

News & Notes

OCTOBER 2011

Partners in child development

Our school year is off to a great start! We were happy to greet our new and returning children and families. The teachers worked hard to make their classrooms purposefully simple at the start of the school year so as not to overwhelm the children with too many new experiences.

You have chosen Plymouth-Canton Montessori School to widen your children's social and academic exposure. Some skills that they will be developing right away (and returning children will be refining) are:

- **Keeping track of belongings.** The school provides the children with specific storage areas. We recommend that you do the same at home.
- **Understanding and developing order.** Young children learn by doing. As they work with materials, they will begin to understand how to put things back and to take turns.
- **Doing things for oneself.** Zipping, buttoning, tying, and other skills will come out of the necessity of taking care of oneself in a classroom setting. Parents do not have to push. These skills will develop naturally as the

child sees older classmates doing them.

- **Sharing an adult.** The child is gradually developing an awareness of others through his or her social contacts.
- **Inner controls related to the environment.** The child begins to understand the expectations of the classroom community. He or she wants to belong.
- **Development of language.** New experiences and feelings will eventually broaden your child's range of expression. Through materials, stories, songs, and everyday communication, the children will add to their vocabularies.
- **Desire to work.** Children have a deep love for work and a natural curiosity. They long to share in the adult world of doing meaningful, necessary tasks. At home, parents can allow children to participate in family life and help care for themselves and their environment.

Thank you for choosing our Montessori program for yourselves and your children. We look forward to forming a partnership with you in aiding your child's development.

—Linda Myers and Cheryl Miller

Learn the art of Parent Talk

As parents, you know that your communication style and the words you choose are important to your children's self-esteem, emotional health, and personal empowerment. Learn to enhance those parenting skills at our Parent Talk System workshop!

A free introductory session, "3 Quick Parent Talk Tips," provided an overview on October 11 (if you missed it, it's also being offered at our Dearborn Heights campus; see details later in this article). The six-session workshop will be held at PCMS on Tuesdays beginning October 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Developed by renowned educator, author, and speaker Chick Moorman, the Parent Talk System is helping families across the country and internationally create emotionally healthy relationships. Workshop facilitators Sue Fitzpatrick and Heidi Gauger will guide parents and teachers through a series of exercises to identify words that empower and words that wound.

Participants can implement the strategies presented immediately!

Skills covered include teaching responsibility

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Artwork by Abbie Sirois, 4

"Education should no longer be mostly imparting of knowledge, but must take a new path, seeking the release of human potentialities."

—Dr. Maria Montessori



Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Ready to serve students *and* parents

One of our primary purposes is to meet your needs for services and information.

Welcome to Plymouth-Canton Montessori! We are delighted that you are part of our school community. We're looking forward to a productive and pleasurable year.

The purpose of my column this issue is to let you know about some of the things our school offers you, our parents. We welcome your involvement, as well as your opinions. If the list that follows does not include events or opportunities that you would like to see us consider, please let us know. One of our primary purposes is to meet your needs for services and information.

Parent education

This fall we offered two informational meetings for parents. Our

goal is to familiarize you with our materials, our philosophy, and your child's classroom. On September 29, the teachers provided an overview of Montessori materials and philosophy. On October 11, speakers Sue Fitzpatrick and Heidi Gauger presented "3 Quick Parent Talk Tips," an introduction to the six-session parenting series we will be offering starting October 25.

Courses for parents

Your questions about child development, child behavior, and child "management" will be answered through our Parent Talk System parenting classes. The six-session course begins Tuesday, October 25. See page 1 for details.

Parent Perks

These monthly morning gatherings are an informal opportunity to discuss parenting topics. See page 4 for details.

Child care at parent meetings

We offer free child care during our parent meetings. We hope that this extra service makes it easier for you to attend.

Special programs

Parents are invited to attend special programs for the children. We schedule a field trip or in-house presentation about once a month. Because of transportation and safety issues related to taking the children out, we tend to do more things at the school. Scheduled events include the Organization for Bat Conservation; Margaret Schmidt, the Farm Lady; magician Ben Spitzer, with his health and nutrition show; and the Leslie Science and Nature Center. We'll keep you informed as events are added.

