



Newsletter editor Bev Wolff

April and May 2019

Montessori News

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The Montessori School of Pullman

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Parents,

Spring is a time of transition for us all at Montessori. Soon we will bid farewell to Ms. Joleen and Ms. Nicole, wishing them the very best for their future. Ms. Joleen will be heading west to take care of her father, and Ms. Nicole will be taking time off to focus on the needs of her family, and her own education. Thanks, ladies, you were a great team!

We are now deep into the hiring process, and we are committed to hiring the very best candidates for all of our open positions, including our new 3 - 6 classroom. We will keep you informed of our progress. Please also remember that the other children in the community and the environment itself are both important teachers in a Montessori school, and help maintain stability when a teacher leaves.

The Montessori School of Pullman is committed to growing Montessori education in our area. One way we do this is by supporting our teachers on their Montessori journey. We are happy to be helping Ms. Morgan add a Montessori birth to three teaching certificate to her degree in early childhood education. And what do we get in return for our investments? Awesome teachers!

Please be reassured that we are seeking qualified Montessori teachers to fill our lead teacher positions.

Benefit Dinner Wrap-Up

Thank you to everyone who participated in our **Benefit Dinner**, in one of so many ways, from donating items for the raffle baskets, buying raffle tickets, attending the event, soliciting items for the auction and gift-card grab, bidding on items, helping with set up and clean up, designing the program, the flyer, making a donation, becoming a monthly supporter . . . We made a profit of about \$4500 at this event, while also having a jolly good time.

A special thank you goes to Mary Jones and Bob Scholes, committee members, who did the bulk of soliciting items for the auction.

A thank you goes to Dianna Gearhiser for design of the flyer and postcards. A big thank you goes out to Melissa Emerson and J & H printing for our beautiful programs. We would also like to thank Jenny Finau for the catering through Lumberyard catering, and for the donation of desserts through Dough Rae Me. (Yum – I especially loved the bacon jam, made from your grandmother's recipe!) I send a big thank you to my husband John for not only buying the beer for this event, but also for bar tending all night!

We would also like to thank the teachers for their creative and thoughtful teacher-time auction items. Teacher-time alone raised \$415 dollars.

Invitation to become a monthly supporter

At the event, I told the story of a regular Montessori family who opted to pay it forward to support other Montessori families and the school in general. Since their child graduated, we have received a check in the mail for \$25 a month. That's \$300 a year. This family is now in their third year of donating, so will be approaching a \$900 donation, at a monthly rate they can manage. I invited other families to join this family and myself (I am now a \$25 a month donor) in becoming a monthly supporter. I thank the Sullivan family and my friend, Kat (no kids in school) in becoming monthly donors. So now we have four monthly donors, providing a monthly donation of \$85, and an annual combined donation of \$1020. Just imagine if we had ten or twelve monthly donors, who all donated a small monthly sum, about the cost of one fancy coffee a week, we could easily raise \$3000 a year. And if we kept these ten donors, and added another ten next year, we would raise \$6,000, and the third year we could raise \$9000. This would be a great way to pay it forward and provide a strong foundation for future growth of the school.

Monthly donations made easy – arrange through bill-pay through your bank, usually at no charge. We will send you each year an end of year donation receipt for tax purposes.

I am so hoping we can add another six monthly supporters from our staff and families! Let us know if you can help out!

Thanks,
Bev Wolff

Calendar Highlights:

April

25 – Open House 4:00 – 5:30

26 – Recorder concert in Little Theatre at 2:45. Parents welcome.

27 – Open House 10:00 to noon

May

3 – Final parent work day

17 – 18 Rummage Sale at Holiday Inn Express

20 – 24 Montessori Outdoor Science School for Maple and Spruce students

22 – Blood Drive 11:00 – 4:30

27 – Memorial Day – Montessori is closed

June

6- Graduation ceremonies

7 – Sunnyside field trip and end of school picnic. Parents welcome

7 – Last day of school

10 – Summer School begins!

