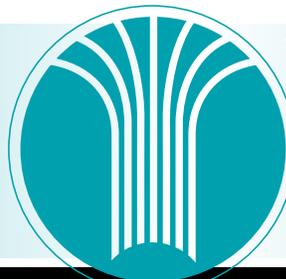


WRMS News



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WHITE ROCK MONTESSORI SCHOOL NEWS • SPRING • 2011

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Linda Griffith

Retirement Reception for School Services Coordinator, Linda Griffith!

Students, parents, faculty and staff, past and present, along with friends and family of Linda Griffith are cordially invited to a Retirement Reception honoring Linda's remarkable career.

**Sunday, May 29, 2011
2:00-4:00 P.M.**

A short program will be held at 3:00 P.M.
Everyone is welcome!



Linda and Ron in front of their new RV.

After a remarkable career spanning forty-nine years, Linda Griffith is retiring to enjoy more leisure time with her family. Beginning in 1962 when she opened a day care in her own home, Linda went on to work in various capacities in the corporate world before taking a job as Administrative Assistant at St. James Montessori, where she remained for seven years. She then served as a legal assistant secretary for a law firm before arriving at White Rock Montessori in 1999, just after we moved into our new building. Beginning as an Administrative Assistant at WRM, she eventually rose to her present position as School Services Coordinator.

Recently, Linda reminisced about how much WRM has grown during her twelve years here. She assisted the school through the installation of the Sport Court, Discovery Garden, outdoor classrooms, pond, arbor, Waterworks, Natural Playground, soccer field, zip line, and the acquisition of the Fairfield Wilderness Land. She also held down the fort during the installation of the security and keypad entry systems, fence, and electronic gates. Throughout all these changes, Linda saw to it that things ran smoothly.

With a job description defying definition, Linda is a master at multitasking. She is unwaveringly dependable, arriving at daybreak to open up the school, and frequently being the last to lock up after an evening meeting. Not only are her days filled with wrestling papers, phones, and files, but she can frequently be found bandaging a knee, comforting a child, or tending a bump on the head with a bag filled with ice. She runs a tight ship at car line, keeping traffic moving along, while offering a warm welcome to parents and children as they arrive and depart. Linda is one of those people to whom others go for advice. In fact, she often shows up to lend a hand well before she is asked. It must be mentioned that, although her job description does not specify wrangling stray animals, she is not above corralling loose chickens or shooing a coyote away from the hen house.

One of the nicest things about Linda has been her husband, Ron, who has been very helpful to us over the years. From plumbing problems, to issues with a broken gate, Ron has been known to show up at almost any time of the day or night to lend a hand.

Linda has commented that, while leaving her post is very difficult for her, she is happy that she and Ron will have more time to spend with their children, Allen, Tim, Pam, Dean, and Kris, and their eight beautiful grandchildren. We hope she will also find time for regular visits to WRM!

Linda is beloved by generations of children, parents and staff, and will be greatly missed! She has been a defining member of our administration team, and leaves behind a legacy of excellence. We wish her much happiness in the years to come as she and Ron pursue new paths and adventures.

Calling all alumni and parents of alumni!



We are updating our database. Please email us at office@whiterockmontessori.org or visit us on Facebook and let us know your current address and email information. We would also like to know what you have been up to since leaving White Rock Montessori.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

TheGreatOutdoors



Lower Elementary students on the bench in the butterfly garden.



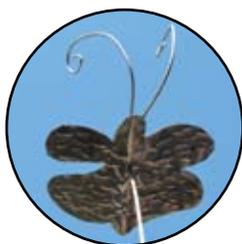
Craig Alford and colleague Paul Reeves under the butterfly garden's new archway.



Children's thank you note to Craig Alford.

Discovery Garden

Thanks to the contributions of several WRM families and the Girl Scouts, our Discovery Garden is more fabulous than ever!



Jr. Girl Scout Troup 2162, led by Terri Brown, collaborated with Environmental Education Director, Andy Maeding, and his students to re-design the original butterfly garden. Old plants were cleared out, new ones planted, and the space defined with new split rail fencing. Preschool children got into the act by drawing butterflies, which were then cut out of copper by WRM dad, Craig Alford. Craig attached the copper butterflies atop an elegant archway, which he designed to serve as a gateway to this special part of the garden. A lovely bench, contributed by last year's graduates, provides a cozy place for quiet observation. The result is a beautiful sanctuary for butterflies and children.

The Hurt family has donated a dandy green house for the Discovery Garden. This has greatly expanded the possibilities in the garden. Now able to tend their plants during inclement weather, children are experimenting with planting varieties of seedlings. The Hurts also donated several premium bird feeders to introduce wildlife feeding in the garden.



LE children observe and sketch the chickens.



UE students plant in the greenhouse.



Reefe Harrison and Garrett Bender refill the bird feeders.



Jack Curtis and Ayden Torres tuck their seeds into the PS1 bed.



Patrick Stein with fresh produce from the garden.



LE1 students pull the wagon to the Discovery garden.