Field trips

Well...I know these aren't really for parents, but without you we can't get there, and we hope you do enjoy them. The children visited Plymouth Orchards earlier this month. Extended Day kindergartners will experience Pioneer Living at Cobblestone Farm in Ann Arbor on Thursday, October 20.

Parent-teacher conferences

Two scheduled conferences give teachers and parents the chance to share information—but you are always welcome to share thoughts and concerns with the staff.

Moms' and Dads' Nights

Come to school with your child on these fun evenings. Have a



Artwork by Natalie Krupka, 4

snack, and do “work”—your children will show you the way they do things in class.

Classroom observations

This opportunity to sit in on your child’s class provides you with a snapshot of his or her school day. You are welcome at any time, but we’ve discovered that you are more likely to come if we set up a schedule! You’ll be notified when observations begin.

Musical gatherings

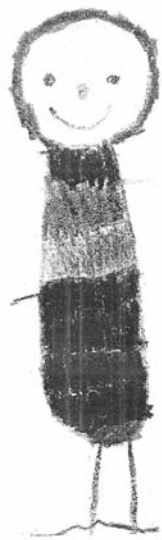
The spring brings this special chance for the children to show you what they have learned in music classes during the year.

Grandparents’ Day

Grandparents are the guests this time; this is a great way to let your parents (or a substitute) see firsthand just how their grandchildren spend their time in Montessori class.

Family Activity Night

Join your enrolled child for an evening of interactive educational fun. The teachers plan a variety of hands-on activities related to the classroom curriculum. This year’s focus will be on science.



Artwork by
Shaylee Szaraz, 4

Art Day

For enrolled children and their parents, this fun-filled Saturday makes everyone an artist-for-a-day. The classrooms are filled with art activities for all to try.

Multicultural Week

Parents present aspects of their cultures to the classes through dance, art, dress, and stories. You’re invited to participate!

Picnic

Parents, children, teachers, and staff gather on the last day of

school for a picnic lunch. Watch for details as the event nears.

Fundraisers

We occasionally bring you high-quality items in a non-obligating way. These may include children’s books, T-shirts and other clothing, or gift items. Sale proceeds are earmarked for classroom and outdoor equipment. See page 5 for fundraiser details.

Lending library

We have a collection of books, CDs, DVDs, and VHS tapes on child development and Montessori topics. Please borrow them!

Website

Our website provides calendar updates, a newsletter archive, and other useful information. We hope you’ll visit regularly: www.pcmontessori.org.

Newsletter

We hope this publication is helpful to you. Our goal is to communicate with you about school events and philosophy. Let us know what you think!

Head teachers offer office hours

For your convenience, the head teachers keep office hours before or after school. You may call to schedule a specific time or simply drop in:

- **Karol Doody**
Thursday, 3:30–5 p.m.
- **Sandy Ewasek**
Monday and Friday,
7:30–8:30 a.m.
- **Sudha Shekar**
Thursday, 7–8:30 a.m.

Who’s who at PCMS

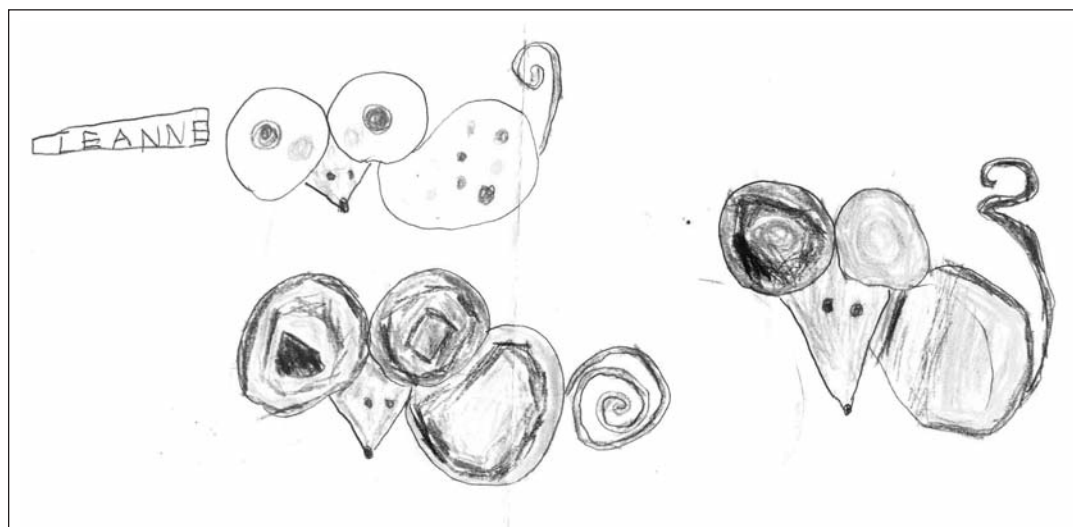
Your child’s teacher is the first person you’ll want to touch base with regarding your child’s progress. In addition, the following PCMS staff members are available to assist you:

