

**BELIEVE IN
THE CHILD**

**Volume J, Issue 5
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Montessori Academy Newsletter

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NEWS!

Shirley JA Green, Ed.D.
Principal

Sherrri Armstrong
Assistant Principal

Rachel Wizeman,
School Secretary

625 Scio Street
Rochester, NY 14605
(585) 325-0935
www.rcsdk12.org/montessori

Principal's Note:

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Spring is coming (soon we all hope)! Let's get ready to put away our boots, heavy coats, hats and mittens.

Students in Grades 3-6 are in the midst of preparing for the upcoming NYS Math and ELA Assessments. Our students have been working hard within the classroom on the rigorous NYS CORE Curriculum. Many staff have also been working on aligning the NYS Common Core Curriculum into our Montessori philosophy. Some are moving farther along than others, but we are confident that we will get there.

NYS ELA Assessment—April 1-3

NYS Math Assessment—April 30-May 2

Please make sure your child gets plenty of rest and arrives to school each day on time. Testing preparation will begin promptly at 8:15AM.

Our PTA continues to work hard to support our school. They are always looking for more families to join the PTA to help plan and implement the activities. Our PTA also has an active website and Facebook page that highlights the work of Montessori Academy.

Families that have incoming Pre School and Kindergarten children interested in joining Montessori, please let me know. I want to verify that your child is already registered and will be included in the lottery.

We are a school with a uniform expectation. If you need uniforms, please contact your child's teacher or the main office. We are here to support you!

Sincerely,
Shirley, JA Green, Ed.D
Principal

Parent Information

Did you know that we have a School Based Health Center at Dr. Freddie Thomas Learning Center?

What is School Based Health Care (SBHC)?

SBHC is providing medical and mental health services at the school, so that care is within easy access to students who may need it. The SBHC staff work closely with your doctor in the community so that you can have the best possible, immediate care.

Who can join?

The SBHC are available to all students in the school. Students must have permission from a parent or guardian to enroll in these services.

How do I sign up?

Enrollment forms are located in the SBHC at the school. It only takes a few minutes to fill out the forms.

How much does it cost?

There is no direct cost to the student or family. Costs are covered by your health insurance, the New York State Health Department and Federal grants.

Staffing Information:

The SBHC is staffed by caring Nurse Practitioners, Mental Health Therapist, Developmental Pediatrician, Medical Office Assistant, Pediatricians, Psychiatrist, Psychologist, School Health Aide and School Nurse.

Our goal:

Our goal is to provide health services to the students in our schools to keep them healthy both physically and emotionally.

Our Pledge:

We believe that families are vital to the health and well-being of our students. We will respect the legal rights of the students and family to keep all information private. We will work hard to encourage parents and students to strengthen their connections with each other and to communicate effectively with each other. We believe that individuals and families having health care in our community is vital to their long-term health and well-being. To that end, we will help our students and their families find health care in our community and when needed, will help them find affordable health insurance.

NEWS From ...Mr. Cruz, Physical Education Teacher!!!!

Primary and Lower Elementary

Over the past three weeks, our youngest students worked on cooperation. During our "Cooperative Theme", students learned the word "cooperation" as helping others and working together. They applied the meaning of cooperation in games and activities. All these games were non-competitive and gave an opportunity for students to rely on other classmates. Doing so, would allow them to complete a task. Some of the games we engaged in were the inchworm, ROCK, cooperative hula hoops and quack escape. Our upcoming activities will be Parachute as well as exploring foot dribbling. Stay tuned :)

Middle and Upper Elementary

Our students recently completed the second rotation in the pool.

The second rotation introduced students to basic swimming skills

essential for learning how to swim. We covered the proper way to enter the pool using jumping and cork screw techniques. While in the water, students learned how to perform bobbars. Students also explored how to execute the front and back float as well as why it is important to use these techniques when tired. Although the unit focused on basic swimming skills, experienced swimmers still continued to work to better refine these skills. Most importantly, experienced swimmers were used as demonstrators and served as peer-teachers for beginner swimmers.