Walkathon

The annual Walkathon was held on November 4th, 2010. It was a beautiful fall day; perfect for walking or jogging on the playground. As usual, students showed boundless energy and enthusiasm as they made laps around the Natural Playground. At the end of the day, they had earned \$4,800 to help purchase materials and supplies for their "Specials", including Art, Music, Environmental Education, Physical Education, and Spanish. Good job, students!



Daniela Usuga and Piper Buck



Brynne Hurt



Nick Perna, Beck McCall, Sawyer Thompson, and John Henry Hollas

Fairfield

Middle School students will take four trips to our wilderness land at Fairfield, Texas this year, staying on the land for two to three days each trip. In addition to the experience of camping in the wilderness and observing the beautiful natural surroundings, the group is constructing a nifty cooking and dining area.



Mr. Russ and MS students relaxing at Fairfield.



MS students explore.

ZipON!



Sarah Nunez-Lafontaine and Mr. Maeding



Nia Swad and Mr. Maeding



Sam Hamilton and Mr. Maeding

AlumniCorner

Remember When?



Holiday Program 1996

*Anna Grinaldi, Alison Hoffman,
Rachel Chaplin, Anna Sobering*



*Middle school students caught in a
casual moment in 2000*

Back row:

*Daniel Speir, Alexandra Grinaldi,
Medora Davison, Daniel Malhotra*

Middle row:

*Rosalind Miller, Will Schutze, Mary
Monigold, Sarah DePetris*

Front row:

Blake Boettcher, Autumn Hauck

Three WRM students honored at TAG!

Three WRM graduates have been named to both the National Honor Society and the National Science Honor Society at the Talented and Gifted High School at Townview. Honorees are Rebecca Stimson, Evan Ott, and Zee Rock. As formerly announced, Evan will be valedictorian of the senior class, while Rebecca Stimson will be salutatorian. Congratulations, grads! We are proud of you!



Graeme Scuggs

Graeme Scuggs graduated with high honors from the School for the Talented and Gifted in Dallas. After receiving many attractive scholarship offers, he selected Southern Methodist University where he is majoring in Computer Science. Graeme enjoys music, movies, philosophical debate, and keeping up with friends, many of whom are also WRM grads. In his spare time, Graeme tutors inner-city DISD kids and babysits children of ESL parents. He also tutors several former WRM middle school students, now in high school, and house-sits for several WRM parents.

Graeme's mother, Marie, who edited our school newsletter for many years, describes Graeme as an uncomplaining tireless worker whose personality is "optimism personified". She writes: "I continually give credit to White Rock Montessori for the beautiful way Graeme's character was shaped and guided throughout those 11 years. He had the very best education imaginable, including crucial instruction from (reading specialist) Lynn Newman. His grasp of higher math is astonishing. His integrity and character are set for life".



Katie Sobering

Katie Sobering is back at UT at Austin, studying for combined degrees in Sociology (PhD) and Law (JD). In her spare time, Katie works as a teaching assistant, teaches two swimming classes per week, and plays on the UT Girl's Golf Team. She has recently been offered a place at the Human Rights Clinic at the Law School. If that isn't enough, she also helps WRM with grant writing.



Hunter Stephen

Hunter Stephen has been inducted into the National Honor Society at Lake Highlands High School; a rare honor for a sophomore student. Recipients of this honor are nominated and voted on by their teachers. They must have a 90 or above GPA and be in the top 10% of the class. Other qualities considered in the selection process include leadership, school loyalty, and community service.

Hunter also has kept up his tennis since leaving WRM. He is on the champion LHHS Jr. Varsity tennis team. He is also captain of his SVAA basketball team, consisting of players from Lake Highlands, Berkner, and Richardson high schools. Hunter's poem, submitted at LHHS for the state PTA Reflections Contest went on to the regional level.

Mary Ellen Nortier, Hunter's mother, writes that she and Hunter credit White Rock Montessori with much of his success.

ScienceDiscovery

The week of February 4th - 7th was Science Discovery Week at White Rock Montessori. Students were invited to display exhibits of their experiments, collections, displays, or other presentations of a scientific nature. During the week, students toured the exhibit with their teachers. They were given a chance to demonstrate their projects to the children in their own classrooms as well as those in other classrooms. The projects were interesting and creative, and participation was close to 100%.



Aaron Thornton creates a battery out of a lemon.



Nash Farmer shows his project to his classmates.



Kate McCall and Sinclair Watkins show their project to Ms. Gwynn.



Paola Herrera examines a petri dish.

TennisTeam

WRM's Tennis Team is racking up excellent scores! The team, consisting of Ashlyn Duy, Michael Thomas, Ben Hurt, Sawyer Thompson, Omar Hmimy, Beck McCall, Solvay Linde, Julia Mitterer-Claudet, and Malak Hmimy, has made a very good showing at all three of the matches they have played so far.