- **Linda Myers and Cheryl Miller**, on-site administrators
- **Diane Cook**, head of day care
- **Kay Neff**, head of school

We welcome your questions, so please don’t hesitate to ask any of our teachers or staff members. Your PCMS staff is ready to serve you this school year!

Mission statement

Plymouth-Canton Montessori School provides a safe, nurturing environment unifying academic challenge with quality opportunities for social, emotional, and intellectual growth. This includes a multicultural emphasis that values individuality and attainment of each child’s fullest potential. With the Montessori philosophy as our foundation, we guide development of responsibility and respect by cultivating independent thinking, self-awareness, cooperation, and inner discipline.



Artwork by Leanne Lin, 5

Boost your parenting skills with Parent Perks

Coffee, tea, and lively discussions on parenting topics—it's Parent Perks at PCMS!

On the third Wednesday of each month, stop by the day care room after you drop your child off at school. We'll discuss a topic of interest related to parenting and/or Montessori philosophy. Complimentary child care is available for younger, not-yet-enrolled children.

Watch your email for reminders about upcoming meetings as well as the parenting articles that will be the focus of each session. (Articles are archived on our website, www.pcmontessori.org;

to access them, click on Parent Resources and then Parent Education).

We hope you'll take advantage of this complimentary parent education opportunity!

Parent Perks schedule

Meetings are scheduled for the following Wednesdays at 9 a.m.:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| ■ October 19 | ■ February 15 |
| ■ November 16 | ■ March 21 |
| ■ December 21 | ■ April 18 |
| ■ January 18 | ■ May 16 |

Parent Talk continued from page 1

ity, setting limits with choices, praising effectively, promoting independence, and encouraging character.

The workshop fee is \$60 per individual or \$90 per couple. Registration forms were sent home with students and are available in the lobby. Payment and completed forms are due by Wednesday, October 19.

Can't make Tuesday nights? Sue and Heidi will also offer the workshop at our Dearborn Heights Montessori Center affil-

iate on Wednesdays beginning October 26, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. They will present the complimentary "3 Quick Tips" introductory session at DHMC on Wednesday, October 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. DHMC is located at 466 N. John Daly in Dearborn Heights, one half mile east of Inkster Road and one block north of Cherry Hill.

Complimentary child care will be available at all sessions at both schools.

Sue and Heidi, who are both staff members at DHMC, are seasoned parents and Montessori

teachers. They say that the Parent Talk System has brought an even greater sense of respect, love, and responsibility to their work, and they are eager to share their experiences. "Chick Moorman shows us how to bring respect and peace into our homes to create a more stress-free environment," says Heidi.

"Parenting well is a most rewarding and challenging commitment," says Sue. "Parent Talk is practical, common sense, and mindful of the child's spirit."

It's easy to support our school

Chances are, products you buy and stores where you shop are part of school fundraising programs. PCMS participates in the following programs, and you can too.

We also offer in-house events in support of our school, such as the Scholastic Book Fair held the week of October 10 and a multicultural book fair by As the Page Turns bookstore March 12–14, providing additional opportunities for you to help enhance the PCMS experience.

