

Newsletter editor Bev Wolff

January/February 2018

Montessori News

The Montessori School of Pullman

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Letter from the Editor

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bunch & snack, Benefit
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on Board! Pg. 4

Calendar Highlights:

January

1 Happy New Year

2 Teacher Inservice Day

15 MLK, Jr. Day –
Montessori is closed

26 – *Friday Normal
schedule for Montessori.
Public School closed. Extra
care offered. Contact office.*

February

14 – **Monday Valentine's
Day** Please bring cards to
distribute to all of your
classmates.

16 – **Wednesday Lunar New
Year Dragon Dance and
Parade** in the hallway. 11:00
and 3:00. All welcome.

19 – **Monday Presidents'
Day** Montessori closed.

21- **Wednesday 3:45 – 5:30
Back to School Night**
welcome. Come watch your
child work.

Golden Jubilee – Fifty years of Excellence!



The Pink Tower – simple, engaging, favorite!

Dear Parents,

At this year's annual fundraiser – a benefit dinner- we are celebrating our Golden Jubilee. That's 'Fifty Years of Excellence'! The Montessori School of Pullman has been in continuous operation since 1968!



Our benefit dinner will be held right here in the **View Room of Gladish on Saturday, March 24 from 5:30 – 8:30**. There will be time to mix and mingle, while sampling locally produced beer and wine, followed by appetizers, dinner and dessert catered by Mela - A Bangladeshi Cuisine. Tickets cost \$50 per person, or \$350 for a table of eight, and will be on sale beginning February 1 through March 20. Ticket prices include cost of dinner and drinks.

This event is one of our very few activities that is geared towards adults only, so please do work on finding a babysitter! We do so want you to join us for this fun evening. We will provide limited babysitting at the event, too.

So, what's planned for this year's event? Apart from the delicious food, and good conversation with other parents and teachers, there will be an exhibit of photographs of our children and their favorite things about Montessori. There will be live music. We'll have an auction of gift cards and items donated by local businesses, as well as a service auction offered by families. There will be table-trivia, and a chance to contribute to some items on our teachers' wish lists, and provide some of their favorite things for your children's classrooms.

We do so hope you will join us in building the strength of our school for our current and future children by getting involved with this year's fundraiser, whether by attending, donating, helping to decorate, or by donating an item or a service for a raffle prize – see back page for more ideas.

Cheers,
Bev



Montessori Matters – Co-ordination, concentration and Control

"A child who becomes a master of his acts through long and repeated exercise, and who has been encouraged by the pleasant and interesting activities in which he has been engaged, is a child filled with health and joy and remarkable for his calmness and discipline." Maria Montessori

from The Discovery of the child

"C" is for Coordination, concentration and control". Three C's built as the child manipulates with the small tools and materials." Ms. Sudha

It takes a great deal of skill to manipulate small spoons and tongs. Often children are expected to make do with adult-sized materials in an adult's environment, and this can lead to frustration. The Montessori practical life curriculum scales back those utensils and skills, to make them child-friendly. Using utensils that fit the child's hand allows them to be successful and to achieve mastery. As they master using materials that fit their own hands, they can work their way up to using the "normal" materials in their regular environments.

Along with the coordination is control. Control refers to the child's ability to control the materials and utensils he manipulates. It refers to his ability to control his body, as well. He must control his body as he moves through the classroom environment, to be respectful to his peers. Control over his body also teaches him to respect himself.

Coordination and control are a big part of the children's fine motor skills. In a Montessori classroom, Practical life, Art, and Sensory areas are the main centers for practicing fine motor skills. Through repeating tasks that interest the child, the child refines his or her sense of order, develops concentration, coordination, control, all leading to a growth in independence and a sense of self-worth. Success with the activities helps kids develop into life-long learners with a 'can do' attitude.



Our dragon is made from recycled materials.



We are excited about the Dragon Dance and parade.

CELEBRATING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR THE YEAR OF THE DOG

恭祝健康、幸运，新年快乐
。 - Good health, good luck and much happiness throughout the year.

As we enter the year of the dog, please celebrate the Lunar New Year with us! On Friday, February 16, at 11:10 and again at 3:10, we will celebrate the Lunar New Year with a dragon dance and parade. (And like all parades, we need an audience, so parents are very welcome!) Dragons are considered a symbol of power. We invite you to dress in red, a lucky color, or in traditional clothes for the parade. During the build-up you might see any of the following symbols or traditional items from the New Year celebration: Leisee – red packets, decorated with gold symbols, and filled with 'lucky money' lanterns
fortune cookies

The Year of the Dog has the potential to be "productive, enthusiastic, independent, engaging, dynamic, honorable, loyal and protective." I was born in the year of the dog, and identify with the qualities listed above. I welcome the New Year!

"Life is an echo; what you send out, comes back." Chinese proverb

Connecting with your child's class!

Here are some ideas to get connected!

- Volunteer
- Come in and observe
- Attend the Back to School Night
- Check out our facebook page – we often share photo blasts that give you a sneak peek into the classrooms!
- Attend the Benefit Dinner and view the wonderful slide show of all of the children and many different activities we offer!

STOP PRESS NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS!