All on Board!

Updating Snow Policy – Thanks, parents, for your input. We heard from almost 50 people. After reviewing the input, the board has made the following change to our snow policy:

- All Montessori classes will close if the Pullman public schools close because of snow/weather conditions. Snow days are announced via the webpage of the Pullman School District. Snow days will be made up at the discretion of the Board.
- The Montessori School will start at 9:30 AM if Pullman public schools start late due to weather conditions.
- If the Pullman School District is closing early because of snow/weather conditions, we will begin notifying parents, and encouraging families to pick up their children early, so children and staff can get home as safely as possible.
- Notifications to our families will be via our emergency email-to-text list, our FaceBook page, and class dojo.

Kindergarten placement –

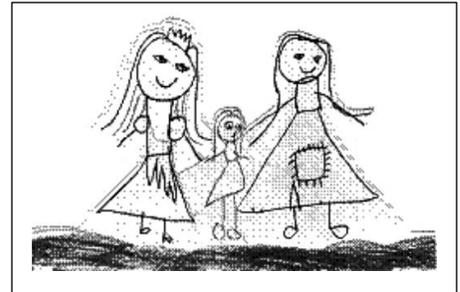
Due to input from families who have children who will be kg-aged by August 31, we have decided that kg aged children will be placed EITHER in the 3 – 6 classrooms, OR the Maple room, based on input from parents and teachers. Ms. Colette will be reaching out to all of our families who have children enrolled in KG for next academic year.

Refer a Friend- Spread the word about Montessori!

Parent referrals are our best form of marketing. As incentive to invite friends to “Experience the Montessori Difference,” we will offer a \$50 tuition credit to you for every new half day child that enrolls in our program and a \$100 tuition credit to you for every new all-day child that enrolls based on your referrals. Please take a few post cards and pass them out to friends and neighbors. As always, thank you for your support of Montessori!

Open House

One way you can refer a friend is by inviting your friend to one of our upcoming Open Houses. Please consider sharing our event on your social media – help spread the word!



Open House at the Montessori School of Pullman
For children ages 2 through lower elementary
Thursday, April 25th 4:00 - 5:30 or
Saturday, April 27th 10:00 - Noon

Summer Registration is now OPEN

We have summer registration available for all interested families. The program runs in two sessions, for a total of 8 week (June 10- Aug 2). All currently enrolled Montessori families are invited to register. We will also open registration to incoming Montessori students entering preschool and above. We can accommodate 20 children in our program, so register today! Students can register for individual weekly sessions or for the entire summer. Ms. Morgan and Ms. Lynn will be leading the summer program, with Ms. Bev leading an outdoor exploration program for entering kg and older students during the first week.

Playground Fundraiser

There is still time to donate to our Playground Fundraiser. We would like to purchase a large piece of climbing equipment to enhance our playground. We are nearing our goal but need a bit more support to fulfill our financial need. We have currently raised almost \$7000, and we are hoping to raise \$10,000 to cover purchase and installation! Thanks.

We can't wait to see the smiles of the children when the climber is installed! Follow the link to see the climber

<https://playworld.com/products/40>

Follow the link below to see the fundraiser.

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/411721806266>





Ms. Morgan is getting married!

Ms. Morgan will be away for the month of May celebrating her wedding on an extended holiday! Congratulations to Ms. Morgan and fiancé Christian. Our current substitute, Ms. Lynn, will be taking over as Assistant Teacher in the Aspen Room while Ms. Morgan is away. Ms. Lynn will also be the Before Care lead and will be leading our summer program with Ms. Morgan.

STOP PRESS NEWS

Oak Room We welcomed Arnav to our classroom. Arnav is Ms. Sudha’s son, and Advait’s brother. This month our students really enjoyed dying eggs as a spring activity.



