



## ***NEWSFLASH SEPT. 23, 2010***

A brief calendar of upcoming events is listed at the end. If you have any questions, please contact:  
KC Dickman, Director of Development & Communications at [mlm123@earthlink.net](mailto:mlm123@earthlink.net) or (540) 636-4257

### ***Parents' Corner: Updated***

<http://www.mountainlaurelmontessori.org/parentteacherorgpto/parentscorner.html>

### **ATTENTION: WHOLE SCHOOL HAPPENINGS**

**Special Thanks** to Tony Mehl (Lauren) who procured the donation of an AED device to MLMS from his employer, The Peterson Company of Fairfax, VA.

**PTO Lunch Program-** The PTO is sponsoring a "Monday Lunch Program." It is a fabulous deal for only \$5 and the students get a delicious and healthy lunch on Mondays, one less day to fix lunch! Farm school students may order as well and their lunches will be available at The Farm on Tuesday. The lunch will include a sandwich (choice of wheat or white bread, different cheese choices, different meat choices, vegetarian option) a piece of fruit and a side of veggies.

You may find a downloadable form on the PTO Parents Corner with more details. The **deadline has been extended to Friday morning** as we try to get the word around about this wonderful opportunity.

**RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY FARM TOUR – Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>** COME ONE, COME ALL who would enjoy visiting the farm and painting faces on pumpkins. Families may stop by and visit any time during the day Sat. or Sun. between 10am and 5pm. No fee for MLMS families who stopover at our Farm School only.

If you enjoyed being at the Farm School for the picnic and can't wait to come back, this might just be the volunteer opportunity for you: We need volunteers at the Farm School to help with the Rappahannock County Farm Tour on Saturday and Sunday, September 25th and 26th. We especially need people during lunch time from 11:00 am-1:00ish to help serve food, collect money, etc. The Farm School students stay very busy giving tours and leading activities. The students and staff would be VERY grateful for any help! Contact Tracy Hughey [toohughey@hotmail.com](mailto:toohughey@hotmail.com) to volunteer.

**Nature Lab** is off and running with a meeting of co-chairs Dianne Edsell and Maureen McGowan. They determined that in order to apply for **grants for funding**, a **site-plan** is **needed**. Do we have any parents or friends of MLMS skilled in this type of design work? **Volunteer Site Planner Needed!** The volunteer designer would work with our experienced and enthusiastic co-chairs and draw a plan that may be submitted with grant applications. If you know of anyone with this expertise, please contact us.

**Laptop Lunches-** PTO is trying to make fundraising as painless as possible this year by offering items and services that parents might find useful with companies that give a percentage of profit to the school. One of these is "Laptop Lunches." These lunchboxes are organized with containers that eliminate the need for baggies and offer portion control. Please see the Parents' Corner on the website for more info, or [www.laptoplunches.com](http://www.laptoplunches.com) **coupon code: mtnlaurel**

**MusikGarten Classes** are being offered at Mountain Laurel Montessori School through Shenandoah Conservatory Arts Academy for children 4 months through 4 years old. Classes will be held in the community room near the Toddler classroom. **See below for details.**

**NewsFlash-** The NewsFlash will be emailed home Thursday afternoons. It will be available by Friday evenings on the web. Go to [www.mountainlaurelmontessori.org](http://www.mountainlaurelmontessori.org), and **now on the home page** at the bottom of the list of green navigation buttons will be a new one that says...."Weekly NewsFlash". Once you click this, you will have to enter the **Login: mlmspto** and **Password: welcome** to get to the NewsFlash. A printable archive will be available on our website throughout the school year.

**DUE DATE-**Submissions are due on **Tuesday** of each week for the NewsFlash or Parent Bulletin Board (found on the PTO Parents Corner area of the website) to [mlm123@earthlink.net](mailto:mlm123@earthlink.net) Please contact the school if you need a hard copy of either.

**Handbook/Directory-** New this year!!! We are combining the directory and handbook! As we receive final paperwork from a last few families, we will be able to complete our directory/handbook. Please stop by the office next week to initial a master copy of the directory acknowledging that all of your information is correct. [ALL current families please.] Bus rider families will be contacted directly by the school for confirmation. A printed copy of the Handbook/Directory will be available by October 1st and will be sent home with your oldest child. The handbook only portion will be available online after October 15th.

**MORE KUDOS-** MLMS continues to be recognized as a "stellar Montessori school" by Washington Montessori Institute, an Association Montessori Internationale training center for teachers. We have received recognition again this year as we have been asked to host student teachers from WMI.

## **FARM SCHOOL**

**Farm School Students Cycle the C & O Canal-** The Farm School students bicycled 60 miles from Washington DC to Harper's Ferry on a 3 day cycling and camping trip along the C&O Canal last week. We explored the locks along the way, learning first-hand the power of levers and pulleys, and the powerful force of water too. There were many spontaneous history lessons, geology lessons (the water in the Potomac is so low we could really see the rocks!), and ecology lessons. We watched blue herons and great egrets in the river as the sun rose, and laughed as the giant toads hopped onto our feet in the rain at our campsite. The primary goals of the trip were to get to know one another better and to work together to accomplish something we might not have been able to do alone. Mission accomplished:) It was a wonderful adventure.

**Coffee with Susan Holmes** (Farm School director) **Tuesday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-5:00 p.m.** at the **Daily Grind in Front Royal**. Children welcome. This will be an ongoing book/article/discussion group about the adolescent. First topic is, "**The Adolescent Brain and Technology.**" All MLMS parents and friends are welcome.

