

Upcoming Events:

School Picture Retakes

will be taken on Friday, November 8th. If your child did not have a picture taken at conference time, please plan to have them ready for a photo on the 8th.

Two Hour Late Start -

School will start 2 hours late **Wednesday, November 13th** for staff development.

Our next **Family Learning Discoveries Night** is scheduled for **Thursday, November 14, 2013**

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for another *Parent Academy* and Student and Family learning activities.

- ✓ 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. - **Parents and students will break up for separate activities.**
PARENTS - *Parent Academy*: Close Reading overview and Interactive Read Aloud in Room 221
STUDENTS - *Literacy Activities* - Reading Pals and Crafts
- ✓ 6:45 - 7:30 p.m. - **Parents and students will reunite for combined activity:**
Interactive Read Aloud for families

The *Family Learning Discoveries Nights* for the remainder of the year are scheduled for the following dates:

- ✓ Monday, January 13th
- ✓ Friday, February 28th
- ✓ Tuesday, April 8th
- ✓ Monday, May 12th

We look forward to providing valuable insight and meaningful resources at each event.

NDMA Board of Directors Meeting:

Monday, November 18th
at 6:30 p.m. in room 221 (Music Room).

NDMA PTO Meeting:

Tuesday, November 19th
at 6:30 p.m. in the NDMA Library.

No School -

Wednesday, November 27th,
for teacher workday,
and **Thursday and Friday, November 28th & 29th**, for
Thanksgiving holiday break.

Family Newsletter

Enriching Community through Montessori Excellence

New Discoveries Montessori Academy

October 31, 2013

from the desk of Dave Conrad



Mr. Pokornowski is combining Mathematics and Physical Education. Pictured, Mr. P. and students graphing data after a physical activity.

Voting "yes" for local levy referendum means voting "yes" for New Discoveries Montessori Academy

Whether you live in Cokato, Dassel, Hutchinson, or any Independent School District (ISD) NDMA serves, your "yes" vote means NDMA will receive the State of Minnesota portion of the approved levy for every student from the Independent School Districts we serve (who have an approved excess levy referendum).

For example, in the case of Hutchinson Public Schools, if the community supports both the renewal and the second question, the levy referendum portion of school property taxes will not go up compared to 2013 school taxes. This is due to the fact that the State of Minnesota will pay 59% of the first \$300 per pupil in levy referendum revenue. From \$301 to \$760 per pupil, the State of Minnesota will pay for 29% of the levy referendum revenue. The State's financial contribution to local levies provides property tax relief for local taxpayers.

A "yes" vote on the two questions will provide \$350 per student in revenue for NDMA for each year of the levy.

Election Day is November 5, 2013.

Ring the Bells!

Our voice mail is working again! Please feel free to leave a message on our voicemail should you call NDMA and we are unable to answer your call directly. We will make every effort to return your call in a timely fashion.

320.234.6362



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Thank you, Parents and Guardians for attending conferences earlier this month. Our attendance rate for Fall Conferences was 91%.

If you were unable to attend your child's conference during the scheduled opportunity, please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible to schedule a make-up conference.

PLEASE NOTE that ANYTIME is a good time for a conference. You may call or email NDMA staff to schedule an appointment at your convenience.

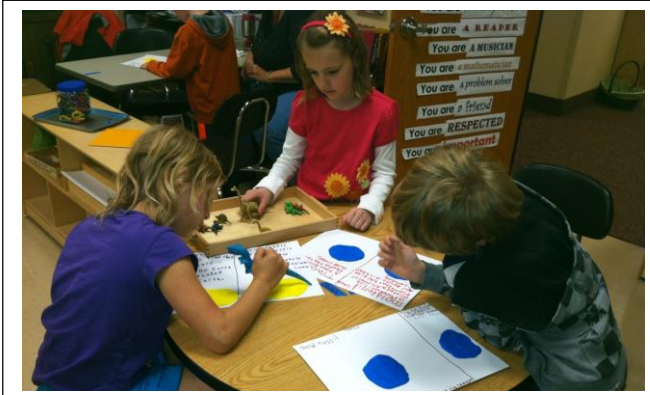
Just use the following format to contact a specific staff member:

firstname.lastname@newdiscoveries.org



“Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment.”

