



Better Method. Amazing Outcomes.

WEST SIDE MONTESSORI

The Inside Story

March 4, 2013

First Thursday Features Reading, Writing, Singing, and Dancing!

Join us this week for West Side Montessori's monthly **First Thursday** event. This month the topic is *Reading, Writing, Singing, and Dancing* with Children's House teachers Risa Cohen and Amy Wagner. The program begins at 8:45 a.m. in the Bird House at the Toledo Campus.

Throughout the year, First Thursday has been an opportunity

for parents and friends of our community to learn more about Montessori through the eyes of children, teachers and other Montessori parents. Feel free to bring little ones not in school to the program. This is a family friendly event!

Please R.S.V.P. to Kathy Heckert at (419) 866-1931 or kheckert@wsmctoledo.org.

How Are Natural Playgrounds Different?

Part II – How Your AEF Contribution Can Help

How would you describe a Natural Playground? The **Natural Playground web site** answers common questions including how natural playgrounds are different. Below is an excerpt from the web site:

"Natural play areas use natural landscapes as their model, and incorporate as many of the following features as possible:

- **Topography** is sculptured, transformed to include berms, stone walls, sand pits, water courses, mud areas, and natural amphitheaters.
- **Vegetation** is enhanced by indigenous, summer and winter trees, shrubs, herbs, flowers, vegetables, and other garden plants, all of which



should be designed to attract wildlife.

- **Landscaping** includes boulders, levels and tiers, park benches, rain gardens, path systems, grassy areas.
- **Structures** include gazebos, pergolas, arbors, gateways, shade tents, furniture, game tables, and climbing walls.

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Toledo Campus
7115 W. Bancroft
Toledo, OH 43615
(419) 866-1931

Perrysburg Campus
13587 Roachton Rd.
Perrysburg, OH 43551
(419) 874-9385

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 5

PACC Meeting
6-7 p.m. (Toledo Commons)

Wednesday, March 6

MS Field Trip
9:30-11:30 a.m. (Art Museum)

Thursday, March 7

- First Thursday – Music
8:45-9:30 a.m. (Toledo)
- Pizza Day (CH-6)
- MS at Power of the Pen Regionals (Lourdes University)

Friday, March 8

MS & 6th Level Field Trip
All day (Detroit, Mich.)

Saturday, March 9

- Designation Imagination Region 10 Tournament
All day (Pike-Delta-York H.S.)
- OhioMATHCOUNTS Competition
All day (Columbus State CC)

Sunday, March 10

Daylight Saving Time Begins
(Spring forward)

Tuesday, March 12

Coffee & Conversation
8:45-9:30 a.m. (Perrysburg)

Connect With Us Online



montessoritoleado.org



West Side Montessori



@WSMontessori

Parenting Young Children – Systematic Training for Effective Parenting

March 12 - April 23
(no class April 2)

Do you need a system for effective parenting? You are invited to attend a six-week STEP parenting class (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting). This class is targeted for parents



of children from birth to age 6. There is no cost for the class. However, each family needs a copy of "Parenting

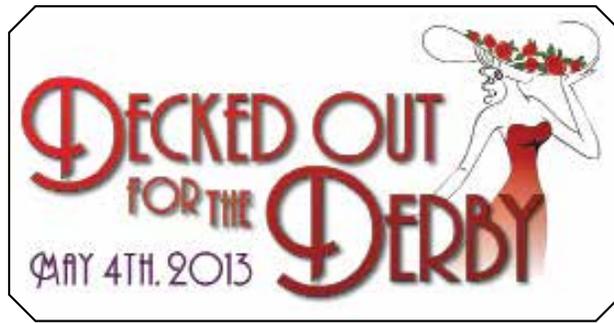
Young Children" at a cost of \$15. The books will be distributed before the first class.

The STEP class will be held in Central Park on the Toledo Campus on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Classes begin on Tuesday, March 12 with no class on Tuesday, April 2 (during WSM's spring break).

