

# From The Director's Desk

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**Fabulous February**--It may be bitter cold outside but it is toasty warm inside Deer Path Montessori School. The warmth comes from the anticipation of celebrating Valentine's Day. The multi-age children prepare valentine messages for their friends which they will exchange on **Feb. 11th** this year, due to the holiday week-end. They also will be treated to a special snack on that day. On **Feb. 9th** they will be sharing their love with our neighbors at Paragon Village by decorating Valentine cookies. The children enjoy these special visits with the grandmas and the grandpas and we are told that the feeling is mutual. We're all looking forward to our **winter break from February 12th through 16th** and visits from family members on our **Visitors' Days, February 23rd and 25th**. Visitors' Days are a part of our week long celebration of Montessori Education. During this week the children learn about the life of Maria Montessori and participate in many activities which help them to understand the special beginning of their school. On **February 19th** the second session of our parent/child class will begin and will last for 6 weeks. These sessions are led by Heather Sharo and are designed for children ages 6 to 30 months. They are scheduled on Thursdays from 9:00 to 10:30. If you are interested in participating, please contact the office. For such a short month, there certainly is a lot planned.

On a personal note, February is a special month for our family. My third child, Michael, was married on February 5th sixteen years ago, giving us a new daughter, Tina. From their marriage we now have two beautiful grandsons, Kevin and Thomas. Our youngest child, Dianne, was born on February 12th (I'm not going to tell you how many years ago) and because it is Lincoln's birthday, as a young child she would always say that she would be the first woman president. I don't know that she has those same aspirations today, however, she is a very motivated achiever. My husband attributes this to her Montessori education--I tend to agree with him.

**Open House**--Our January 30th, Saturday open house was a big success. Thank you to all of you who invited friends to attend and find out about our school. All of the visitors seemed very interested in our program. This open house began the process of enrolling students from outside of our school community. Many of you have not turned in your re-enrollment paper. If you are planning to enroll your child but just haven't gotten around to it, please do so as soon as possible. We like to be able to accommodate all of our returning students and their siblings. Please return the form even if you are not planning to register your child for next year. It is very helpful to know how many openings we have for next year and will appreciate your notification.

**The Children's Art Projects**--The children have been hard at work, under the supervision of several of our moms, to complete beautiful art projects. These projects will be on display from Friday, **March 19th**--Grandparent's Day--until parent/teacher conferences, **March 31st and April 1st**. At that time, the school will be conducting a silent auction for these beautiful works of art. Details about the auction will be sent home to you. All the money collected will benefit Deer Path.

**Casino night--**The Deer Path community social event for this school year will take place on Saturday, **March 20th**, when our facility will be turned into a gaming hall. This will be our fourth annual Casino Night. In years passed everyone who attended had a wonderful time and this year's committee has been hard at work planning for another special night. Please consider participating in this fundraising event. Bring family and friends. I guarantee that you will have an enjoyable time. When you are asked to support the event--please say yes. Deer Path is dependent on fundraising to help us run a quality program. Rachel and Scott Savokinas and Dennis Murphy are once again co-chairing the event. We appreciate their willingness to take on this endeavor for another year.

**Kindergarten news--**The kindergarten children participate in three large science units of study. Over the past couple of months, they have been studying the human body and working on a model of the systems and skeletal structure. They each will bring the end product of their hard work home to be displayed. I am told that some of our alumni students still have their human bodies hanging up in their rooms. I guess you become very attached after weeks of hard work. The next unit of study will be the solar system which will culminate with a visit to the planetarium at Raritan Valley Community College on March 11th.

**Grandparents--**Please don't forget **Grandparent's Day on March 19th and Casino Night on the 20th**. Information will be sent home to your grandchild's family for both events. So please ask them about it. ( If they're anything like my kids, they often leave things to the very last minute.)