



— EST. 1979 —

MAPLETON MONTESSORI SCHOOL

46th Year, No. 5 • December 2024

SHORT & SWEET!

December 23–January 3: Winter Break. **January 6:** Teacher In-Service. **January 7:** Children return to school..

December now – 18th: Share-a-Gift. Thank you for all your donations for this worthy cause. Let's fill the box by the front door!

January 9: Monthly staff meeting. MMS closes at 4:00. Aftercare parents – thanks for arriving by 3:50 to pickup your child.

Happy Holidays! May your break be wonderful, full of family, friends, love, warmth, adventure, relaxing, peace and good cheer!

CHILDREN'S THANKSGIVING FEAST



The children prepared sautéed carrots, applesauce, corn muffins and left-over gnocchi. With the classroom tables set end-to-end, the children were all able to feast together.

SHARE-A-GIFT



Our Share-a-Gift toy drive is off to a slow start! We have 6 more school days left to collect toys for BVSD children in need. The toys can be new or gently used and don't forget about books, games, puzzles, and bikes! Last year gifts were provided for over 1,600 children! Wednesday, Dec 18th will be our last day to collect toys. On a related note, last weekend I found a brand new Tonka truck, like the ones in our sandbox, at the Goodwill, for \$4! Of course I bought it for our school. Then I started thinking I should put it in the Share-a-Gift box. So I decided to present the situation to each class and have the children vote on the outcome of the truck. In Angelarose's class, about 91% voted to keep the truck, although it was hard to have them understand that they could only raise their hands once! So, at Linda's circle, I tried having the children who wanted to keep the truck stand at one end of the circle and the children who wanted to donate stand at the other end, thinking this would be a more concrete example of choosing one, and only one, side. As soon as the "donate" people looked across the circle at the "keep it" people, they started to trickle over in support of keeping it! And so, in that class, it was unanimous to keep the truck. I guess another Goodwill trip is in my future!

ECSC (EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICE CORPS)

We are so excited to welcome Chris Shinn, our first ECSC sub, to MMS. The Early Childhood Service Corps recruits, trains and deploys older adults to serve in the Early Childhood community in both Montessori and non-Montessori classrooms. We are an ECSC Partner which means ECSC students can do observations or internships at MMS as they train to be paid-subs or volunteers. This is a blessing for the EC community which is always looking for great subs! If you know an older adult, who loves children and education and is looking for a flexible way to stay involved or busy in retirement, please tell them about the ECSC. <https://earlychildhoodservicecorps.org>

CLASS NEWS

South classroom: Wishing you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving break. This month we'll do creative art to go with our holiday theme. The study of the earth will continue as we learn about the earth's layers, the biomes and the landforms in North America. We are singing Fifty Nifty United States to spark interest in learning about our states. We'll prepare a tasty snack of roasted chickpeas and do some orange juice squeezing. Please let me know if you'd like to come in and help with a baking activity.

North classroom: This month Linda's class is sewing, baking, and even making a treat for the birds in preparation for the Winter Solstice. In addition to celebrating multiple holidays, we're also learning about migration, hibernation, and adaptation with special focus on North America.

REMINDERS

Tax season is approaching. **Our FEIN is: 84-0797756.** And please remember to keep your tuition slips as we don't do any year-end tax prep.

Pizza (Aug-Dec) will be billed in January.

LABEL EVERYTHING, please, please, please! Enough said :-)

Lost & Found should be checked before Winter Break as all things not claimed or labeled will be donated.

THANKS!

Aaron Thebault: thank you for pumpkin carving and making gnocchi with our students. Katie Odom, thanks for helping with cooking and sewing projects. Emily Riggs (Felix) thanks for helping with the carrots for Thanksgiving. Amy Haywood, thank you for a wonderful singalong evening, thoroughly enjoyed by students and families!