



# THE ROAR

*DCS Montessori News ~ Summer 2011*

## **Happy Summer to All!**

DCS Montessori hopes all of our students, parents and staff, are enjoying the wonderful weather that is a Colorado summer. A big “Thanks” to all who participated in making the many end-of-year events so successful. It really was a great finish to great school year.

If you’ve stopped by, or participated in one of our teachers’ summer camps, or have student receiving summer tutoring, you surely know that our summer events are well under way. We are sprucing up our lobby and entry areas, carpets are being cleaned, walls are being painted.

These aren’t the only changes going on here though. We have staff changing positions: Ms. Debbie Kirwin will be our new Health Assistant, Ms. Rebecca Jones will be our new Secretary to the Head of School.

In our Primary classrooms, Ms. Pam Alexander will be moving into Ms. Beth’s classroom as the Lead Teacher. We have many changes with our Primary Educational Assistants (EA’s), two of whom have moved to Lower Elementary classrooms, six of our EA’s will be in new classrooms due to teacher transition and new teacher training, even with all this change, we are welcoming only one new EA into our school this year.

We are very excited to introduce you to a few new faculty members—help us welcome Mr. Sam Carstens, our new Art Teacher and Ms. Jodi Beyes, our new Library Assistant! Of course, we also welcome Ms. Bami Alao and Ms. Lili Sannino, who joined our Primary staff mid stream last school year.

We have revamped our Specials Schedule this year! We are keeping students with their peers by grade as they enjoy PE, Art, Music and Technology classes; however, we will have a more static schedule this year. Your child will always have the same specials on the same day of the week (i.e. Art on Mondays, PE on Fridays). Some classes will change schedules on the Trimester, so when we post the new schedule to our website in early August, please be sure to scroll to the bottom for this information.

In the coming year we certainly will be looking for your participation with the following committees: We are in need of additional members to our School Accountability Committee (SAC), our Middle School Expansion Committees, and our Building and Grounds Committee. If you have any interest in joining these groups, kindly email us at [admin@dcsmontessori.org](mailto:admin@dcsmontessori.org) with “Committee” in the subject line, and provide us with short bio and statement of interest.

In the year ahead, DCS Montessori’s entire staff looks forward to building on our success, overcoming challenges, and finding win-win solutions to difficult decisions. With continued focus on our students, and continuous school improvement, we are confident of our DCS Montessori Community’s success. I look forward to working with our parents, teachers, staff and students in the year to come to keep this kind of success, and standard of excellence, a big part of what DCS Montessori, and Montessori education, stands for. As always, thanks for supporting DCS Montessori and have a great summer.

Listen, Work Hard, Reflect, Educate, and Celebrate

Jeromy Johnson

DCS Montessori, Head of School

## Open House—for 1st and 4th graders And students new to our school

On Wednesday, August 10th, we will hold our Open House. This is a chance for new students to visit their classroom and meet their new teachers. Those coming to Open House may bring their school supplies too! This event can be important to help relieve those new school / new teacher jitters—especially for new students to our school. Any student with a new teacher is welcome to come to the Open House. We will not be taking pictures this day, it's simply a bit of time to meet new teachers and new students.

We will send an email with more details in mid-July, but please plan for this event to take place in the afternoon / early evening of Wednesday, August 10th.

*School Picture Day is August 26th*

*We will email you details in early August. All students will be photographed on this day for the yearbook. You may opt to purchase these photos if you desire.*

### Arrival and dismissal process

Please be patient during the first weeks of school—our parking lot will be...well, basically a parking lot! Each year it takes about 3 weeks for everyone to learn the process, join carpools, and move quickly through the line of cars. We promise! Please be patient and please read and follow the information about dropping off and picking up your children.

Name cards will be sent home with your child at the Open House (for new students) or on your child's first day of school.

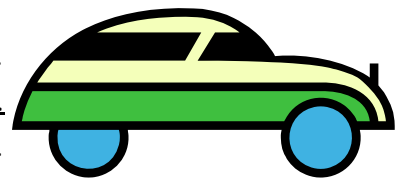
NEW this year—when you line up for arrival or dismissal, please stop at the stop sign in our lot and do not move forward to the sidewalk until directed. This is a change especially for the Pre-school and Kindergarten parents. This will allow us to maintain our Americans with Disabilities Act compliance by keeping the handicapped spaces in front of our school completely open for as long as possible.

And help us keep the process running by following directions given to you by staff members. Our job is to make the arrival and dismissal process safe and efficient, but we need your help to do this.

