



POINTS OF INTEREST

March 12, 2010

THE ESSENCE OF MONTESSORI



Nick

BITS AND PIECES

SEE YOU TONIGHT! There is still time to join us for the parent social later this evening at Curry Up. Please feel free to stop by with a couple bucks for food and drink. Fun and good times are free! For more information, check out the back of the POI.

Re-enrollment Forms: Thank you to everyone who has re-enrolled their child(ren) for 2010-2011 already. If you haven't turned in your forms yet, you have until Friday, March 19th, to receive the discounted registration fee.

Auction Fun: If you would like to help out with the planning and execution of this year's Spring Auction, join us tomorrow morning, **Saturday, March 13, from 8:30-10:00 am**. There are many ways to participate and serving on an auction committee is an excellent way to meet and develop relationships with other parents in our community. You can contact Karen and Craig Opp, our event coordinators at k.opp@comcast.net if you have any questions.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Friday, March 12 | Parent Social @ Curry Up 6:30 p.m. **There is still room to join us!** |
| Saturday, March 13 | Auction meeting @ CW 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. |
| Friday, March 19 | Re-enrollment for 2010 - 2011 school year ends |
| March 22-26 | SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL |

****Don't forget: Observations are every Thursday, from 9-10 a.m. Sign up at the front desk.****

Mattar Paneer
Chole
Chicken Tikka Masala
Vegetable Biryani
Plain and Garlic Naan
Plus a few more surprises!

There will be wine and Indian beer available, you just need to show an ID to be served.

who: YOU!
what: Parent & Staff Social
why: Because if you deserve it and it will be yummy!
where: Curry Up 13601 Grove Drive, Maple Grove, MN 55311
when: Tonight @ 6:30 p.m.



Are You a fan of
the workshop?

Since creating our facebook page late last week, we have garnered over 60 fans. Are you one of them? [Click here to become a fan](#)

RUN MARIA RUN

Several parents and staff will be running in the Minnetonka half-marathon on May 2. In preparation for the race, we are planning some weekend training runs starting after spring break. If there are any other runners out there in the CW community who would like to join us (even if you are not running in the race, please contact Nick.



Recommended Reading

At the AMI Refresher Course this past February, I was introduced to Trevor Eissler, author of a new book entitled, *Montessori Madness: A Parent to Parent Argument for Montessori Education*. In the first half of his book, Trevor chronicles his family's journey to Montessori and in the second half, describes many aspects of Montessori in "parent friendly" language. Below is an excerpt from the first half of his book which I thought relevant during conference time:

Parents ask, as I did, how do I know which education method is more effective? If I put my child in a Montessori school, how will I know what they are scoring? Answer: You don't and you won't, ever. If this is something you simply cannot accept; if you need an expert to assign a number value, or a letter grade, or a percentile to your child for you to know whether or not he is flourishing academically, physically, and emotionally, then Montessori is not for you. The Montessori philosophy asks different questions of children than their scores. Asking how a Montessori student is scoring, or is rated, or is ranked is as meaningless as the ranking for schools discussed earlier. It is just as absurd to ask, "What is your wife's score in your marriage?" or "What is your minister's sermon average this year?" Do you need someone else to tell you whether your spouse is attractive, loving, helpful, funny, a slob, a good cook, a green thumb, or a loud snorer? Do you need to see your minister's report card to determine the depth of your belief, the wisdom of the teachings, or the soundness of his advice?

I think you, the parent, should be discriminating and judgmental, in the best sense of both words, when it comes to choosing a school, as well as evaluating your child's progress. By allowing someone else to grade your child--on peripheral subjects--your are handing over one of your highest responsibilities to strangers. You should be evaluating your child, asking relevant questions, just as you evaluate the person you choose to marry, the person you choose to employ, or the person you choose to let in your house.

In Montessori schools, the child is treated as a whole person, meaning the questions asked are very similar to questions one might ask of a respected adult. We evaluate a person by taking stock of his or her life situation, such as the person's social interactions, career, or family life. "Is she happy?" "Is she learning?" "Is he independent?" "Is he sociable?" "Is she able to concentrate?" "Is his curiosity nurtured?" These questions can be answered, not by computer-graded answer sheet, but by yourself. A teacher, whose job and training is to observe your child throughout the day, not just lecture and grade tests, can be of great assistance.

If you are interested in reading more, the school will have one copy of Trevor's book in our library on Monday.

To find out more about Trevor, or to purchase your own copy, check out his website: <http://www.montessorimadness.com/>

