

## Children's House

### Kim and Sasa's Class

Fall is already here! For the past month we have been busy getting used to new routines, making new friends and getting to know our classroom. We practiced lining up, how to watch someone work, how to take care of our classroom, as well how to get a snack. We had different kinds of lessons. Some of us learned and wrote about fruit and vegetables. K5 classes went to their first Urban Ecology Center field trip. In the woods and at school we learned about caterpillars and butterflies. Some of us learned about geometric solids and found them in the neighborhood. We played games in the gym class and learned new songs in the music class. We marked the first day of autumn. We collected leaves and created leaf rubbings. We saved leaves by pressing them. We compared the leaves that we found to the leaves in the books. We read many different



books and some of us read our first words. We played, ate lunch and took rests. We would like to thank Families of the Week for bringing us flowers, carrots and apples, as well as washing our laundry. Thanks to all families for bringing healthy snacks.

## Adolescent Program.

### Mary's Class

The middle school program begin with our yearly odyssey - a student excursion which affords us an opportunity to get to know new students in our class as well say 'hello' to old friends. This year, we went to YMCA Camp Minikani on Amy Belle Lake in Hubertus. We did some activities to help establish a team spirit in the group, and then tackled the climbing wall. Each student set his or her independent goal -- deciding just how high she would climb. Everyone got on this challenging wall; 3 of the students made it to the top. Sherri Ohly, who also made it to the top, accompanied us on the trip.

We just finished the Orientation Cycle designed to put in place structures and skills that will be used throughout the year. We applied the principles of Multiple Intelligence Theory to presentations, and we took various inventories to indicate our strengths.

Much of the time we worked on the various stages of writing and incorporated these into the first of many writing assignments.

We welcome 2 new students to our class: Samanta Garay and Martin Reyna. It is great to have them on board and we look forward to their contributions to the group. That brings our class total to eleven students: five boys and six girls.

"Forces" is the theme of the first full academic cycle. We see it as we study historical revolutions, the four fundamental forces of the universe, and aspects of stress that are part of the daily life of an adolescent.

We are presently structuring a service learning project for the class in conjunction with

SweetWater. This is a community conglomerate of programs built on the urban farming principles of Growing Power. Its ideal location - in Bay View just off KK - makes working there convenient and accessible.

### Music

Music Groups will be starting this coming week, Sept 21st. New this year is a violin group for 5th and 6th graders; the students have already been sized for the violins. One of our parents was able to get these violins through a grant. We are very grateful for this addition to our music program.

The 7th and 8th graders will be continuing with guitars. There will be eight guitar players in the 7th grade group, so we could use a few more instruments if anyone has a guitar to donate.

In addition to the general music times for each of the Children's House Classes, each student in these rooms will get individual time with the Montessori Bells. The 1st and 2nd graders have a group music class and also individual time on the Tone Bars.

Many of you know I also have a studio at home for private lessons: Violin, piano and for older students, guitar and voice. I have a few openings for the coming year, and my fee is \$14 per 1/2 hour lesson.

If you are interested for have questions about either the school program or private lesson you can contact me at 218-4031.

Thank You.

## Girl Scouts

Our Girl Scout troops are off to a great start. We welcomed two new girls -- one new Brownie and one new Junior, but all of our girls from last year participated in "Early Bird Renewal" last spring -- so we were able to get going earlier this year.

Our Brownies are happy to be back and they're looking forward to another fun year. Brownies are girls in 2nd and 3rd grade (the older students in Lower Elementary) and we'd love to have more. Brownies will meet right after school -- from 3:30-5 pm on every other Wednesday.

Our Juniors will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 4:30-6 pm. They're getting ready for another action-packed year and are hoping to do more horseback riding, try winter camping, and finishing their service project for their "It's Your World -- Change It" journey. We have one girl who is old enough to be a Cadette Girl Scout, and we'll work on her with Cadette activities, but also have fun as a large, Upper Elementary and Adolescent program.

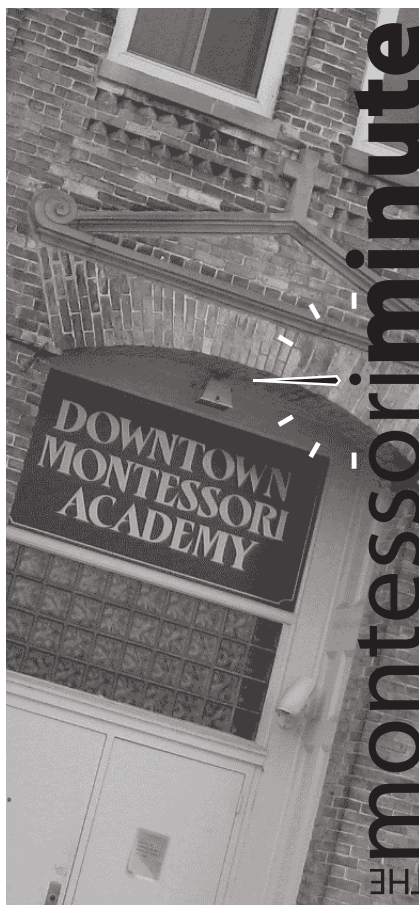
Both our troops will be doing lots of fundraising this year. Be on the lookout for our bake sales (so you can see how well we can make our own baked goods before those infamous cookies come in January)! And don't forget our Nut/Candy sale. Our Juniors will begin taking orders October 16. These nuts and candies make great holiday gifts, so be sure and find a DMA Junior Girl Scout and place your order.