Get familiar with our process.

**There have been changes from last year.**

Click on the car and go to page 6 for details.



## School Lunch Program



Our Kindergartners—6th graders are eligible to purchase school lunches. Here's how you start. Every child from Kindergarten through 6th grade has an "account" for school lunches. Parents write a check to add funds in that account. Then as your child purchases lunches at school, funds are withdrawn from their account. You will be notified when the account is low.

Students can choose whether they want to purchase a school lunch on a daily basis. Some of our students buy their lunch every day, some only once a week—their teachers will ask them each day whether they are buying a school lunch or not. If you pack a lunch for your child please keep in mind that we cannot refrigerate nor heat their lunches.

For more details, click the fruit and go to page 21!

## Applying for Siblings

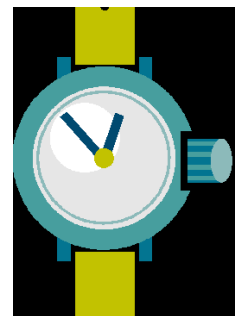
Do you have other children you'd like to enroll at our school? **Please remember, every new student must apply via our Lottery process.** [Applications for the 2012-2013](#) (← click here) school year are available online and at our school. Sibling priority will be given to siblings of current DCS Montessori Charter School students; however, we will not "bump" those who entered our Lottery with a sibling who applies after the Lottery deadline (12/15/11).

A new application is required each year until your child is accepted at our school, as we do not "roll over" our lottery lists. Students already enrolled at our school do not need to reapply via the lottery, they will simply re-enroll in January/February.

## Tardy Policy—Updated

- **Simply put, school starts at 8:30.** Our staff is outside to help with the drop off process, but must return to the building at or very soon after 8:30 to begin working with students.
- Students are late after 8:30; however, they will not be marked tardy until 8:35. Parents must sign tardy students in at the school office.
- Preschool parents must always either drop their children off before 8:30am during the arrival process, or sign them in at the office after 8:30am.
- Habitual Tardiness, **more than 10 tardies in a school year**, may result in disciplinary action, as this provides a consistent interruption to our classroom environments, limiting our ability to be successful with all of our students.

For our entire Tardy Policy Click the watch to the right and go to page 11

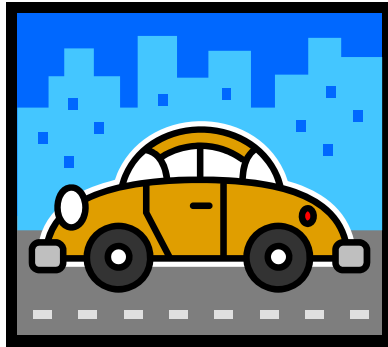


## RideArrangers

DCS Montessori is pleased to announce our fourth year of partnership with RideArrangers. RideArrangers is a program of the Denver Regional Council of Governments that has been helping families in the region form school-related carpools for 15 years. Just last year alone, RideArrangers assisted more than 50 schools and helped form more than 3,000 parent carpools.

The program works as follows:

- We will send our roster to RideArrangers. It will include student and parent names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers. Essentially, this is the same information provided in our Student Directory.
- RideArrangers will mail each family a personalized list identifying which families live closest to them in early August.
- Families receiving a list are not obligated to carpool and may keep the list as a reference. It is a great resource to meet families in the neighborhood, find potential babysitters, or contact families in the event that temporary transportation needs arise.
- If you are interested in carpooling, you will need to take the initiative to contact the families on your list to make your arrangements.
- RideArrangers assures us our roster will remain confidential and will only be used to match families at our school.
- If you have any questions regarding RideArrangers, please contact Mia Bemelen at (303) 480-6772 or [mbe-melen@drcog.org](mailto:mbe-melen@drcog.org).



DCS Montessori School and RideArrangers assume no responsibility for carpools, but provide carpool information for your use. Potential users are advised to check their insurance coverage to assure that they are covered under these voluntary arrangements.

If you wish to opt out of this please, Ctrl-Click the car above and print off the "Opt Out of RideArrangers" letter. Follow the instructions therein.

**The deadline to Opt Out is July 16th.**

## Time to grab your Cell Phone

### Add to Contacts:

DCSM Attendance Line

303-387-5627

DCSM Weather—

303-387-7669

Now flip to the last page of this newsletter and program in your teacher's number too!