DR. MARIA MONTESSORI



New Discoveries Montessori Academy students are pictured making mold fossils and trace fossils in Mrs. Vaillancourt's Elementary I classroom.

Celebration-Eligible Status

Did you know that New Discoveries Montessori Academy climbed from the bottom 5% of Minnesota's 853 Title I schools in 2012 with our Multiple Measurement Rating (MMR) to the top 40% of that same group of schools in just one year's time? According to Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner, Brenda Cassellius, “. . . due to (NDMA's) substantial progress in raising achievement for all students and reducing the achievement gaps, . . .” **NDMA is no longer a Priority School!** Instead, we are now eligible for **Celebration School** status. Our leadership team recently submitted an application for this competitive award, the recipients of which will be announced in December.



E2 Students Present to PTO: Learning Discovered through visit to Audubon Center of The North Woods, Sandstone, MN.

Yearly, E2 students partake in a three-day, two-night, environmental learning fieldtrip at the Audubon Center of the Northwoods, located in Sandstone, MN. This fieldtrip encompasses the Montessori and Minnesota State academic science standard requirements. While at Audubon, students are actively involved in hands-on learning of several different topics.

All three of the E2 classes enjoyed learning about *Stream Superheroes* (Aquatic macro invertebrate's role in the ecosystem - water pollution), as well as several other exciting lessons including *Team Challenge*, *High Ropes*, and *Rock Climbing Wall*.

This year we added a follow up component to our agenda. Upon return from Audubon the students were required to select one of their experiences and complete a report. Students were given several options for report format, but needed to include what they learned about the subject, how they can use the learning at school, outside of school, as well as in the world at large (in the future).

The PTO has actively raised funds to help offset costs for this fieldtrip. On Tuesday, October 22nd, E2 students presented their final projects to the PTO to acknowledge how important this trip was for them, and what an awesome opportunity it is for NDMA students in the future.

The E2 staff and students want to acknowledge and thank the PTO for their consistent work and their generous contributions to the program.

Article and Photo submitted by Elementary II teacher, Mrs. Jodzio



Please **share** the following notice with your **friends and family** for a great opportunity to give to NDMA.

What if you could help NDMA win \$1,000 just by giving ten dollars? On November 14, Give to the Max Day, you can maximize your gift. Your generous support means the world to New Discoveries Montessori Academy now more than ever.

Join us on November 14, Minnesota's Give to the Max Day, and help us win a \$1,000 Golden Ticket. By partnering with GiveMN, an online giving website for Minnesota schools and nonprofits, New Discoveries Montessori Academy will have 25 chances to maximize your gift on Give to the Max Day!

By making a donation on Give to the Max Day, **your gift could help us win one of the hourly drawings for schools to add \$1,000 to a person's randomly selected donation.**

At the end of Give to the Max Day, one donation to a school from across Minnesota will be randomly selected for a \$10,000 Super-sized Golden Ticket! Help us increase our odds by making your gift on November 14 by visiting www.GiveMN.org.

Together, we hope to raise more than \$5,000.00 on Give to the Max Day and we're counting on your help!

P.S. Remember: At the end of Give to the Max Day, one donation from across Minnesota will be randomly selected for a \$10,000 Super-sized Golden Ticket! Your gift helps increase our odds on November 14!

DID YOU KNOW? IN MOST MONTESSORI SCHOOLS ART, PHYSICAL EDUCATION & MUSIC ARE TAUGHT BY THE CLASSROOM TEACHER/GUIDE IN THE REGULAR CLASSROOM. AT NDMA WE HAVE CHOSEN TO OFFER BOTH PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND MUSIC AS "SPECIALIST" PROGRAMS, TAUGHT BY DISCIPLINE-AREA SPECIALISTS. ART, HOWEVER, IS TAUGHT IN THE REGULAR CLASSROOM BY THE CLASSROOM TEACHER/GUIDE.



Elementary I students are using math manipulatives to find solutions in Mrs. Bandas' Elementary I classroom.

