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 Tuesday, April 24 event:

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



Birthdays - February

February 3 - Michelle Vechinsky

February 21 - Martha Carver

