

# From The Director's Desk

Maryann Pascarella

May 11, 2009

**Silent Auction**—As you all know, once the Art Auction was cancelled, we decided to hold a silent auction for the children's art projects. It was a great success! Thank you to Jackie Alfieri and her committee for switching gears so seamlessly. The school benefited in two ways: first we made a profit of \$1,831 and second, we now have a beautiful new piece of art work hanging in our front lobby. The Kindergarten art project was donated to the school by a group of parents who pooled together their bid and purchased the piece for the school. A great big thank you to the following families: Alfieri, Huang, Menke, Murphy, Patel, Tas-Castro, Thyagarajan, Schickinger-Hand, Scott, Singh, Tarallo and Zhou. I am thrilled! We have a perfect spot for it in the lobby and plan to put a plaque on it which will designate the Kindergarten class of 2009 as the artists. The other projects were won as follows: Room 101—McGill, Room 102—Crow, Room 103—Alvarez; and Room 105—Pascarella. (Anthony is very happy to have the stepping stones in his garden). Thanks again to all who participated.

**Children's Garden**—This week the children from the multi-age classes will be planting geraniums in their garden. These flowers will be added to the beautiful tulips that were planted in the fall. The Stepping Stones children will be planting daisies on their side of the playground. These flowers will not only beautify the outside but will also be used for flower arranging. The children really enjoy planting in the garden and then tending to it.

**Music Appreciation Week**—The week of May 18<sup>th</sup> relatives of our students are invited to share their musical talent with the children. In the past the children were treated to the sounds of many different instruments. It has always been an enjoyable and educational experience for them. We also encourage our students who are taking music lessons to share with us and invite our neighbors from Paragon Village to share their talent as well. In the classrooms, percussion instruments will be made available so that everyone can have fun making music.

**Tenth Anniversary**—The end of this school year marks Connie Nilsson's ten years of service to the children of Deer Path. As Connie will proudly tell you, she has worn many hats over those ten years. Primarily, she has been a classroom assistant for the multi-aged program and has been the Spanish teacher. Being an early bird, she opens the school in the morning at 7AM and cares for the early arrivals. She also supervises our lunch program and is one great storyteller. Over the years Connie has always been willing to be flexible with her schedule, to add an extra hand when needed and to give special attention to the child who is having a bad day. On top of all of this, she helps to keep the school and classrooms in tip top shape with her meticulous care. Thank you Connie for being such a loving and caring addition to our staff.

**New Staff Member**—If you have been in the school lately, you may have seen a new face. Michele Francisco has joined the Deer Path staff. She comes to us with eight years of experience as an assistant in a public school program. Michele primarily worked with special needs children so she is very used to the individualized approach to education that we practice at Deer Path. After a week of training with Mrs. Vlossak, she officially began work here on May 4<sup>th</sup>. She will be taking over many of the duties of Ms. Kristina in preparation for Kristina's maternity leave. She will cover lunch and then work with Mrs. Samuelson in the afternoon toddler program. Michele will stay on as an assistant in our camp program and then continue as a toddler assistant in the fall. Welcome aboard Michele! We wish you many happy years here at Deer Path.

**Food Drive**—This year our spring community service project will be a food drive. During the month of May we will be collecting cans of food to be delivered to the Mt. Olive food pantry. We decided to make this our service project this year due to the economic crisis. As we all know, many families are suffering because of the decrease in family income due to the loss of a job. The collection of food to help those in need seemed to be a simple and appropriate way for us to help. Please consult the notice that was sent home in order to find out about the items that are needed. The food bank also appreciates donations of gift cards so that they can purchase perishable items. Please consider donating and involving your child in the process. At school, the children will discuss the project and each class will decorate a box for the collection. We believe that our service projects are an important part of our program. They help our children to become community minded and to be sensitive to the needs of others.

**Summer Camp**—Deborah Blasdel and Roberta Wichowski will once again lead a summer camp program. They will be assisted by Sarah Johnson and Michele Francisco. The camp will run from June 15<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>. The camp will specialize in offering activities that are developmentally appropriate for the young child, ages 2 ½ to 6. Each day the children will enjoy indoor and outdoor activities including nature exploration, arts and crafts, water play and story time. Each week the activities will be based on a theme. Camp hours are 7AM to 6 PM; program options are half day, full day or camp with care. You will be able to sign up for just one week, so if there is a free week in your summer schedule, think about summer camp at Deer Path. If you are interested, please contact the office.

**For Grandparents**—This will be the last mailing for this school year. I hope you enjoyed receiving our newsletters and calendars. Next year Deer Path is "Going Green" and so we will only be sending grandparents our newsletters via e-mail. So please be sure you or your children submit your e-mail to the office. You can e-mail us at [office@deerpathmontessori.com](mailto:office@deerpathmontessori.com) or mail a note to our office at Deer Path Montessori School, 429 Route 46 E., Hackettstown, NJ 07840. You wouldn't want to miss out on the happenings at your grandchild's school.

For those of you who have graduating kindergartners, we wish you well. We will miss your grandchildren. They each have won a special place in our hearts and minds. For those of you who are returning, we look forward to continuing our relationship. Have a wonderful summer!

**IF YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN TO THE ANNUAL FUND, PLEASE CONSIDER DOING SO BY MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>. REMEMBER OUR GOAL IS 100% PARTICIPATION. WE ARE HALF WAY THERE. PLEASE HELP US TO REACH OUR GOAL. IT WILL BENEFIT ALL OF THE CHILDREN AT DEER PATH.**