Target "Take Charge of Education"

If you shop at Target and have a Target Visa or a Target REDcard, your purchases can earn money for PCMS. Holders of either credit card can designate our school through Target's Take Charge of Education program. The retailer will donate 1 percent of REDcard purchases made at Target and Target.com and 0.5 percent of purchases made elsewhere with the Target Visa. Schools receive a check twice a year (March and September), and the funds may be used however they're needed. For more information about the program, visit <http://target.com/tcoe>.

Cartridges for Kids

This recycling program benefits not only our school but the environment as well. Bring used cellphones, laser and inkjet cartridges, digital cameras, video games, PDAs, iPods, laptops, and video game systems to school, and PCMS will earn cash for recycling these items. Your workplace can also help PCMS earn funds, and Cartridges for Kids will arrange for free shipping of collected items. For details, talk to Linda in the office.

Cookie Dough

Our Cookie Dough fundraiser offers ready-to-bake frozen cookie dough in a variety of flavors, and PCMS receives 40 percent of the purchase price. It's a sweet deal for everyone!

Pine River Snacks

Pine River Snacks offers an assortment of delicious snacks, from cookies and candy to nuts and spreads. Every item is \$5, of which our school earns 55 percent.

For Small Hands catalog

For Small Hands is a smaller version of the Montessori Services catalog we use to order educational materials for our classrooms. It offers many items that you can use with your child at home to foster the Montessori spirit of independence. And when you order more than \$25 worth of items,

PCMS receives a 10 percent credit for merchandise through Montessori Services. Watch for a catalog to come home with your child.

Box Tops for Education

Turn your groceries into funds for our school. Look for the Box Tops logo on hundreds of products (view a complete list at www.boxtops4education.com). Then, simply clip them and send or bring them to school.

Square 1 Art

Buy Square 1 Art products such as plates, magnets, mugs, mousepads, and more that display your child's artwork, and our school receives 33 percent of the purchase price.

We appreciate your participation in these worthwhile fundraisers for PCMS!

Fundraising contributes to new play structure

Melody Wang, Patrick Lu, and other PCMS children have been enjoying our recently installed playground structure, made possible with the help of fundraising monies. Thank you, parents, for supporting our school!





Celebrating Peace Day with a song

PCMS children celebrated the United Nations International Day of Peace on September 21 by singing "Light a Candle for Peace." Pictured above are students in Mrs. Ewasek's afternoon class. The song was written by musician and Montessori educator Shelley Murley.

Accreditation is the mark of quality

For the past decade, the early childhood programs at Plymouth-Canton Montessori School and sister schools Dearborn Heights Montessori Center and Livonia Montessori Center have been accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children

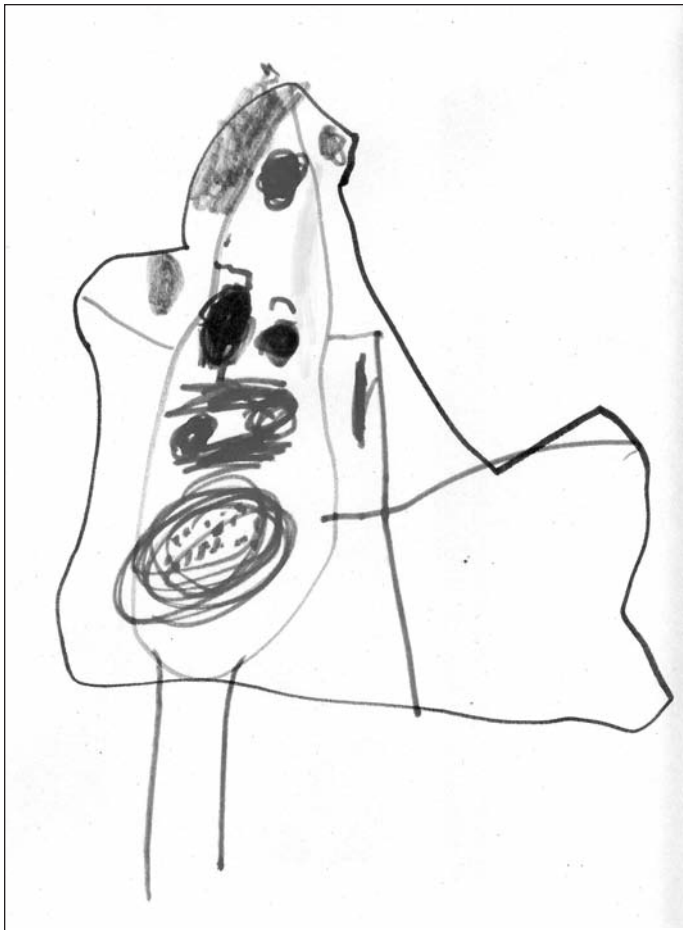
(NAEYC), the country's leading organization of early childhood professionals.

