

WACO MONTESSORI SCHOOL



The Mustang Connection

Volume 9, Number 3

October 29, 2009

Dates to remember:

October 30

No School—Conference Day
Drop-in childcare available
6:00 AUCTION

October 31

10:00 KidStage performance

November 2

Pennies for Peace Drive begins

November 5

LE to Inner Space Caverns

November 12

8:30 PTO Meeting

November 17

8:30 Auction Wrap-up Mtg
6:00 Board Meeting

November 24

LE Community Service Day

November 25-27

No School—Thanksgiving
Holiday

December 4

Early Dismissal
11:30 Toddler & EC
11:45 Elementary
After-School will run

December 10

8:30 PTO Meeting

December 14

Progress reports

December 15

6:00 Board Meeting

December 18

Early Dismissal
11:30 Toddler & EC
11:45 Elementary
After-School will run

December 21-January 4

Winter Break

January 5

Spring Semester Begins

Service Learning at Waco Montessori School

The Montessori curriculum is grounded in respect for oneself, others and the environment. As part of our respect for others, our children are involved in opportunities to serve others.

Lower Elementary has been collecting travel-size hygiene items. On November 24, the LE students will take the items to Columbus Avenue Baptist Church to put together care packages for the homeless in the Waco community. Donations will be accepted through Monday, November 23 and are greatly appreciated.

Upper Elementary has traditionally held a canned food drive in November, but has opted to wait until spring to collect food since the food banks tend to run low once the holiday surplus has been depleted.

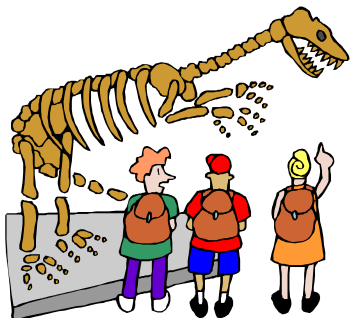
This fall Upper Elementary will have two collections starting Monday, November 2. The first is Pennies for Peace in conjunction with the study of Asia. The students will collect pennies November 2-20 to donate to the Pennies for Peace program founded by Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea*. The pennies are used to build schools and purchase supplies for children in Afghanistan and Pakistan. "While a penny is virtually worthless, in impoverished countries a penny buys a pencil and opens the door to literacy." To learn more about Pennies for Peace program visit www.penniesforpeace.org. The second collection will be a toy drive to support the Mission Waco toy store. Our children will collect toys through December 11. Fifth grade students will deliver the toys on December 14 and help sort and price the items. On Wednesday, December 16 our 6th grade students will help wrap the toys for the families to give as gifts.

We appreciate your kindness as the children ask for your assistance with these projects.

The mission of Waco Montessori School is to educate children in a nurturing, stimulating Montessori environment that appreciates and celebrates each child, encourages respect for oneself and others, and develops life-long learning and problem-solving skills.

Gracias Merci Thank You Danke Arigato Spacibo Xie Xie Shukriya

- Duane Kerr, George Harmon, Aaron Braunstein, Joseph Wade, Sam Alexander, Tim Condon, and Tim Corwin for helping out on Dad's Day! Your volunteer labor saved the school approximately \$1,500 that would have gone to contracted help.



A Night at the Museum...

October 30, 2009—MCC Conference Center

Thank you to our Underwriters as of 10/27/09

Jubilee Subaru—Brad & Robyn Smith

Mr. Rooter of Central Texas

Friend of WMS

Nancy Callan

Nashim & Bruce Hamilton

Erin & Bob Davis

Bosque Valley Family Dental

William Pakis

Independent Bank

Crow Motor Company

Waco Cardiology Associates

Lochridge-Priest, Inc.

Central National Bank

World Lift Truck

Mary Lee Phipps

Kerr Refuse Service

Hoop Station

American Bank

The Optical Dispensary

WSI Internet Partners

Vanguard College Preparatory School

Soo & Jake Battle

Alliance Bank

Brent & Melinda Hedrick

Chad Latino, DDS.

Jerry & Ruth Chenault Holley

Dan MacLemore for County Court at Law

Karen & Johnny Howton

Deborah Korpi School of Classical Dance

Shirley & Michael Jansing

Dr. Gerald Cox

Samer & Marian Khoury

Extrato Banks

Stewart & Tracy Kelly

First National Bank of Central Texas

Missy & Randall Larson

McKenzie Chiropractic Center

Chris & Stacey Meyer

The National Banks of Central Texas

John and Liz Turnage



Come enjoy a family concert event at the beautiful Cameron Park Zoo!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 1:00-4:30

Baylor Symphony Orchestra will perform at 2:00

Followed by the Waco Symphony Youth Orchestra at 3:00

Before, between and after the concerts, enjoy the activities including face painting, inflatables, and even an "Instrument Petting Zoo" where you can play a musical instrument, too!

