



A Banner School Year for DMS

Improvements to Grounds and Record Enrollment

This summer and fall brought many new improvements to the Damariscotta Montessori School campus, the first of which is the attractive wooden fence that lines our Center Street location. The addition of the fence allows the staff and students to safely utilize more of the expansive grounds for study, group activities, and recreation. The school has also completed the installation of the railings and stairs on both buildings, and parents and friends of the school pitched in over several weekends to prime and paint before the winter weather settled in.

Over the summer, the school also hired three new staff members to accommodate our growing enrollment. Ms. Amy Winkle and Ms. Dorothy Sewall were hired to be assistant teachers in each of our primary classrooms, and Kimberley Tolley began working as a part-time Administrator. They join Chip DeLorenzo - Upper Elementary, Jill Baum - Lower Elementary, Casey Beaudoin - Primary, and Sarah Gorden - Primary. As of October, the school's enrollment is 70 students, with the primary program at full capacity and several families on a waiting list.

This January, the school also hopes to begin an off-site Montessori Mommy and Me program, offering parents and caregivers twice a week sessions to learn about and experience first hand the power of the Montessori philosophy for their toddlers, aged 12 -36 months.

Off Campus Experiences

We strongly believe that many powerful learning experiences happen outside the classroom, and so far this school year is no exception. The Elementary classes have: 1) participated in the 2006 Coastal Clean Up, working hard to rid Pemaquid beach of trash and other debris, while logging it for researchers; 2) gone blueberry picking on the Hinkley's Farm in Waldoboro; 3) joined the Primary classes for the school's annual trip to Clark's Farm for pumpkin picking and deer feeding, and 4) participated in the Damariscotta River Association's program on the Native American Village of the Wabanaki tribe.

Our Primary Classes have also enjoyed several field trips, although the bus ride usually trumps the destination for many first time students. The children went to County Fair Farm in Jefferson to feed the farm animals, wind their way through a corn maze, and then pick their own bag of apples. In October, the children joined the elementary students for the annual pumpkin picking field trip to Clark's Farm.

School Community Enjoys its First Harvest Festival

Members of the DMS community came together in October for the school's first annual Harvest Fest, celebrating the season of autumn. Organized by the staff and run by volunteers, the students, families, and friends of the school were able to enjoy a variety of autumn activities such as pumpkin painting and carving, horse drawn buggy rides, scarecrow making, face painting, craft making, and story telling. A potluck lunch provided a wonderful assortment of appetizers, main dishes, and desserts.





Ms. Casey Beaudoin

Teacher Profile

Casey Beaudoin, a mother of two Montessori elementary students, is in her 4th year of teaching primary children (ages 3-6) at Damariscotta Montessori School. She bravely shaved her head earlier this fall to donate her hair to "Locks of Love" and raise money for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, a center for childhood cancer research. We asked her a few questions for this issue's "Teacher Profile":

Favorite Part of the Job:

Being able to observe and experience the spiritual and innocent nature of children unfold and develop in the [Montessori] environment. Also having the support the [Montessori] philosophy in helping to implement the curriculum to empower the children.

Words of Advice to New Montessori Parents:

Help them do it themselves!

Recommended Reading for Montessori Parents:

Montessori: Her Life and Work, E. M. Standing

Favorite Children's Book:

Ferdinand

From the Directors Desk:

Dear Parents, Alumni and Friends,

What a real gift it is to be starting the school year in our new facility! The building and grounds are really shaping up nicely, the school is full, and the children, parents and staff have really settled in. It feels at times as though we have always been here.

This summer was an eventful one for the physical plant. We installed a beautiful new cedar fence, which not only gives the grounds a warm and secure appearance, but it opens up a great deal more of the yard for use with the children. In addition to the fence, the remaining handrail was installed on all the stairs and decking, and the clapboards were put up on the back of the "workshop" building. We have held two painting parties and have gotten a lot of the handrail painted, and Anne Geisler has made painting her life's work (smile), and has really gotten the building looking great.

We have added two new assistants in our Primary Classrooms this year and one person in the office. As well, Liz Proffetty is now teaching art to the elementary students on Fridays, and Carolina Rushton is back for another year teaching Spanish.

As for our enrollment, each of the classrooms is now full, exceeding our expectations by a full year. As well, the school has given over \$20,000 in financial aid thanks to increased enrollment and a successful appeal in the spring. As many of you know, this has been an extremely important goal for the Board and me as we seek to maintain a community of families that is reflective of our local community, and serve those who really desire to provide a Montessori education for their children. This will continue to be a priority as we complete our new strategic plan this year.

Thank you to everyone past and present who has helped to make this such a special place. We've all put in a great deal of effort over the past few years to make a warm, inclusive and nurturing school for our children, and have come a long way in a relatively short period of time. During one of my afternoons in the office this fall, I heard one of the children outside my window exclaim to their parent, "This is the best school ever!" It is moments like those that make everything that we do worth while! Thank you, all. Warmest regards,

Chip DeLorenzo

Events Calendar

Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 13-16

Thanksgiving Break

November 22-24

Classroom & Community Meeting

November 28

Bring Your Parents to School Night

December 5

Open Board Meeting

December 12

Holiday Break

December 25 - January 1

Photo Gallery