## Join our July Summer Camps!

Come join our Fun in the Sun and Sports camps July 11—15 and July 18—22! These camps are for students entering 1st through 4th grades.

We also invite Preschool and Kindergarten students to join our Primary morning camps in July.

Click →

For a brochure.  
Fill out the last 2  
pages to enroll



### Who is my child's teacher?

Simply hop onto the [Parent Portal](#) and click the word "Schedule" under your child's name. You'll see their teacher's name displayed there.

Problems with the Parent Portal? Email us at [admin@dcsmontessori.org](mailto:admin@dcsmontessori.org). Tell us your child's name and your name and the issue. Please keep in mind, our office is closed July 3-July 10.

## Start Dates for Students

- Pre-3 (three year-old) students will begin on Monday, August 15th.
- Pre-4 (four year-old) students will begin on Tuesday, August 16th.
- Students who are in Kindergarten and higher grades (K through 6) will begin on Thursday, August 11th.



## First days of school for all parents

You are welcome to walk your children to class on their first days of school without signing in as a visitor. So that your child may participate with their class, please leave promptly. After your child's first day of school, please drop your child off in the appropriate arrival area in front of the school.

**After August 17th ALL VISITORS to our school, including parents, must sign in at the Front Office.**

*PARKING: We do not always have adequate parking here for all our visitors – we ask that you park at nearby businesses and use crosswalks when crossing the street.*

## Medication Policy

**No medication**, including over-the-counter and homeopathic medication, can be administered without a school medication form completed and signed by both the parent and the doctor. All medications must be in their original containers. Preschool and Elementary aged children are not allowed to carry over-the-counter medication or prescribed medication with them.

**Never send medicine and/or vitamins to school in your child's backpack.**



Click the medication cup and go to page 20 for details of our policies.

Click here for the [Medication Release Request Form](#), or stop by the school office.

*Our School Office is closed until July 11th*

## Observing your child's classroom

Obviously, as parents, you have the right to observe in your child's classroom by appointment or unannounced at any time. School policy asks that you refrain from observing during the first six weeks of school. Individual children and classroom communities are in the process of orientation and adaptation during this time. For more information [Click here](#) and go to page 26.

## Online Check-in—Required for each student

You will complete your annual registration forms online as you did last summer. We will send you an email in mid July letting you know how to do this for your children. Our Online Check-in process will begin on July 14th and end on August 5th.

As part of this process you will:

- Verify your contact information
- Input your child's health history
- Complete District required enrollment forms
- For Preschool students—you'll print off and complete the form to authorize others to pick your child up from school.
- Order Yearbooks
- Purchase Security Key Cards (required)\*
- Sign up to Volunteer

\*Security cards are offered so that you may quickly gain access to our building. If you don't have a Security card, we may be asking a series of security questions to those who ring our buzzer to gain entrance. This may take you an additional one or two minutes each time you visit us.



## Student Directories

Each year we distribute a student directory to families of DCS Montessori School.

If you do not wish to include your address, phone number, or parent names in this directory please complete the Parent Authorization form as part of the Online Check-in process (see article above for details about Online Check-in).

Directories are distributed in September (one copy to each family at our school) free of charge.

Keep in mind the primary use of these directories is for parents to send out birthday party invitations as these cannot be sent through the school.

## Advertise

Consider advertising in our Directory

- *Every family at our school receives one directory free of charge*
- *The directories are used year long*
- *You'll be supporting our school!*
- *Click [Here](#) for details.*

## Classroom Supply Fees

### **Classroom Supply Fee**

Parents are asked to pay an annual Classroom Supply Fee. Despite the decrease in student funding, our classroom supply fees have not increased this school year. For Primary Students, the fee is \$60, for Lower Elementary Students the fee is \$85 and the Upper Elementary Students, the fee is \$140. This fee helps offset the cost of student supplies and materials in your child's classroom. For Elementary students, the fee also covers the costs of field trips throughout the year [with the exception of the 6th grade outdoor education trip]. This optional fee is non-refundable, and non-transferrable. The Classroom Supply fee will be posted to each child's account and you can view your balance using the Parent Portal.

## School Supplies

### **Primary Students: The following are the only supplies we ask you to provide:**

- A backpack for your child to bring to and from school every day. This backpack should be labeled clearly with the child's name and should be light enough for them to carry. Also, please do not purchase a "rolling" back pack. Children should carry their backpacks to and from school every day.
- A change of clothes (pants, shirt, underwear, and socks) labeled with your child's name. Please put these clothes in a ziplock bag that is clearly marked with the child's name. These clothes should be updated as the season requires.
- Two small (wallet sized up to a 3"x5") current, recognizable photos of your child.

