



## Northfield Nursery School

1401 South Maple Street

Northfield, MN 55057

507.645.4607

[www.northfieldnurseryschool.com](http://www.northfieldnurseryschool.com)

### What's happening?

**May 2008**

#### **NNS Parent Board**

##### **President**

Marianne Moser  
645-6715

##### **Vice-President**

Gina Ledman  
645-6883

##### **Treasurer**

Lisa Kelley  
663-6081

##### **Secretary**

Krista Sorenson  
663-0503

##### **Registrar**

Tanya Jackson  
645-0501

##### **Volunteer Coordinator**

Kristy Campbell  
663-1811

##### **Special Events**

Ellen Trotman  
645-8249

##### **Director**

Deedee Stevens-Neal  
645-8286

It is so hard to believe that another school year has passed by! Here are some of the things that we will be doing in May...

**Art center:** string painting; painting with a glue/shaving cream mixture tinted in pastels; splatter screen painting; collaging with pasta; tile printing; painting with nubby brushes; painting with watercolors; foot painting; collaging with colored sand; and spin art with markers

**Dramatic play:** regular housekeeping and tent with the rocking boat

**Discovery:** aquarium rocks with plastic fish hidden; sorting pasta; and "phones" made from PVC pipe

**Sand:** tubes and funnels; wet sand with castle-making materials; and sand wheels

**Water:** water with snakes and a log; dry pasta with scoops; and water with boats

**Music & Movement:** xylophones; and drums and cymbals

**Blocks:** large steps; puppets; colored windows and people

Remember Strega Nona Day, Track and Field Day, and our final ice cream social, too. Also, remember to come to the Annual Spring Meeting on May 8 from 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Have a great summer! We hope to see some of you at summer camp.

## Our Featured Author/Illustrator

Our author/illustrator of the month for March is Tomie dePaola.

Tomie was born on September 15, 1934, in Meriden, Connecticut. His family included his father, Joseph, his mother, Florence, his brother, Joseph, and two sisters, Judie and Maureen. Tomie wanted to be an artist since he was very little and attributes his love for reading and drawing to his mother who read to him every day. His book, The Art Lesson, is an autobiographical look at his early love for drawing.

Tomie has written and/or illustrated over 200 books in his career. He has earned both the Caldecott Honor Award and the Newbery Honor Award, the two most prestigious honors given to authors and illustrators of young children's literature.

Tomie lives in New London, New Hampshire with his two dogs, Moffat and Markus.

### Please Remember:

- To bring your child's bag every day.
- To put a safety pin or clip on your child's bag for important notes.
- To label your child's bag.
- To check your child's locker daily for artwork and notes.
- Bring a coat, hat, and mittens (as needed), all labeled with your child's name.

Thank you!

### Thank you to...

- All the parents and grandparents that accompanied us to River Bend Nature Center.
- Kristy Campbell and her energetic committee for coordinating the Shopping Boutique, which raised over \$500 for the school.
- Kristy Campbell and Amy Hodapp who also helped with keeping the teachers well fed at conference time.
- Nancy Hegland, who came in to teach all the MWF AM children about cows and dairy products. It was wonderful!
- Angie Graff who has coordinated the Scholastic book orders for the school.
- Margie Wesling who has coordinated an entire butterfly curriculum for the afternoon class, including bringing in painted lady butterfly caterpillars, books, and art supplies!
- Christina Freund who has volunteered to teach the afternoon class Spanish all year long!
- Tania Legvold who coordinated a very cool field trip to the NAG theater with the afternoon class.

## **Thanks to the outgoing Board members...**

I wanted to extend a special thanks to all the members of the nursery school's Board of Directors for the past school year. They have done a tremendous job at stepping up and getting things done for the school. The outgoing President, Marianne Moser, has served one year in this Board capacity but went above and beyond the call of duty when she filled in as a substitute teacher's aide for more than a month. The outgoing Secretary, Krista Sorenson, and the outgoing Vice-President, Gina Ledman, each served four years on the Board of Directors in various capacities. Thank you both for your dedication to this school. Our outgoing Treasurer, Lisa Kelley, has served over two years in this vital position. Our outgoing Registrar, Tanya Jackson, also served two years on the Board; one as Registrar and one as Special Events Coordinator. Ellen Trotman, our outgoing Special Events coordinator, spent numerous hours coordinating and working at the various fundraisers and special events, all while she was pregnant! Finally, I want to thank Kristy Campbell, who has served the past year as Volunteer Coordinator but will step into the Registrar's role next year. Thank you all for a great school year!

## **Help Wanted...**

We need a family who will volunteer to take care of our gerbil, Peanut, during the summer months. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact your child's teacher.

## **Track and Field Day**

On May 14 & 15, the children will be participating in track and field days. For the last 45 minutes of the class times, we will set up five stations through which the children will rotate. Children will participate in the long jump, a sprint event, walking the balance beam, throwing at a target, and a balance relay. Each station will be manned by a parent volunteer. Please let your child's teacher know if you're interested in helping. We plan to hold this event outdoors, but if it rains, we will hold the event in the multipurpose room.

## **Ice Cream Socials**

On the last day of your child's class (May 20 or 21), families (including siblings) are invited to join us for the last 30 minutes of class to celebrate the end of the school year. We will be having ice cream, various toppings, and juice. Hopefully, this event will take place outside on our playground. If the weather does not permit this, we will hold it in the classrooms or the church's fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome to come and eat and play and say goodbye to their child's classmates, their classmates' families, and their child's teachers.

## Spring Meeting

The annual spring meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, May 8 at 7:00 PM. During this meeting, we will be voting upon the 2008-2009 Board members, the nursery school's operating budget, and a new mission statement. This event is open for all current families and for all families that have enrolled for next fall. **It is extremely important that one member of each family attends in order to have enough voting members to satisfy our nursery school's by-laws.** If you absolutely cannot make the meeting, please contact Deedee for absentee ballots.

## Parent Survey Results Attached

In April, we sent a parent survey home in every child's locker asking for parent input on various aspects of the nursery school's operation. Unfortunately, only 25 families returned their surveys, which is only a 37% return rate. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) requires at least a 50% return rate so, if you have not returned your survey, please get it to me as soon as possible. The results of the survey are attached to this newsletter.

## Upcoming Events

- 5/3 Spring Shopping Boutique  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- 5/7 & 5/8 Strega Nona Day  
We will read the book Strega Nona and eat spaghetti for snack
- 5/8 Annual Spring Meeting  
7:00 PM in the church's Reception Room  
**It is important to attend!!!!**
- 5/11 Happy Mother's Day!
- 5/14 & 5/15 Track & Field Day  
Please see the related article elsewhere in this newsletter.
- 5/20 **Last Day** for morning and afternoon classes
- 5/21 **Last Day** for morning class
- 6/16-19 Summer school (vehicles)
- 6/23-26 Summer school (cooking)
- 6/30 & 7/1 Summer school (princess)
- 7/9-10 Summer school (pirates)
- 7/14-17 Summer school (insects)
- 7/21-24 Summer school (music)
- 9/2 & 3 Orientation for 2008-2009 classes