NAEYC accreditation is a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. According to *Parents* magazine (February 2007), "The gold standard of approval is accreditation by the National

Association for the Education of Young Children. NAEYC carefully evaluates schools and child-care centers based on curriculum, teacher qualifications, class size, and health and safety standards; only about 8 percent of U.S. preschools are currently accredited."

Save the date: Michigan Montessori fall workshop

Parents and teachers are invited to the Michigan Montessori Society's fall workshop on Saturday, November 12, featuring guest speaker Diane Levin. The author and educator will address gender issues, stereotyping for both boys and girls, as well as the media and commercialization. The workshop takes place at the Michigan State University Management Education Center in Troy. More details to follow, so mark your calendar today!



Artwork by Lucas Younes, 4

Birthday greetings

Best wishes to those children celebrating their birthdays in September and October:

Karol Doody

Ryan Lin

Dayanira Melendez

Sandy Ewasek

Ayaan Arora

Ava Boccarossa

Shriya Chahal

Shreeya Fogla

Danilo Guberinich

Leah Hawkins

Ayush Khandelwal

Juliana Lee

Thomas Jewell

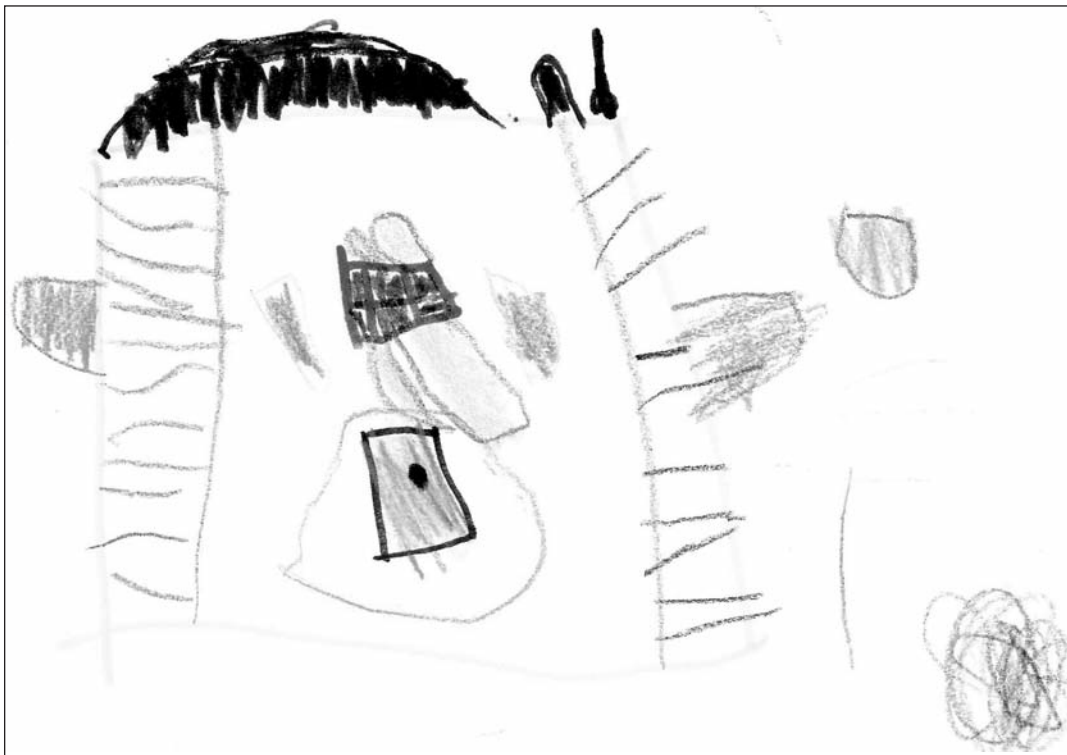
Janavi Karanth

Sudha Shekar

Stephen Ayala

Sydney Kirkland

Josephine Roether



Artwork by Anika Sahas-Shah, 4



PLYMOUTH-CANTON MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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734-459-1550
www.pcmontessori.org

Did you know?