### **Elementary Students:**

You will find a list of class supplies on our website. We are posting the lists as we receive them. If you don't see your teacher's supply list on the website, please keep checking. Click here to view [Supply Lists](#). Please bring your supplies on the first day of school. Happy shopping!

## Thank you for a super fun Field Day!

A BIG Thank You to Janinne and Dan Maurer for coordinating our annual FIELD DAY Activities!!! The events were a huge success for students in Lower and Upper Elementary. Thank you also to the many parent volunteers who helped conduct the events and provided drinks and snacks for the kids. Interested in helping coordinate this years Field Days in May of 2012? Please email me today!

Mr. Bruce, PE Teacher [bruce.berning@dcsdk12.org](mailto:bruce.berning@dcsdk12.org)

## Directory

### Primary Teachers

Bami Alao ..... 303-387-5646 ..... Bami.Alao@dcsdk12.org  
Julia Heron ..... 303-387-5647 ..... Julia.Heron@dcsdk12.org  
Karen Slaughter ..... 303-387-5645 ..... Karen.Slaughter@dcsdk12.org  
Leigh Lasik ..... 303-387-5648 ..... Leigh.Lasik@dcsdk12.org  
Lili Sannino ..... 303-387-5650 ..... Liliya.Sannino@dcsdk12.org  
Pam Alexander ..... 303-387-5657 ..... Pamela.Alexander@dcsdk12.org

### Lower Elementary Teachers

Andrea Traut ..... 303-387-5653 ..... Andrea.Traut@dcsdk12.org  
Illyce Kaarto ..... 303-387-5664 ..... Illyce.Kaarto@dcsdk12.org  
Lisa Albert ..... 303-387-5655 ..... Lisa.Albert@dcsdk12.org  
Perezza Daniels ..... 303-387-5656 ..... Perezza.Daniels@dcsdk12.org  
Roda Pajela ..... 303-387-5665 ..... Roda.Pajela@dcsdk12.org  
Samhee Shim ..... 303-387-5651 ..... Samhee.Shim@dcsdk12.org  
Sara Creed ..... 303-387-5654 ..... Sara.Creed@dcsdk12.org

### Upper Elementary Teachers

Glenn Albert ..... 303-387-5661 ..... Glenn.Albert@dcsdk12.org  
Laura Gunden ..... 303-387-5662 ..... Laura.Gunden@dcsdk12.org  
Matt Long ..... 303-387-5663 ..... Matthew.Long@dcsdk12.org  
Mike Catalano ..... 303-387-5660 ..... Michael.Catalano@dcsdk12.org

### Other Teaching Staff

Bruce Berning, PE ..... 303-387-5642 ..... Bruce.Berning@dcsdk12.org  
Instructional Support Svcs Office ..... 303-387-5635 ..... Kristy.Lee@dcsdk12.org  
Kristina Baxter, Reading Spec ..... 303-387-5659 ..... Kristina.Baxter@dcsdk12.org  
Lorraine Cooper, Music ..... 303-387-5644 ..... Lorraine.Cooper@dcsdk12.org  
Maria Hannigan, Technology ..... 303-387-5668 ..... Maria.Hannigan@dcsdk12.org  
Sam Carstens, Art ..... 303-387-5636 ..... Samuel.Carstens@dcsdk12.org  
Sheila Wolfe, Curriculum Dir. .... 303-387-5671 ..... Sheila.Wolfe@dcsdk12.org

### Front Office Staff

Brenda Sepan, Bookkeeping Asst. .... 303-387-5669 ..... Brenda.Sepan@dcsdk12.org  
Brycie Strother, Office Manager ..... 303-387-5629 ..... Brycie.Strother@dcsdk12.org  
Debbie Kirwin, Asst to HOS ..... 303-387-5625 ..... Debbie.Kirwin@dcsdk12.org  
Janet von Russow, Bsns Mgr. .... 303-387-5632 ..... Janet.vonRussow@dcsdk12.org  
Rebecca Jones, Health Asst ..... 303-387-5628 ..... Rebecca.Jones@dcsdk12.org  
Sally Richman, Childcare Director ..... 303-387-5667 ..... Sally.Richman@dcsdk12.org

Kitchen Manager ..... 303-387-5643 ..... Julie.Weber@dcsdk12.org