



# Mater Amoris Matters

## February 2012



Mater Amoris Montessori School  
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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Wed, Feb 1, 9:30-11 a.m.**  
Open House for prospective families
- Wed, Feb 8**  
Kennedy Center field trip for lower and upper elementary
- Wed, Feb 8, 5-10 p.m.**  
Mater Amoris Night Out at Mamma Lucia in Olney
- Thur, Feb 9, 7-8 p.m.**  
Fathers' Night – Mrs. Brunetti (4,5,6 year olds)
- Thur, Feb 16**  
Rehearsal for the musical
- Fri, Feb 17**  
Dress rehearsal for the musical
- Sat, Feb 18**  
Musical performance of "Persephone" at Olney Theatre
- Mon-Fri, Feb 20-24**  
**NO CLASSES**  
President's Day and Mid-Winter Break
- Wed, Feb 29, 9:30-11 a.m.**  
Open House for prospective families
- Thur, Mar 1, 7-8 p.m.**  
Fathers' Night – Mrs. A-O
- Mon-Thur, Mar 5-8**  
Science Fair
- Thur, Mar 8**  
Science Fair Parent Night
- Wed, Mar 14, 9:30-11 a.m.**  
Open House for prospective families
- Wed, Mar 14, 7-8 p.m.**  
Mothers' Night – Mrs. A-O
- Wed, Mar 21**  
Vision and Hearing Screening
- Wed, Mar 21, 7 p.m.**  
Elementary Parent Education
- Tues, Mar 27, 7-8 p.m.**  
Fathers' Night – Mrs. Meyers
- Thur, Mar 29, 7-8 p.m.**  
Mothers' Night - Mrs. Brunetti (4,5,6 year olds)

### FROM THE DIRECTRESS

I would like to extend a very special thank you to Michelle Belfie for all of the time and effort she put into the Equal Exchange fundraiser again this year. All of the Elementary children and the 5 and 6 year old Primary children had a wonderful time making paper with her. Thank you also to the many families who supported the school by selling the products and making purchases of coffee, tea, chocolate and gifts.

Thank you also to Jessica Eustace, Carrie Weitzman and Kimberly Morrison for their willingness to host Open Houses for prospective families in January, February and March. I look forward to seeing you at the many special events over the next few months: Mater Amoris Night Out at Mamma Lucia, our performance of "Persephone", Science Fair Parents' Night, Parent Education meetings and Mothers' and Fathers' Nights. Please save the dates for your child's class listed on the back of the newsletter and on the Special Events calendar recently sent home with the children.



### VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

All of the primary and elementary classes will celebrate Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, with a card exchange party. Please make sure everyone gets a valentine by having your child send enough cards for the entire class. The primary children should sign but not address their cards to allow for easy distribution. The elementary children may sign and address each card if they choose.

Number of children in each class:

Mrs. Brunetti: 20	Mrs. Nellis: 20
Mrs. Alexander-Ozinkas: 22	Mrs. Meyers: 20
Mrs. Perez: 24	

### MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

*Persephone*  
**Saturday, February 18, 7:00 PM**  
**Historic Olney Theatre**  
**2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road**  
**Olney, MD 20832**

All Mater Amoris parents, children, friends, neighbors and relatives are invited to this year's presentation of *Persephone*. Advance tickets are available through the school office. We encourage you to purchase your tickets now to alleviate congestion at the door on the night of the performance. There is good seating for everyone in the Olney Theatre. We hope to see you there!

### SUMMER CHILD CARE

Patricia Salazar, Primary classroom assistant for 21 years at Mater Amoris, is available Monday through Friday for child care in your home over the summer. If you are interested, please call 240-277-6890.

## **PARENT MEETINGS**

Mrs. Alexander-Ozinkas, Mrs. Meyers and Mrs. Perez will present an Elementary Parent Education Meeting on **Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**. Mrs. Nellis and Mrs. Brunetti will be hosting a Primary Parent Education meeting on **Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Both meetings will be at 7:00 p.m. in the school.

### **FATHERS' NIGHT**

Primary children ages 4, 5 & 6, and all junior children are welcome to bring their fathers, uncles, or fatherly figures to school to share their classroom work. We ask that you come with only the child whose class is scheduled for the evening, not with his/her siblings.

Mrs. A-O: Thursday, March 1st  
Mrs. Brunetti: Thursday, February 9th  
Mrs. Meyers: Tuesday, March 27th  
Mrs. Nellis: Friday, April 20  
Mrs. Perez: Wednesday, April 18th

### **MOTHERS' NIGHT**

Primary children ages 4, 5 & 6, and all junior children are welcome to bring their mothers, aunts, or motherly figures to school to share their classroom work. We ask that you come with only the child whose class is scheduled for the evening, not with his/her siblings.

Mrs. A-O: Wednesday, March 14th  
Mrs. Brunetti: Thursday, March 29th  
Mrs. Meyers: Wednesday, April 25th  
Mrs. Nellis: Friday, May 18th  
Mrs. Perez: Tuesday, May 1st

## **UPDATES FROM THE CLASSES**

**From Mrs. Brunetti:** Now that the hectic holiday season is over, our class has settled into a real groove. It's wonderful to see just how much of a community we've become; we're all helping, sharing, learning and laughing together. We've welcomed two new faces into our full-day "afternoon" program and the "old-timer" afternoons are having a great time showing them the ropes. The afternoon children have also been learning about where food comes from; we've talked about what cows, sheep, turkeys and pigs provide for humans, as well as global food production and organic farming. The children are truly fascinated by what's on their plate! In addition to these "farm-to-table" lessons, the children learned about the work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and how we might bring about peace in our own classroom and in our lives. The next morning, when I asked my afternoons if they could remember something about Dr. King to tell the morning children, one boy raised his hand and said, "He was a great man." A great man indeed!

**From Mrs. Nellis:** Since returning to school in January we have been studying the characteristics of birds. We've sung songs about birds, acted like birds and drawn and pasted pictures of birds. In the afternoon class we talked about Rev. Martin Luther King and heard his story. We've just begun learning about colonial times and will soon hear about the life of George Washington, our first President.

**From Mrs. A-O:** We're lucky to have January begin with exciting promises of diligent work, lengthy projects and better-than-ever reports, rather than wintry weather and school closures! Besides our daily lessons, weekly presentations and endless written activities, we are busy with the forthcoming musical, "Persephone", the stimulating Science Fair and the hopeful ongoing wish to go sledding on Mater Amoris hills! Thank you for supporting our activities, especially the recent challenges of costume making! See you at "Persephone" and the Science Fair!

**From Mrs. Meyers:** The children in Mrs. Meyers' class wish to thank "Madame Mystery", our mysterious friend and generous benefactor. She has been quietly supporting the work of the class and inspiring new research in a variety of subject areas through her gift of book boxes for the class. Some favorite topics include the solar system, dinosaurs, inventions, explorers, the human body and the arts. We are very grateful for the kind thoughtfulness and the fabulous books.

**From Mrs. Perez:** The Upper Elementary students enthusiastically received their parts and scripts for "Persephone" a few weeks ago. All of the children are working to learn their parts and to improve their singing in anticipation of the arrival of Judy and Sanford Jones.

## **SNOW POLICY**

Mater Amoris will follow Montgomery County Schools' Snow Policy for school closings. However, **when Montgomery County schools open one or two hours late, Mater Amoris will open at its regular time. When Montgomery County schools close early, Mater Amoris will close early.** *You do not need to call the school – just follow the radio announcements.*