Please Mark Your Calendar:

- ✓ Monday, February 3rd, 6:30 p.m.
Join us as we discover the talents of our **E2 students**. Our very popular E2's Got Talent returns for another fun-filled evening.
- ✓ Thursday, May 22nd, 6:30 p.m.
Join us for a music celebration showcase for **Kindergarten and Elementary I students**. Discover some of what our kindergarten, first, second and third grade students are learning in music.

Both events are great opportunities to invite your family and friends to join us.

Children’s House (preschool and kindergarten)

Room 313

Cynthia Flynn, classroom teacher
Sandra Prieve, classroom teaching partner

Elementary I (grades one, two and three)
Niccole Schwartz, classroom teaching partner

Room 303

Anna Anderson, classroom teacher
Kathy Baysinger, resource 1:1 teaching partner (shared)
Michelle Carrigan, resource 1:1 teaching partner
Scott Hanson, resource program teaching partner
Samantha Helget, resource 1:1 teaching partner
Erena Johnson, resource 1:1 teaching partner
Nancy Massmann, resource 1:1 teaching partner
Leslie Plombon, resource 1:1 teaching partner (shared)
Kari Rettig, resource 1:1 teaching partner (shared)

Room 305

Heather Vaillancourt, classroom teacher
Susan Anderson, resource 1:1 teaching partner
Blake Condon, resource 1:1 teaching partner
Michael Crary, resource program teaching partner (p.m.)
Steve Ellis, resource program teaching partner (a.m.)
Susan Thompson, resource 1:1 teaching partner

Room 307

Ethan Marcus, classroom teacher
Michaleen Kalenberg, resource program teaching partner
Teigan Hierlmaier, resource program teaching partner
Rebecca Hudson, resource 1:1 teaching partner

Elementary II (grades four, five and six)
Bernadette Scharpe, classroom teaching partner

Room 301

Theresa Larson, classroom teacher
Cindy Prior, resource program teaching partner
Susan Stenberg, resource 1:1 teaching partner

Room 317

Ori Johnson, classroom teacher
Jill Corson, resource 1:1 teaching partner
Becca Ewert, resource program teaching partner
David Rohy, resource program teaching partner

Room 319

Betty Jodzio, classroom teacher
Michael Crary, resource program teaching partner (a.m.)
Sheri Ellis, resource 1:1 teaching partner
MeiLi Harris, resource program teaching partner

Behavior Specialists
Michelle Nadeau, teaching partner
Mandy Schoenherr, teaching partner

Playground
Leslie Plombon, teaching partner

Resource
Diane Bruemmer, teacher
Tari Niemeyer, teacher
Beth Wurdell, speech/language
Connie Swayne, administrative assistant

Health Services
Nicole Grack, building nurse

Business Office
LuAnn Hoffmann, administrative assistant, AP/Payroll

Specialists
Cyndi Ryan-Lauer, music
Eric Pokornowski, physical education
Cheryl Myers, library

Title I
Donna Herdegen, teacher
Margaret Shimpa, teaching partner

Food Service
Karen Buxcel, food service director
Jodi Olson, lunch clerk and cook’s assistant
Linda Reiderer, cook’s assistant
Chuck Stenberg, dish room and lunch currier

Maintenance/Custodial
Tim Kinzler, maintenance director
Bill Erickson, custodial

New Discoveries Staff

Please keep this updated staff list handy. We have an amazing group people on hand to help guide your child’s learning. Without exception, we are grateful to be serving you at New Discoveries Montessori Academy.

Office Staff

Tara Erickson, administrative assistant

Leadership Team

Joan Bendix,
Data Instructional Coach

Dr. Lora Dagel,
Continuous Improvement Specialist

Rosine Hermodson-Olsen,
Math Specialist

Administration

Dave Conrad,
Superintendent, Building Operations
Manager, Family and Community Liaison, &
Culture for Learning Specialist

Contracted Services

Joanne Bolland, Public Health Nurse
Dana Hamilton, physical therapist
Sheila Herd, mental health
Chuck Herdegen, business manager
Danielle King, occupational therapist
Emily Matter, special education director