To reserve a space for the class, please contact Kathy Heckert at (419) 866-1931 or kheckert@wsmctoledo.org. Class size is limited.

Donate Items to WSM's Annual Spring Fundraiser

West Side's annual Spring Fundraiser (SFR), "Decked Out For the Derby" will take place on Saturday, May 4. This event will be the "Triple Crown" for all who attend. As you know, the fundraiser includes a live and silent auction and all money raised goes to benefit our school and its students.



The SFR Committee is looking for donations of gift cards, silent auction items, and sponsorships. If you own a business, or know of a business that would like to sponsor the event or contribute a live or silent auction item, please contact Catherine Summers, Parent Event

Chair, via e-mail csummer37@hotmail.com. Examples of silent or live auction items include but are not limited to: frequent flyer miles, sport tickets, gift cards, or vacation time shares. Check out wsmcpringfundraiser.com for updates to this fun annual event.

New Scrip Year Begins This Month

The new scrip year began March 1. Families that have been participating in the scrip program do not need to do anything but continue to order as always. If you have been thinking of joining the scrip program to accrue dollars toward your child's tuition through your everyday spending at places like Costco, Giant Eagle, Speedway, as well as many other area businesses, sign up now to receive the full benefit of your \$20 service charge.

What is scrip?

Each week parents use an online order form to purchase gift cards (or scrip), which have the same value as cash, to be used at their favorite participating grocery store, gas station, restaurant, etc. Each time you purchase a scrip, a percentage of the



AND MANY MORE...

money spent is applied toward your child's tuition. The percentage varies depending on the vendor. Families never pay an upfront fee, rather your first \$20 in profit is used to fund the program and everything after that is applied to your tuition on a monthly basis. You can get more information, including a list of participating vendors and profit rates at NOSA's web site.

To sign up, email Laura Hovey at seligman@bex.net to request a username and password as well as the directions for ordering.

MS Student Performs Song At MLK Awards Ceremony

Congratulations to C.J. Leonard, a West Side Montessori 7th level student, who was recognized by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission for his entry to the 2013 Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Essay & Multimedia Contest. His song "so impressed" the commission, he was invited to perform his song at the contest's awards ceremony on Wednesday, Feb. 27 in Columbus. The commission received nearly 1,000 contest entries and only one winner is selected to receive recognition from each grade level.

Middle School teacher Tom Strong (pictured right) and C.J.'s parents, Anne Spenny and Don Leonard, accompanied C.J. to the ceremony.



How Are Natural Playgrounds Different?

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- **Outdoor Art** starts with a well-designed framework for the entire play area and then includes mural walls, play sculptures, sound gardens, land and vegetative sculptures, and reflecting "pools."
- **Learning tools** include sundials, rain gauges, nature trails, and lots of loose parts.

Play areas include places for old-fashioned games, group sports, and challenge and fitness courses."

How can you contribute to this year's Annual Enhancement Fund? Donation envelopes are available at both campus offices. All donations to AEF are used solely for program enhancements that directly support the students.



Perrysburg Campus Coffee & Conversation

Plan to attend this week's *Coffee & Conversation* on Tuesday, March 12 from 8:45-9:30 a.m. at the Perrysburg Campus. Stop by the staff room after carline to enjoy a cup of coffee and meet other West Side families!

Upcoming Performances

Make plans to attend these upcoming student performances:

Thursday, March 14

Upper Elementary presents
Dreamcatcher at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10

MS Power of the Pen
Authors' Night at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 16

MS Band & UE Ensemble
Spring Concert at 7 p.m.

Friday, May 3

LE Songfest at 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 23

Kindergarten Spring Sing

The Inside Story

Sing-A-Longs Held For Montessori Education Week

In honor of Montessori Education Week (Feb. 25-March 1), each campus held school-wide Sing-A-Longs led by Children's House music teacher Risa Cohen. Below are snapshots of these first-ever school events. More pictures from Montessori Education Week are posted on [WSM's web site](#) and [Facebook](#) page.

