



THE ROAR

DCS Montessori News ~ January 2012

Happy 2012!

DCS Montessori would like to start off the New Year by saying thanks to all of our wonderful community members who participated in making all of our school's holiday activities a huge success, and do hope you and your children enjoyed the holidays as well. Many of the activities were of service to others, and this trend will continue as a focus for our school, into the New Year, as we "jump into" Jump Rope 4 Heart. In the coming weeks, Mr. Bruce will be building our children's interest in Jump Rope and also their understanding of the Heart, and Heart Healthy Behaviors. Today we had our Jump Rope for Heart Assembly for K-6 graders ~ ask your child about it! Our PI (Parent Involvement) Committee is sponsoring many of these educational events. It is our hope to see you here supporting these events, as well as engaging your child(ren) in discussions of the heart, soon.

I hope this finds all our families in the throes of change following our New Year's Resolutions, looking for ways to commit to improving ourselves and our families. Likewise, DCS Montessori also finds itself looking for those areas to commit to change in this New Year that we believe will improve our school and improve your child(ren)'s educational experience. You, currently, have the opportunity to assist us with direction for those improvement changes by participating in our School Accountability Committee (SAC) parent satisfaction survey. The information you provide will help guide our SAC's building of next year's Unified Improvement Plan (UIP). Other changes coming to DCS Montessori are Building and Grounds Committee improvements like MEF sponsored new signage, completed frontage landscaping and outdoor classroom improvements, and Middle School planning! Finally, when we do make changes, it is only done with what is best for our students and our school in mind, thanks for your participation.

Inside DCS Montessori, our teachers and assistants have begun a New Year of work with your children, helping them learn and grow. We invite you in to join us by volunteering, observing in your child's class (especially if preparing for transition), attending one of our Parent Education nights, or by simply participating in one of the many classroom activities coming soon. It has been great seeing so many staff, students, and parents wearing spirit wear around the school, and showing their pride. I hope to see all of you at school soon! And as always, thanks for supporting DCS Montessori.

Listen, Work Hard, Reflect, Educate, and Celebrate

Jeromy Johnson

DCS Montessori, Head of School

Why Montessori?

Maura Joyce, the Head of School from Montessori in the Redlands in California, posted a parent question and her response on an email list for Montessori schools. As we have heard this question many times before, we know it concerns our parents. Here is Maura's answer to the Montessori community:

Parent Question: "This Montessori is all very well and good, but what about when children enter the 'real world;' how does Montessori get them ready for the REAL world?"

Maura's Response:

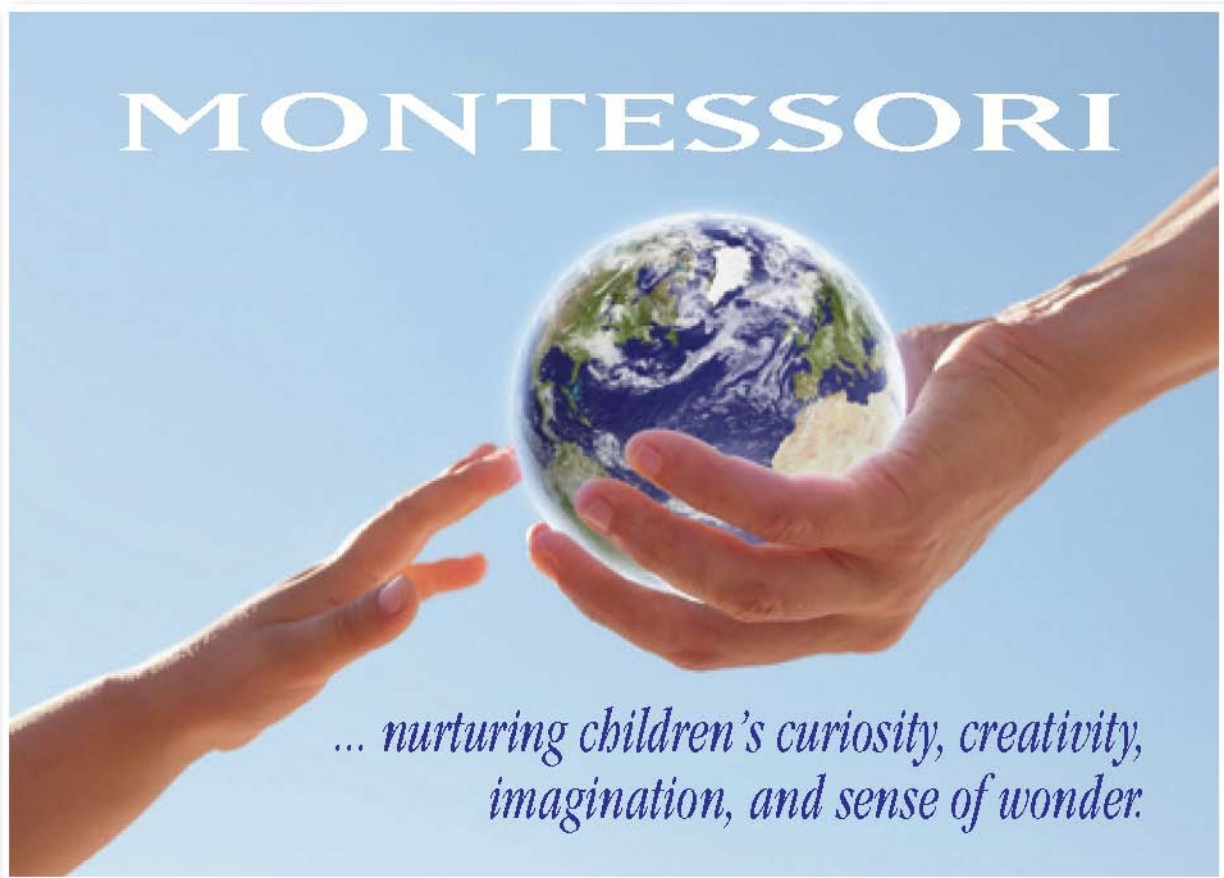
"Well, let's define the REAL world... At your job, is everyone the exact same age? Is everyone sitting at their desks doing the same thing at the same time? Are they doing tasks that require them to access knowledge, off the top of their heads, in a timed setting?"