We would also love to start a Daisy Girl Scout troop if there is enough interest. Daisy Girl Scouts are K5 and 1st Grade ages. We will need to recruit two leaders for a group to start up. Free training is available. Please get in touch with Veronica at 414-747-1807 if you're interested. In fact, call Veronica if you have any questions about Girl Scouts or your daughter would like to join us. There's no "deadline" -- come join us anytime.

## Scholastic Books

Thanks to all the parents who ordered books last week! Your orders generated 35 free book picks for your child's classroom, and we racked up over 7,000 bonus points. Next month look for the cool new area rug in the child care room that we were able to buy with some of our bonus points.

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## Principal's Message

*Welcome to all new and returning parents.*

*The children are off to a great start, they are busy growing and working. There are many ways you can support your child's learning here at DMA. Here are a few simple ones: Spend a few minutes every evening looking at any handouts your child brings home. Fill out any forms and return them to your child folder for the next day. Review their homework and assist them if needed. READ READ READ - to them and with them! Contact your child's teacher immediately through a note or email if you see a problem. Working together will help your child. Attend conferences, parent education meetings and volunteer in the classroom or library.*

*See you all at our first Parent Education meeting on Saturday, October 10th. This will be the first in a series of meetings about our Montessori program. We will have these throughout the year on various aspects of the Montessori Method.*

*Virginia Flynn*



## Important Dates OCTOBER

- 03 Outpost Lunch
- 08 Dress Code optional  
Fall Festival Party 5:30-8:30  
at South Shore Pavilion
- 09 No School
- 10 Parent education 9:00am-11:30am  
(parents only, no children)
- 23 Picture Day (Dress Code Optional)

## What We've Been Doing in the Classroom

### Upper Elementary

#### Wish List

##### Sasa and Kim's Classes:

- bubble wrap
- 4 used cookie sheets (for art)
- brass fasteners
- floral wire
- transparent contact paper
- 5 classroom plants
- newspaper cut in 12 by 12 inch squares (60 sheets)
- small stack of newspaper (1 week's worth)
- 4 rolls of adding paper
- velcro & muslin
- stamp pads (red, blue, green)
- pipe cleaners

##### Beth's Class:

- live bugs

##### Music Class:

- guitars

##### All Classes:

- Parent Volunteers

#### Beth's Class

##### Field Trips We've Taken:

We have already been on our first trip to Urban Ecology Center. For our first trip every year we try to do something adventurous. This year we went bike riding on the UEC's Trek bikes. One group went North on the Oak Leaf Trail, and the other went South. It was a perfect day for biking!

##### Wish List:

As we are beginning our biology studies this year with invertebrates, (in particular, bugs) we could use some specimens! If you are able to capture a neat bug (alive) this fall, our class would love to take a close look at it!

I can always use parents who have the time to make materials. I have some math books that need binding, for example.

#### What we are studying:

In mathematics, we are knee-deep in fractions work. In language, our Level 4 readers are getting good at personal narratives, and our Workshop Writers are finishing up their first story using a writer's craft. We have new materials geared specifically towards upper elementary students for all of the study areas, and are getting to know them.

We are again making school kits for kids in refugee camps. These will be loaded on boxcars on October 10th along with other donations from Southeastern Wisconsin, and then will be sent via relief organizations to refugee camps. Unfortunately, this

coincides with DMA Parent-Education Day, so we will not be able to assist with the loading as we did last year. Oh well, we'll get 'em next year!

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### Lower Elementary

#### Amy and Kerry's classes:

It's been a busy year so far in Lower Elementary. We visited the Urban Ecology Center and the children explored where food comes from, and soil science. We had a beautiful fall day and were even able to watch scientists do hands-on research with birds. We have been getting the children started in all the different subject areas. They are so excited to find out that there is so

much more for them to discover! We completed the first week of our reading program. Hopefully, your child has talked to you about what we are doing and you have observed him or her working diligently to complete the assigned work! I'm sure that by next month, we will have quite a wish list, including volunteer opportunities for parents.