Bring your lawn chairs and "valet park" them as you tour the zoo!

Sorry, no food may be brought in, but will be available for purchase.

This community event is sponsored by the Waco Symphony Council and the Cameron Park Zoo

Concert is free with regular zoo admission

In case of inclement weather, concert will not be rescheduled

Thank you to those of you who participated in the Sally Foster fundraiser.

Remember that you can still order on-line at SallyFoster.com. Don't forget to use the WMS account #507026 so that we will get credit for the sales.

Promised Land Dairy pays WMS for sending in milk caps from their milk. It doesn't matter what color the cap or what flavor the milk. Bring your washed milk caps to Linda in the office.

**The Two-Hundred and Twelfth Board of Trustees Meeting of the Waco Montessori School
held on September 15, 2009**

The Waco Montessori School Board of Trustees met in the Board Room and was called to order at 6:12 P.M. on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, by President George Harmon.

The following Trustees were present:

George Harmon	Emily McKenzie	Melinda Hedrick	Missy Larson
Frances Callan	Cherie Almand	Brian Aynesworth	Duane Kerr
Brad Caldwell	Tracy Kelly	Marian Khoury	

The following Trustee was absent: Aaron Braunstein, Joseph Wade, Kevin Henry, Leanne Howell

The following Ex-Officio Members were Present: Shirley Jansing and Amanda Hansard

The following Staff Members were present: Donna Baker and Holly Jarvis

George Harmon called the meeting to order at 6:12 P.M. and then introduced Upper Elementary teacher, Holly Jarvis. Ms. Jarvis shared the results from an evaluation study she conducted to determine the overall value and benefits of the Upper Elementary class trip. She identified numerous positive values achieved by the trip as well as several areas that need to be addressed. A handout was provided.

Evaluation of Minutes: Minutes from the August 25, 2009 meeting were passed out by Frances Callan. There being no discussion, the vote to approve the minutes carried.

Resource Management Committee: Melinda Hedrick reported that she e-mailed a copy of the budget, originally approved in May, out this afternoon. The budget was written for the school to be at capacity, and some families changed their minds and therefore, we are at a different place today as we look at actual numbers. There is a current budget shortfall of \$33,145.00. The committee recommends approval of the budget in the red and go into cash reserves to balance the budget. Discussion ensued regarding how we will pay back the cash reserves. Ultimately, the budget passed with a deficit of \$33,145.00.

The resource management committee also brought to motion to refinance and consolidate debt. The proposed interest rate is fixed at 5% for five years with no prepayment penalty. There is a 15 year amortization period and the monthly payment will be \$6,000, which is down from the current monthly payment of \$10,000. The total debt consolidation will be \$751,261.81.

Discussion ensued, and the motion carried.

Institutional Advancement: Amanda Hansard reported that, to date \$25,620.00 has been secured for underwriting the auction. The preparations continue to go well, the committee meetings are well attended and the current focus is on securing items for the silent auction. Amanda would like everyone to consider helping to procure silent auction items. Handouts were provided.

Facilities Committee: Duane Kerr reported that Dad's Day is still scheduled for September 26th from 9:00am until 3:00pm. Duane stated that the dad's may come and go, but the list of things to be taken care of is growing.

Strategic Planning: George Harmon stated that the Strategic Plan for the School needs to be revisited. Many items are complete or are no longer applicable as well as new ideas for the future need to be included. He stressed that this will not be a remake, but just an update. The meeting will be held on Friday, November 13 from 2:30pm-5:30pm at the home of Frances Callan. Shirley also offered to allow children of the Board, that needed to do so, to utilize the after-school program on that day.

Nominating Committee: There was no report.

PTO: Cherie Almand reported that approximately 260 people attended the Back to School Party. It was a huge success and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The New Family Party had to be rescheduled and she will inform the Board of the exact date, time and location. Sally Foster is complete and the following money has been raised: on-line \$3,724.50, in-house \$15,947.89 for a total of \$19,672.39. WMS will receive half of the proceeds for approximately \$9,836.20.

Head of School: Shirley Jansing reported that all is going well and is basically the same as last month. She also reported that all is on track in the classrooms.

New Business: George Harmon brought up the possibility of changing the current fiscal year. After discussion, including input from Donna Baker, it was determined that changing the fiscal year would not really help. George Harmon adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

The Waco Montessori School Board of Trustees meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm in the Board Room. The meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

Nominations for new trustees are accepted at all times of the school year. Please contact Emily McKenzie if you, or someone you know, might be interested in serving on the Board.