To Ms. Poly and her family! Ms. Poly is expecting a new baby in June! Ms. Poly, like Ms. Tessa, is planning to return to work after Labor Day. In the meantime, if anyone has good recommendations for infant care, please let us know! (And, hey, sometime in the spring, let's have a joint baby shower!)

To Ms. Tessa! Ms. Tessa recently was awarded a scholarship through Child Care Aware of Washington to help her complete her degree in Children's Studies through Eastern Washington University. As well as help with tuition, the scholarship covers release time for study. Ms. Tessa will receive about a day off per month, covered by her scholarship, for the purpose of studying, meeting with mentors, taking tests, etc. Congratulations, Ms. Tessa. You so deserve this, as you are an excellent student. Our school's participation in Early Achievers, a statewide quality improvement plan, not only recognizes our quality, but also allows our staff to apply for these generous scholarships. I hope other staff will apply in the future.

To our school! Our school was filmed as part of an impact statement to show the quality of early childcare available in Eastern Washington. I am so proud that our school was chosen to represent our region – what an honor! The video is going through the last stages of approval, and once it is available, I will be sure to share it with you and the whole community!

CLASSROOM NEWS!

Oak: We welcome Jayce and his family to our class. Many of our children are working on potty training. We love our music classes and especially learning new songs and playing the bells, sticks and drums!

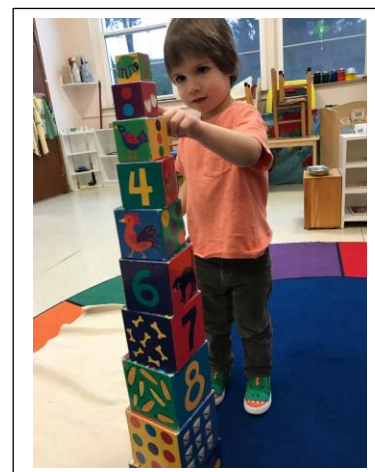
Aspen: We are studying about land, air and water, which will lead into a study of land forms. We have new works in all areas of the classroom. As we are welcoming a new child into the class (Welcome, William – younger brother of one of our former students, Winnie), this is the perfect time to review our ground rules and Montessori basics. All children benefit from this after the long winter break!

Willow: We are visiting Africa in our imaginations, and learning about the countries, the people and the animals of Africa. We are also exploring magnetism. We welcome Aren to our class. Aren's big sister, Mila, is joining Maple class.

Maple: We welcome Mila, a first grader, to our class. Amelia, one of our former students who was part of our school for many years, including through first grade, returns to us for a five week visit. Amelia is a third grader, and currently living and studying in China. We are learning about Martin Luther King, Jr., and his dream for the future. We will be making a presentation to the preschoolers about 'put ups' versus 'put downs.'



Above - Willow's Africa Shelves
Below- Building and counting a tower in Oak Room

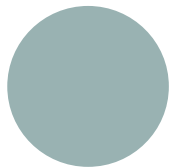




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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.pullmanmontessori.org

Find us on
FaceBook!

The Back Page!

Lunch Bunch and Snack Reminders

- AFTER-CARE ONLY students – please bring a snack to school to share for January and again in February – ideas: cheese sticks and crackers, a bag of apples or oranges, a box of cereal and milk, vegetables and hummus.
- Please try to bring your snack items the day ahead of your child's snack day. This allows our assistant teachers to prepare snack before class begins.
- Please note that items on the snack calendar may also be used as food prep items for class time.
- Please feel free to substitute if an item on the snack calendar is not something that your family eats. However, please try to substitute a similar item e.g. a dairy item for a dairy – yoghurt instead of cheese sticks, a fruit for a fruit – apples instead of bananas.
- Please add a note to a sunbutter, almond-butter, wow butter sandwich, so that our staff all know that it is not peanutbutter! Thanks for helping keep our children safe.

Paying for Montessori

Did you know that we accept DSHS payments to cover Montessori? If you want to know if you qualify, you can call 1-877-501-2233.

New changes in tax law allow you to open a 529 Savings Account and shield up to \$10,000 per year from federal income tax in K-12 private education! Ask a tax specialist about this option!



Looking for a few good items or services . . . for this year's Benefit Dinner

Montessori Benefit Dinner Service Auction

This year you are invited to donate "experiences" that encourage us to focus on community connections. How does a service auction work? People think up ideas for fun events (such as themed parties, nature experiences, guided bike rides, special meals, family game nights, etc.) or services (such as yard work, babysitting, etc.) that they can offer to provide. Often, people team up with others to host an event. All the proceeds from the sale of the items go to the school. Think this way:

- Do you have a special skill you could teach? Offer a class for a certain number of participants for a certain amount of money, date and time to be arranged.
- Can you provide some
- Could you offer an hour of labor? Rake leaves, clean gutters, wash windows, organize a garage, trim trees? evening of babysitting? a spring cleaning of someone's kitchen? help with painting?
- Do you have some equipment that you could lend or use with someone else (e.g., a truck, a power washer)?
- Would you like to host a dinner for four, for eight, for two?
- Would you like to lead a hike, a bike ride, a visit to some special place?
- Could you bake something delicious for some special dinner?

Fill out this [form](#) to donate a service item or email

montessori@pullman.com.

Save the Date
Benefit Dinner
Saturday, March 24
5:30 – 8:30
Gladish View Room
Tickets on sale soon!
\$50 each or
\$350 for a table of eight.