You are welcome to observe in your child's classroom at any time. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn more about your child's day at school.

Join us for an Open House

PCMS will host an Open House for the Community on Thursday, November 10 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Visitors and enrolled families are welcome! Tour our classrooms and learn more about the Montessori philosophy. See you there!

Montessori site for parents makes the grade

Looking for information about Montessori education? Check out MariaMontessori.com, designed especially for parents. The site covers all educational levels of Montessori and offers articles, blogs, podcasts, and videos on a variety of topics—from how to choose a school to famous Montessori graduates. The website is a project of the Montessori Administrators Association.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October

- 10–14 Monday–Friday** *Scholastic Book Fair.* Books will be on sale in the hallway and the French/Music room.
- 19 Wednesday** *Parent Perks meeting.* 9 a.m. Complimentary child care available.
- 19 Wednesday** *Canton Fire Department Fire Safety program.* In-house presentation. Morning class: 10:30 a.m. Afternoon class: 1 p.m.
- 19 Wednesday** *Cookie dough and candy orders due to the office.*
- 19 Wednesday** *"3 Quick Parent Talk Tips" parent meeting at Dearborn Heights Montessori Center.* 6:30–8:30 p.m. Learn about our six-session Parent Talk System workshop, plus get some parenting tips you can use right away! See page 1 for details. Complimentary child care provided.
- 20 Thursday** *Field trip: Pioneer Living Program.* 1:15–2:45 p.m. Extended Day kindergartners visit Cobblestone Farm in Ann Arbor. Drivers/chaperones needed.
- 21 Friday** *Picture Day!* Individual student photos taken during class time.
- 25 Tuesday** *Parent Talk six-session parenting workshop begins at PCMS.* 6:30–8:30 p.m. See page 1 for details, including registration fees. Complimentary child care provided.
- 26 Wednesday** *Parent Talk System six-session parenting workshop begins at Dearborn Heights Montessori Center.* 6:30–8:30 p.m. See page 1 for details, including registration fees. Complimentary child care provided.
- 28 Friday** *Halloween celebrations in the classrooms.* Parents are invited to our annual Halloween parade at the beginning of class.

Take the next step in Montessori education

As the PCMS school year gets under way, it's not too early to begin thinking about the next step in your child's education. As parents, you have many options to consider; however, you have only one opportunity to educate your child at each level of development—preschool, elementary, middle school, and beyond.

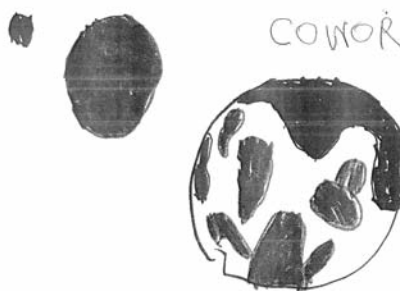
A Montessori education provides optimum learning at each developmental level and addresses each student's particular needs. This approach ensures that every child succeeds at each level—and goes on to succeed in high school, in college, and in life.

PCMS affiliate Dearborn Heights Mon-

essori Center is celebrating its 40th year of providing the highest-quality education available and represents the only single-choice Montessori environment for Toddler through

Middle School in this area. The staff welcomes the opportunity to share with prospective families all the benefits that a DHMC education has to offer. Come to DHMC's Open House on Sunday, November 13 from 1 to 3 p.m., or call Admissions Director Laura Springer (313-

359-3000) to schedule a tour. DHMC is located at 466 N. John Daly in Dearborn Heights, one half mile east of Inkster Road and one block north of Cherry Hill.



Artwork by Conor Bamberg, 5