On February 20th, Michael Thomas and Ashlyn Duy had impressive wins at the Los Colinas Country Club. Michael was victorious again on February 27th, at the Dallas Country Club. Julia Mitterer-Claudet and Ben Hurt also won their matches at the DCC. This was topped off on March 27th at the Village Country Club, where WRM won 5 singles and 1 doubles match against Seay Tennis Club for a big team win!

Congratulations to the whole team for representing our school so well!



WRM Competitive Tennis Team:

Ashlyn Duy, Michael Thomas, Ben Hurt, Sawyer Thompson, Omar Hmimy, Beck McCall (not pictured), Solvay Linde (not pictured), Julia Mitterer-Claudet (not pictured), and Malak Hmimy (not pictured)

Join us for A Peep at the Coops



Sunday, May 1, 2011
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

We are proud to announce that WRM will be one of the stops on the "Peep at the Coops" tour this year! This is a free, self-guided tour that will take place around the East Dallas area on Sunday, May 1st, from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Chicken lovers will be able to see different breeds of chickens in a variety of creative coops. Sustainability will be on view as well, such as beekeeping, composting, and rainwater harvesting.

This event is gaining in popularity, attracting an estimated 1,100 people from all over the Metroplex last year, with even more expected to tour this year. Our natural environment should be in full, glorious bloom, and we are excited for Andy Maeding, and his students to show off their beautiful, award-winning Discovery Garden, dandy chicken coop, and many varieties of contented White Rock Montessori hens, including Silkies, Appenzeller-Spitzhauben, Golden Campine, Plymouth Rock, Silver Lakenvelder, Light Brown Leghorn, Catalana, and Blue Australorp, to name a few. With names like Little Peep, Oreo, Huevo, Godiva, Shakira, Cindrella, and Chick-fil-A, these feathered fowl are loved and cherished by all.

For more information about the tour, go to
www.apeepatthecoops.blogspot.com.



Nia Swad holding Shakira.

Home for the Holidays

The campus was filled with students, parents, grandparents, friends and family members on Friday, December 17th, as we sampled holiday goodies and spent time together before going our separate ways for the winter break. Against a backdrop of student-made gingerbread houses assembled by WRM dad, Robert Winn, children in each class presented songs and skits with holiday themes. Preschool children were directed by preschool music teacher, Ileana Bolano, while elementary children were directed by elementary music teachers, Tom Prasada-Rao and Cary Cooper. Middle school students kept us laughing with their clever, original play written and presented under the direction of performing arts teacher, Andy Long. Thanks to WRM moms Amy Ashcraft and Andrea Loubier, who planned and organized the event, and their dozens of volunteers. It was truly a memorable and enjoyable occasion.



MS rocks the house with their original skit "Holiday Sketches."



Alyah Clifton and Lydia Todd accompany their class' presentation of "Carol of the Bells."



The entire elementary sings a stunning finale, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

Simple Feast



Malak Hmimy and Darby McMahon



Mr. Maeding, Ms. Thacker, Ms. Rose and Willow



Harper Burt

On Tuesday, November 23rd, WRM children, faculty, and staff paused to acknowledge our many blessings and to focus on how we, as citizens of the world, can help others. Leading up to the celebration, teachers and students engaged in research and activities to discover how people in various countries throughout the world sustain themselves. Based on their research of just what constitutes a “meal” for many who live in poverty, each class prepared and shared a very simple meal, made from ingredients they themselves contributed, along with vegetables and herbs from our own school garden.

This day marked the end of our school-wide collection for Pennies for Peace. Each classroom counted the money they collected and brought it to a central location to be added to the whole. All together, \$632.52 was collected, with LE2 and UE2 collecting a good portion of that amount. The money was sent to the Central Asia Institute to be used primarily to build schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

This special observance of Thanksgiving will be a meaningful and lasting memory and promote feelings of gratitude and benevolence in our children for years to come.

Speaking of her 5th grade son Sawyer’s Simple Feast experiences at WRM, mom, Dawn McMullan, writes in her blog that she hopes he “heads into the holidays with an innate sense of what I wish all of us had: An appreciation of what he has. The understanding that everyone doesn’t have a giant turkey- or even a sustainable meal- on their table. And an inclination to do what he can to change that in the world. It is that simple”.

SpellingBee



WRM’s 4th-8th grade Spelling Bee was held on January 13, 2011. Upper Elementary participants were: Jonathan Abdo, Maddie Hanratty, Darby McMahon, Ashlyn Duy, Solvay Linde, Elizabeth McPherson, Max Piersanti, Michael Schwartz, and Sawyer Thompson. Middle School participants were: Sophia Davison, Declan Kenny, Muhammad Shariff, and Vivie Behrens. As winner of the Lower Elementary Bee, Emma Whalen was allowed to participate, although she is not old enough to compete.

The winner was Jonathan Abdo. Jonny represented WRM at the Dallas Morning News Regional Spelling Bee on March 26th. Sophia Davison, Maddie Hanratty, and Darby McMahon tied for second place. Congratulations to all!



Spelling Bee winners Emma Whalen and Jonny Abdo.

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