Aspen Room We enjoyed studying dinosaurs. We recently had a visit from a former parent, who brought us some fossils to look at and touch. We also enjoyed a study of colors, and painting rainbows!



Willow Room We have enjoyed learning about Europe. Our special visitors have been Ms. Nina, who gave us a presentation about her homeland of Germany, and Ms. Bev, who gave us a presentation about her homeland of England. We have made maps, learned about animals, and made our own flags.

Maple Room

A highlight of April in the Maple Room has been the spring market. 100% of the students participated, and we had a very wide variety of hand-made goods for sale -

Jewelry, pots, origami, paper airplanes, painted pots with packets of seeds, pencil pom-poms, rice bags for hot and cold comfort, seed bombs, and lots of home baked goodies. We raised over \$100, and between them the children also took home \$100 between them to cover the cost of materials. Thanks everyone for the support.

We also enjoyed a fabulous day at the Elson S. Floyd Cultural Center for a tour, and cultural activities focused on dance, art, story and architecture. Thanks, Dr. Paula, Camden’s Mom.

Our highlight for May will be our week-long outdoor science school (MOSS). For five days we will set out with our packs on our back to hike, explore and engage in hands-on science learning activities.





**The Montessori School
of Pullman**

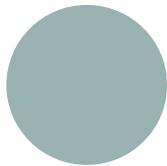
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.pullmanmontessori.org

Find us on
FaceBook!

The Back Page!

**Food for Thought
Afternoon Tea**

Growing up in England, in what seems now a bygone age, I had afternoon tea with my Mam and my sister every day. Over a cup of tea (or glass of milk) and a snack, my sister and I shared with one another and our Mam the highlights and lowlights of our day.

Afternoon tea was also a special treat for my children, and they especially loved sharing afternoon tea with their friends, both real, and imaginary.

Summer is the perfect time for afternoon tea in the garden, picnic style. Here are some suggestions, all also perfect for a picnic or school lunch:

tiny sandwiches – cucumber and cream cheese, hard boiled egg and sprouts, mashed avocado and bacon. To make the sandwiches extra fancy, cut them into shapes using a cookie cutter.
fruit – strawberries, of course, but also slices of apple and pear
vegetable sticks and dip – carrots, cucumbers, zucchini, celery
scones or toast or English muffins, toasted, with a little butter and jam or honey or marmalade

What you eat is really not that important. Teatime is more a state of mind. Use your prettiest china, or a special tablecloth or picnic blanket. Dress up. Wear a hat. Make a centerpiece of flowers you have picked together. Invite the teddy bears in your house to a picnic. Use a real basket. Go to the park. Use fabric napkins. Drink sleepytime or peach tea (favorites of many children, especially if sweetened with honey) or make home-made lemonade or drink juice you have squeezed at home.

Having a special afternoon tea would be a lovely way to celebrate Mothers' Day!

A friend of mine also insists that all afternoon teas should begin with a poem. Perhaps you might like to include a favorite poem or story book.



Many Thanks

Thank you to all parents who have volunteered throughout the year. Be sure to mark your hours in our Volunteer Logs (located in the main office and outside of each classroom). Documenting your hours not only assures us that your 10 hours of volunteer time have been met, it is a great marketing point of our school when we total the collective hours volunteered!

Save the Dates

Rummage Sale

Our Annual Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, May 17th and Saturday, May 18th at the Holiday Inn Express. Check your email for more information. Thank you to Sarah Scholes for leading the charge!

Blood Drive

On Wednesday, May 22nd we will be hosting the second portion of our Blood Drive. We have about 35 donation slots left to fill (Thank you to the 10 donors who have already signed up!). If we can achieve our donor goal, Vitalant will provide us with a \$2000 STEAM grant. An email will be sent out with the link and more information. Thank you for helping our school and community!



Montessori Summer School

Sessions run from Monday, Jun10 – Friday, August 2, 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

We have flexible programs to meet your needs. Children may attend sessions from 3 to 10 hours each day.