

From The Director's Desk

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The Children's Art Projects—Work has begun on the children's contributions to our Art Auction on March 28th. Each class creates a beautiful work of art to be auctioned off the night of the event. We appreciate the time and the effort devoted to these projects by the parent volunteers. They are a wonderful addition to the professional art work and they are the pieces that bring the most competition among bidders. Everyone seems to want the "masterpiece" created by his child's class. So plan to come to the auction and join in on the fun. A great big thank you to the parent committee for helping with these projects!

Valentine's Day at Deer Path—This week the children will be celebrating Valentines Day in many different ways in their individual classrooms. A memo was sent home at the end of January with information about the celebrations. Please be sure to read it and follow the instructions so that your child doesn't miss out on the fun. One special event will be our visit to Paragon Village to frost and decorate heart shaped cookies with our senior neighbors. These visits are always enjoyable for both our children and the "grandmas and grandpas".

President's Week-end—This year our February break will be a long week-end from February 13th through the 17th. We will provide vacation care for our registered children on the 13th and the 17th. School will be closed on the 16th without care provided. I hope you have the opportunity to spend some quality time with your children on the days off. I will be snuggling up with a good book in front of a roaring fireplace in Vermont while my husband skis—to each his own.

Montessori Education Week—February 23rd through 27th we will be celebrating Montessori Education week. During this week the children learn about the life of Maria Montessori and participate in many activities in order to mark the occasion. This year we will be reaching out to the community to inform the public about Maria and the method of education called Montessori. **On February 23rd from 7:00 to 8:30 PM Kristina Vlossak and Heather Sharo will be giving a presentation on Montessori Education at the Mt. Olive Public Library.** If you know of someone who has questioned you about our method of education and have been frustrated with your inability to explain it to their full satisfaction, recommend this free workshop. Kristina and Heather are hoping to inform the public and disprove common myths. Please support them in their efforts.

Visitors' Days—Each year we put time aside for special people in our children's lives to come to the school, visit the classrooms and work with the children. This year there are two days, February 24th and February 26th from 4 to 6, when visitors can come to the school. Recently you received the invitation. Please read it over carefully and make note of the instructions. We found it necessary to make several changes in the format in order to make this a good experience for both the children and their visitors. The

children love having the opportunity to show off their skills to people important to them. Please plan to come or invite a guest for your child. You will make them very happy.

Kindergarten News—The children in the kindergarten class do an in depth study of the solar system. In conjunction with this study they take a trip to the planetarium at Morris County College. In years past this trip has been a wonderful experience for the children—exciting and educational. I know it will prove to be the same this year. This is just one of the activities we plan for our “seniors” that makes the kindergarten year special and enriching.

Parent/Child Classes—The next session of parent/child will begin on February 27th led by Heather Sharo. These classes are designed for children ages 6 to 30 months and are scheduled for Fridays from 9:00 to 10:30. It is a wonderful opportunity for parents to learn about the Montessori method while observing their child in a prepared environment. Parents who have attended enjoyed the opportunity to sit back and observe their child without interruptions and with the guidance of a trained professional. We are the only Montessori school in this area that offers such a program. Even if you have an older child enrolled at Deer Path, the experience is worthwhile because of its uniqueness. If you are interested in participating, more detailed information is available in the office as well as an application.

Enrollment—Thanks to those of you who attended our whole school meeting. At that time you were able to hear an overview of the state of the school and receive your enrollment packets. As predicted, our multi-age classes are almost filled. Since our open house on January 31st, we have opened enrollment to the general public. If you have not yet enrolled and wish to, please call the office for space availability. We don't like to close out enrollment to our present students but we have to honor applications as they are submitted and will register children on a first come basis now that enrollment is open. Stepping Stones class for our toddlers still has many openings. If you have an eligible young one at home or know someone who may be interested, please pick up the packet of information at the office. Remember we give tuition credit to enrolled families who have someone register for our program.