Our next skill themes or units will take place in the gymnasium. We will be working on volleyball and basketball. Stay tuned :)



SCHOOL UNIFORMS

We are a school where we ask that students wear a uniform. Although this cannot be mandated, it provides our students with an identity while at school. We have received many donated uniforms for families who may need assistance.

Blue, White or Yellow Tops

Blue or Black Bottoms



STUDENTS Doing Great Things! Let's Take A Look!

Montessori Academy Celebrated Dr.
Freddie Thomas during the week of
February 10-14, 2014.

During the week of February 10—14 Montessori Academy was honoured to celebrate the life of Dr. Freddie Thomas. His wife, Mrs. Thomas, joined us for the entire week to help us celebrate his life and contributions to the Rochester Community. Each day we had a theme that was connected to Dr. Freddie Thomas' life and work. We had volunteers from the community to speak to our students on many of these topics. Our own Mayor Lovely Warren spent time with our Middle and Upper Level Classrooms. Each of our students received a copy of *My Playbook; because everybody needs a plan*, from Mayor Warren.

The themes during the week were:

Monday: *The Life of Dr. Freddie Thomas*

Tuesday: *Scientists and Inventors*

Wednesday: *Community Care*

Thursday: *Career Day*

Friday: *College Readiness*



Congratulations to Ryan Gregoire

Ryan was the first place winner for Grade 4 in the Rochester Storytelling Festival. Ryan shared the story Tiki Tiki Tembo.

Trinity Lewis was also a participant in the school level performance. Great job Trinity!

Montessori Academy's new Instrumental Music Program got off to a great start in December. The beautiful sound of *toots, rat-a-tat-tats and honks* (and an occasional *squeak!*) from Montessori's twenty-five, beginning instrumental students can now be heard every A and C Day afternoon in the music room.

On their first day, clarinet, flute, saxophone and trumpet students learned about their mouthpiece and how to make a sound on it. This first lesson was a challenge for many of them, but no one gave up.



At the second lesson, these same students learned to carefully put their instruments together and where to place their hands. They also had their first experience blowing through their instrument with the mouthpiece on it. Students were thrilled for themselves and each other when they realized they were (all) able to produce a real sound. Lesson books with practice assignments were sent home with students.

At the first lesson, percussion students learned the proper way to hold their sticks. They were a bit surprised to learn that, when it comes to performing sticking patterns, it's all in the wrists – not in the arms, like they first thought!

At the second lesson, these students were given their lesson books and introduced to the art of reading percussion music. Together, they read and played through the first page of their book, encouraging each other along the way.

Speaking of lesson books, I have had several inquiries from families regarding how they can go about purchasing a music bookstand. A handout with this information has been sent home with each instrumental student. Any questions, contact Ms. Elyn Dutko.

Upcoming Events!

Mar 14	No School for students	Superintendent's Conference Day
Mar 21	7:00PM	Talent Night
Mar 24	5:30PM	SBPT Meeting (Room 212)
Mar 25	6:30PM	Parent Institute
Apr 8	6:30PM	Parent Child Night
Apr 10		REPORT CARDS will be sent home
Apr 11	8:00AM	Coffee with the Principal
Apr 14-18	No School	April Recess
Apr 28	5:30PM	SBPT Meeting (Room 212)
Apr 24	6:30PM	PTA Meeting (Library)

SPECIAL NOTE: PTA Meetings have been changed from the last Tuesday of each month to the last Thursday.



ROC READ

Parents, we need your help! There were about 80 participants in December for Roc Read but only 43 participants during February. We know that families are supporting children by daily reading, but the evidence is not showing with the low rate of participation for completed Roc Read forms. Let's do better during the recess in April!

Montessori should be at the top of the list for participation!

PTA Officers:
 Bridget Monroe &
 Andrea Gregoire (Co-Presidents)
 Amy Soto (Secretary)
 Tanya Wetherwax (Treasurer)

SBPT Parent Members:
 Catherine Baurath
 Reuben Tapp
 Harriet Fisher
 Kijana Danzy—Alternate