## **ELEMENTARY**

**October Field Trip 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>** The 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> year students will take a 3-day, 2-night trip this year to Pittsburgh, from the 20<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October. This is a **change in dates and destination** from what was published previously in the calendar. Mrs. Nixon and Ms. Semmes will send home more detailed information soon. To quote Ms. Semmes, "It's going to be super fun!"

**First Fridays-Students Share w/Parents- RSVP** Mrs. Nixon or Ms. Semmes will be available the first Friday of each month to facilitate students giving lessons to their parents and sharing what they are doing with them. The teacher will answer questions, and may demonstrate a "lesson" for parents. Class location will alternate between the two elementary classrooms, but students from both classes are

welcome in either classroom. Space is limited so please RSVP by the prior day. If there are no responses by close of school on the prior day, "First Friday" will be cancelled. Please email [m1m123@earthlink.net](mailto:m1m123@earthlink.net) or call KC Dickman to RSVP.

**DATE CHANGE-**The first "First Friday" has been changed to the LAST FRIDAY in the month of September, 9/24. This replaces the October session. All others remain on the first Friday of each month unless otherwise noted.

**3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Iowa Practice Test Booklets-** If you have not ordered a practice test booklet for your student in 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade, please contact Rose 540-636-4257 or [m1ms.rwd@earthlink.net](mailto:m1ms.rwd@earthlink.net) to order one. Students need to work on the booklet at home and have it finished by January 18<sup>th</sup>. A little practice each evening is the ideal way to complete it.

## **PRIMARY, TODDLER & BEGINNINGS**

**Primary Parent Ed- Tuesday, Sept. 28, 7:00-8:30 p.m.-** Please join us for the first session, "The Beauty of Routines and Purposeful Work" in the Montessori classroom. Understanding Montessori philosophy and how it is implemented better prepares parents to support their child's growth both at home and at school. **Childcare provided- RSVP only-** Please RSVP to [m1m123@earthlink.net](mailto:m1m123@earthlink.net) if you will need childcare for the evening, including the children's names and ages. There is a suggested fee of \$5-\$7 per child to be paid directly to the providers.

**Musikgarten** at Mountain Laurel Montessori School. The Shenandoah Conservatory Arts Academy offers a music program for children and parents called "Family Music." I had the privilege to share the "Family Music" class with my grandson last year, driving to Winchester once a week for the class. We had such fun that I wanted to make these lovely classes more convenient to our families. I hope those of you with young children can take advantage of this opportunity. Mona

In the catalog available online for the Conservatory we are listed on page 7. Mountain Laurel Montessori School is listed as a location for three "Music to Grow On" classes, for children ages 4 months to 4 years. The teacher is Jessica Rickman, who is a trained and licensed Musikgarten instructor, and is also working for Mountain Laurel assisting in the elementary classes and the office. The classes are on Thursday afternoon, beginning at 3:45 for the 4- to 18-month-olds, 4:30- 5:00 for the 18-month to 3-year-olds, and 5:15 – 6:00 for the 3 & 4 year olds.

Classes begin September 23rd. For more information please contact Jessica Rickman at [jrickman@gmu.edu](mailto:jrickman@gmu.edu) or 540-514-6777.

**Toddler Talk** – Parents from Montessori Beginnings and the Toddler Community came together to discuss the importance of purposeful work from birth through 3. What is purposeful work for an infant? Just about anything that enables them to use their hands to develop strength and coordination, and to make an impact on his/her environment. As Dr. Montessori said, "The hand is the tool of the intellect," so the work of the hand for very young children literally shapes the mind for future cognitive development. It was a great discussion with wonderful suggestions from our parents. We look forward to our next Toddler Talk, scheduled for Thursday, October 28th at 11 AM. Our topic will be supporting independence through the work of practical life. Hope to see many of you there, and please feel free to bring a friend!

**Lunch Ideas!** Please visit the PTO Parents Corner to see ideas for healthy, simple lunch ideas for your children. Find the link "Lunch Ideas". Thank you Misty Brown, assistant in Ms. Baumgart's class, for gathering ideas and creating this list.

## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

Questions? Call KC at 540-636-4257 or [mlm123@earthlink.net](mailto:mlm123@earthlink.net)

|               |          |              |  |
|---------------|----------|--------------|--|
| Sept. 23      | Thursday | 3-7:00pm     | <b>Farmers Market in Front Royal</b> (our Farm School has a table)   |
| Sept. 24      | Friday   | 3:30-4:30 pm | <b>“FIRST FRIDAY” RSVP by today</b> – Parents of & elementary students from both classes -Mrs. Nixon’s Room  |
| Sept. 25 & 26 | Sat &Sun | 10am-5pm     | <b>RAPPAHANNOCK FARM TOUR</b> Volunteers needed. Shifts available. Call Farm School 540-675-1011   |
| Sept. 28      | Tuesday  | 7:00-8:30 pm | <b>Parent Ed-Primary Level-“The Beauty of Routines and Purposeful Work”</b> Irre & Baumgart Mrs. Irre’s classroom. (RSVP only Childcare available, Fee: Suggested donation to providers- \$5 to \$7 per child) |
| Sept. 30      | Thursday | 3-7:00pm     | <b>5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Graders field trip.</b> Details to be sent home.<br><b>Farmers Market in Front Royal</b> (our Farm School has a table)  |
| Oct. 5        | Tuesday  | 4:00-5:00pm  | <b>Coffee w/Susan.</b> Daily Grind in Front Royal. Children welcome. <b>“The Adolescent Brain and Technology”</b>  |
| Oct. 8        | Friday   | ALL DAY      | <b>Front Royal Campus Closed</b> for professional development.   |

For complete calendar details: <http://www.mountainlaurelmontessori.org/schoolcalendar.html>