

# From The Director's Desk

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**Reflecting Back**—The end of June marks the completion of ten years that I have been the Director of Deer Path Montessori School. They have been the most rewarding and yet the most challenging ten years of my professional life. Moving from a classroom teacher to the administrator of a private school was a giant leap and a drastic change in responsibilities. I had a lot to learn in a very short period of time and once the papers were signed, I can remember having serious misgivings regarding my decision. If it had not been for all of the wonderful relationships that I had and that I formed once becoming director, I would not have survived. So at this point in my journey, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge all of the people who have helped me along the way: my family, my fellow administrators, the teachers, the parents and most of all the children. It has been the children who have sustained me during the difficult times in both my professional and personal life. It has been their smiles, hugs, laughter, and unconditional love which has made this job a joy. Thank you my dear children, past and present, you have fulfilled my life.

At the risk of forgetting someone, I want to mention a few of those very special people: first of all my husband, Charles, who encouraged me to take the risk and who has always believed in me and supported me; my own children, Philip, Lori, Michael & Dianne, who have always expressed pride in my accomplishments and interest in Deer Path and its students; Mary Smith, my mentor and dear friend who made my first year at Deer Path much easier than it could have been; Kristina Vlossak, my adopted daughter and dedicated Montessorian, who helped to shift my thinking from doing things the traditional way to doing them the Montessori way; Ellen, Connie, Heather & Roberta who have been with me at Deer Path from the beginning and who have always been loyal and supportive; the entire teaching staff, past and present, who have always made me feel proud to be a part of this profession and the parents (too many to mention by name) whose love and devotion to their children has been a source of inspiration for me. It is my opinion that it is the relationships that a person develops in life that makes her life worthwhile. I have been very blessed to have so many wonderful people in my life. Thank you all! Now on to business----

**Annual Fund**—Thanks to all the families who participated, we raised \$2415 this year through our Annual Giving Campaign. Although we did not have the 100% participation we had hoped for (about half of the families), we do appreciate the generosity of those who were able to give. Please consider giving to our Annual Fund next year. It is a way for the school to benefit 100% from your donation without having to deduct the cost of fundraising expenses and you are able to receive a tax deduction. We will be kicking off the campaign in November by sending you a letter from one of our parent advisory board members. Please consider participating. It is the best way you can support the children of Deer Path.

**Fundraising for 2009/2010**—At our last meeting, the Parent Advisory Board decided to revise our fundraising plan for the next school year. We have decided to reduce the number of major fundraisers from two to one. So next year we will have a Casino Night in the Spring. It will be our only social evening held at the school and we hope that more parents will be able to attend. In the fall we will conduct a children's Walk-a-thon and a book fair. The children will still create their wonderful art projects which will be auctioned off at a silent auction in a similar fashion to this year in the spring. By reducing the number of fundraising efforts, we are hoping to get a better participation in the popular ones that we have retained. Of course, as I mentioned above, our hope is to have a very successful Annual Fund so that in the future we will be able to limit almost all other fundraising efforts.

**Room changes**—In an effort to have our late afternoon programs operating in close proximity, we will be changing the location of two of our classes. Room 102, the full day class led by Mrs. Martinson and Mrs. Blasdel, will move into Room 103. The half day/Kindergarten class led by Mrs. Senadira will be held in Room 102. This change will take place during the teacher's work week in June and will be in effect in September. If you have a child who finds change difficult, please prepare him for the move. I know I will be looking for Mrs. Senadira and Mrs. Martinson in their old rooms for a long time after the change has been made.

**Food Drive**—Thank you to all the families who participated. You not only did a good deed for your community but you taught your children a valuable lesson as well.

**Saying Good-byes**—The end of the school year is a "bitter-sweet" time for all of us here at Deer Path. It is a time for rejoicing in a job well done. We are very proud of all the growth and accomplishments made by our children but we are also sad to say good-bye to those children who will not be returning next year. Some will leave to go to another school, others are moving away and some are graduating from our program. On June 11<sup>th</sup> fourteen kindergartners will be completing their time at Deer Path. Most of them will have been here for at least 3 years. Over those years we have grown to know and love each one of them for their uniqueness. We say good-bye knowing that they are well prepared for their next step in life.

We must also say good-bye to **Jane Samuelson** who was a toddler assistant this year. Even though she was only with us for a year, she has become a part of the Deer Path family. She will be missed. We wish her the best of luck with her future endeavors. **Michele Francisco**, who has been on staff since May, will be taking her place.

**Kristina Pascarella** will be taking her maternity leave this summer and returning in the fall as the afternoon assistant for the full day class. We wish Kristina and Jeremy lots of happiness as they await their new arrival who will be born in July. Jocelyn will be the 14<sup>th</sup> great grand child born in the Pascarella family. Those family parties keep growing and my mother-in-law who turned 90 in February has had the good fortune to welcome all of them into the world.

**Volunteering**—As a token of our appreciation for your volunteer work, each family will be receiving a beautifully hand-made bookmark/magnet. The two Kristinas put their heads together and came up with this wonderful way of acknowledging all of the help we receive from our parents. Thank you ladies! Thank you moms and dads for all your help and support!

**Summer Camp**—We still have a few openings. Call the office if interested.

**HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!**