OR...

Do you have different people with different levels of experience working in your office? Do you collaborate with your colleagues on projects? Do you need the right tools for the

right jobs? Do you need to be able to set up work, concentrate on it, keep it organized, put it away? Do you have to be able to work both independently, and work in a group? Do you need to try things and discover that they work or don't work, this is, learn from your mistakes? Do you need to be able to problem solve? Communicate effectively?

**Montessori IS the
REAL world.**



After School Programs

The following programs are now full: Tumble Boogie Rocks! For Primary students; Lego Engineering and Intro to Cooking for Lower Elementary students

Click [HERE](#) to read the brochure

Weather Reminders Arrival

When the weather is especially yucky—we may delay our attendance taking. If you are running late, please read the lighted sign when you arrive at school. If we have delayed attendance it will be noted there.

This means that K-6 students won't need to be signed in, so you can simply drop them off. Preschool students; however, always need to be signed in or scanned in each day.



Working on your Taxes?

Our Tax ID is: 84-1412032



Although other district schools may be closed...

There IS school at DCS Montessori on Friday, January 20th

DCS Montessori Charter School
311 Castle Pines Pkwy
Castle Pines CO 80108

Main Phone: 303.387.5625

Fax: 303.387.5626

Attendance Line: 303.387.5627

Email: admin@dcsmontessori.org

Weather Hotline: 303.3873.7669 [SNOW]

We are in the Rock Canyon Feeder Area

Our Tax ID: 84-1412032

Website: www.dcsmontessori.org

Welcome to the DCS Volunteer of the Month Spotlight

Our January Volunteer Of the Month is a very special Dad. Scott Vanourek comes in every week to help out with the reading groups in Ms Samhee's class. According to her nomination Scott has been a huge help to the kids in her class and she wanted to honor his commitment to volunteering.

Scott and his wife Lori have three kids and all of them currently attend DCS. Their twin boys, Jack and Ben, are 6 and in first grade. Older brother Tyler is 9 and is in third grade.

On behalf of the entire PI committee, we want to say thank you Scott for all of your hard work, and congratulations on being chosen as Volunteer of the Month. We asked Scott a few questions so everyone could get to know this special Dad a little better.

Where are you from originally?

I was born in San Francisco. However, I moved around a lot as a kid, moving from California to Ohio, Connecticut, Texas, and Florida. I consider Colorado my home since I love it here. The weather, the people, and the scenery are all wonderful.

You do a lot of work with the reading groups in Ms. Samhee's class, what is your favorite part of that work?

Interacting with the kids is so much fun. Their responses to questions that I ask never fail to surprise me.

What has been your favorite volunteering project?

