

March 16, 2015

Dear Walden Green Montessori Families:

Just a couple quick items to celebrate and to keep you informed. Please read the items below. Great things are happening at Walden Green Montessori!

Sincerely,
Mark Neidlinger
Principal

Barnes and Noble was a Terrific Success:

We had a fantastic turnout on Saturday for our annual Barnes & Noble Book fair event. Through your generous purchases both in store and online, we were able to earn \$620 worth of books for our school. These books will be purchased to support our ever growing library and to supplement our exciting units of study. This is a fantastic boon for our school and our students. Additionally, we were complimented frequently throughout the afternoon regarding how positive and well mannered our students were in this public setting. Purchases can still be made online through the 19th and will benefit our school if the code #11570850 is entered at the time of the purchase.

A sincere thank you to Amy Hart for being our primary organizer for this event including the games that were on-site for any and all students who were interested in playing. Mark Roessing brought his guitar and led our chorus of students in song, it was a lovely performance. Aidan Hart taught origami skills to all interested parties and several parents and staff members took turns greeting patrons and answering questions about our school. Thank you one and all.

Two WG Artists Make the Top 100 in Michigan:

I am thrilled to announce that Paige Peterson and Evelyn Bergman were both recipients of Michigan's top 100 student artist award this past week. This is a phenomenal accomplishment for our students and certainly for our art teacher, Krista Bodo. We are exceptionally proud of their talents and delighted that they have been highlighted and recognized by the Michigan Arts Education Association (MAEA). Their pieces will hang in the (GRAM) Grand Rapids Art Museum throughout the remainder of the spring.

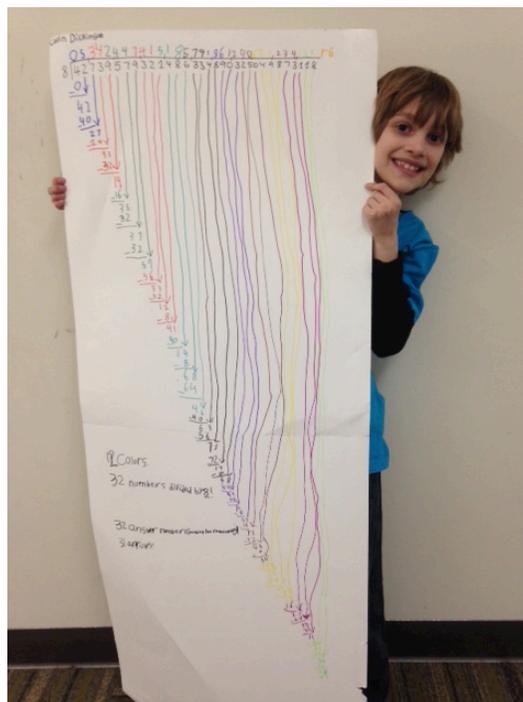


Student Transportation:

In February, our Board approved parent transportation for field trips. As a Montessori school, we believe that the world beyond our school can be an equally effective classroom. This new policy has been put in place to assure ongoing travel opportunities for our students. The policy was written to assure all possible safety measures. Please see the new guidelines listed on the last page.

Montessori at Work:

Collin Dickinson has worked diligently dividing a 32 digit number by 8. He showed remarkable dedication and organization to this work. You can see his fine work displayed in Stefi's classroom.



Drop-off and Pick-up Safety Tips:

Your child's safety – every child's safety is our biggest concern here at Walden Green Montessori. Increasingly, I have noticed a number of concerns that could have been averted. Please review the list of items below to assure the safe passage of all within our school community.

- Avoid the use of cellular phones while in line to pick up your children.
- Please do not park and exit your car (or help your child) if you are in line we can use the Walden Green staff for this purpose.
- Please only let your child out of the car if you are in line along the curb (do not pull up along side the line and exit your child).
- Please pull all the way up to the next vacant space even if your child is right in front of you.
- Please do your best to show up on time so that all Walden Green staff can start their day with students on time.

We love being able to provide this service for our families. Please be sure that you follow the simple procedures that are listed above so that we can assure the safety of all parties.

Upcoming Dates:

Week of 3/16 through 3/20 – Parent Teacher Conferences, see teachers' email

Thursday, April 2 @ 3:30 PM – Students dismissed for Spring Vacation

Monday, April 13 – All staff and students return from Spring Vacation

Friday, April 17 @ 8:15 AM – Family Breakfast and School Sing

Thursday, April 23 @ 4 PM – Deadline for re-enrollment

Open House Dates:

Should you know any families that are looking for a great school to send their children to, please let them know about our two remaining open house dates:

March 24 at 6 PM and April 22 at 6 PM

These evenings are a brief introduction to our school, our staff and our philosophy followed by tours of the classrooms with staff.

Walden Green Montessori
Request for Clearance for Field Trips/Volunteer Drivers

Date: _____

Full Legal Name: _____

Known by other name(s), (maiden name): _____

I am a parent in _____ classroom.

My email address is: _____

I've attached a copy of my current and valid driver's license. ___ yes or ___ no

I've attached a copy of my current proof of automobile insurance. ___ yes or ___ no

I've read, understand and agree to the transportation policy. ___ yes or ___ no

This must be handed in two week prior to travel.

Please read attached policy below and initial that you read and understand the policy and your responsibility.

Overnight trips:

Background check with fingerprinting (required for overnight trips) - \$60 payable to fingerprint organization. If you need this clearance, I will email you the paperwork.

Please return this form to me.

Thank you,

Vickie

vickiebuckner@waldengreen.org

Parent Transportation Policy

1. No teachers or school officials will be able to transport students.
2. Parent volunteers must submit a current and valid drivers license.
3. Parent volunteers must submit a current copy of "proof of Insurance".
4. Any parent volunteer must be approved via ICHAT two weeks prior to travel.
5. Parent volunteers will enforce that all students are safely and securely fastened into their own seat belts. (MI law, July 1, 2008)
6. No student will be allowed to ride in the front seat unless their parent is driving and the student meets the age and weight requirements for the state of Michigan.
7. A minimum of two students in a vehicle (unless parent is transporting only their own child).
8. No 1:1 parent to student trips permitted (unless parent is transporting only their own child).
9. Parent volunteers to communicate with the school should any incident arises.

Parents of students who will be transported under the supervision of a parent driving volunteer must sign a permission slip releasing the school of any wrongdoing.