Doing the weekly reading groups is a true pleasure. I have also enjoyed giving small talks in the kids' classrooms about Japanese culture since I lived there for 4 years teaching and working. Sharing my experiences with the kids brings smiles to my face as it is a place that is near and dear to my heart.

What do you enjoy doing when you are not volunteering?

Having a family with three young boys makes for an active lifestyle. Playing indoor soccer is something that I have done since I was 7, and it is a great stress relief too.

What is your favorite book?

"Life's Little Instruction Book" by H. Jackson Brown Jr. is a great little book of quotes written originally as a gift from a father to a son going off to college. An easy read but also fun to reference a quote or two every night before bed. I carry around a couple of the quotes from this book in my wallet and reference them often.

If you see Scott in the hallways be sure to say congratulations and thanks so much for all of his hard work.

**BECOME A
VOLUNTEER
TODAY!**

From Nutrition Services

Dear Parents,

You are invited! I warmly welcome you to our 1st annual For Kids, By Kids Open House on January 25th, from 4pm – 7pm. All parents, students, and staff are invited to this free event. To RSVP to this event text the word “Healthy” to 303-835-0964.

The goal of this For Kids, By Kids event is to empower parents and students in determining what foods go on the menus. During this event, you are invited to taste, evaluate, and provide feedback on all food samples. The feedback you give will drive our 2012 school menus.

The event will showcase a variety of

menu items and innovative nutrition and wellness initiatives we have been working on. Here are a few of the event highlights:

- ◆ Nutrition Services Department: I will be there with other representatives to answer questions and talk with you about our work.
- ◆ Healthy Initiatives: Learn more about school gardens, fundraising options, Harvest Bars, Nutrition Breaks, vegetarian and alternative diets, and our upcoming 5K event.
- ◆ Pro-start: DCSD’s culinary students will feature their skills and recipes. Some of which are now featured on our menus.
- ◆ Healthy & Tasty Foods: Samples

will range from whole muscle chicken to local fruits and vegetables. Be sure and taste our Artisan pizzas and an exciting yogurt parfait.

I look forward to sharing our menu and initiatives with you and the opportunity to obtain your suggestions and insights. Remember to RSVP for this event, text the word “Healthy” to 303-835-0964.

Warm regards,

Brent Craig

Director of School Nutrition

brent.craig@dcsdk12.org

Join our conversation on Facebook (www.Facebook.com/SchoolNutrition)

Attention All Jumpers

Please mark your calendars and join your children for this year’s Jump Rope For Heart event on Friday, February 3, 2012.

On Friday, students were part of an all school assembly to kickoff our upcoming AMA/Jump Rope for Heart event. Our staff gave an awesome performance for the entire school! And we enjoyed a presentation from our school’s Heart Hero—student Clara Haworth. Donations can be collected via online portal www.heart.org/jump or through the Collection Envelopes that were provided in the students Friday Folders last week. Permission forms are on the cover of those envelopes..

DCS is hoping to raise \$9,000.00 for AMA. **If we succeed with the goal we will be doing a “Crazy Hair” Day at school!**

For every 30 people from our school

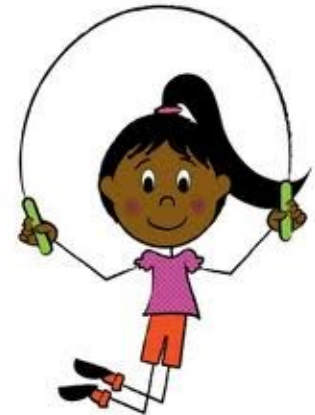
community that register AND send 10 EMAILS EACH we will earn a \$100 in U.S. Games Gift Certificate to purchase PE equipment for our school. The first 30 students to send their emails from the portal will receive a Jump Rope for Heart pencil!

Please return your donation envelopes and permission forms to the classroom or drop them off at the front office by February 3rd.

Stop by the school and see the amazing artwork hearts our students are creating in their Art classes with Mr. Sam!

Our Friday, February 3- Jump Day Schedule will be determined soon, please look for an email with those details and plan to volunteer or come join the fun!

Students are encouraged to “Dress Up For Heart Day” on jump day. (ie: wear red or a heart T-Shirt)



If you have any questions about Jump Rope For Heart, or have an interest in volunteering, please contact Mr. Bruce, our PE teacher, at bruce.berning@dcsdk12.org

Thank you for your support in this fundraiser benefiting the American Heart Association. The kids help those in need, while participating in physical activity and having lots of fun!

Directory

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