



Fall Festival



Science Night



Flying Pig Marathon



End of Year Celebration

PARKER WOODS MONTESSORI PTO

NEWSLETTER



Planting Day



Dr. Seuss Day



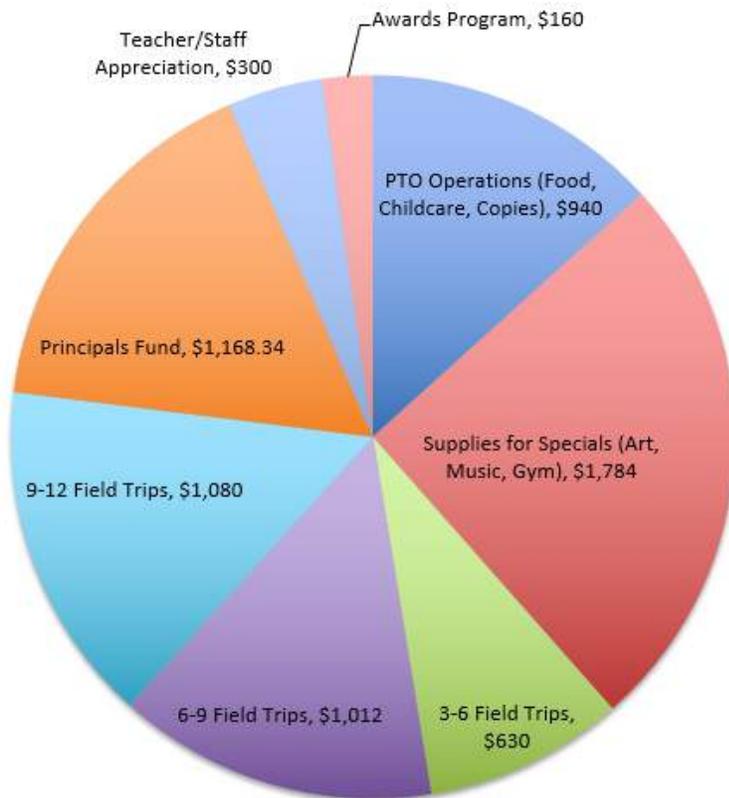
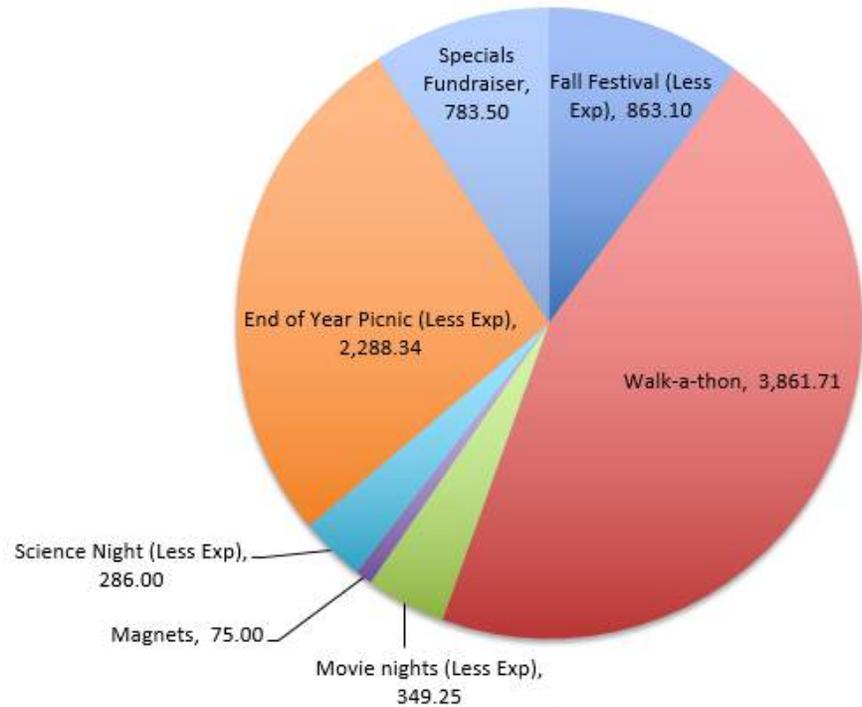
Family Movie Night



Leadership Scholars

Fundraising

Thank you to all the parents who volunteered your time, talents, and treasures throughout the year for the benefit of all our students. And a special thanks to the Northside Community Council and Northside Business Community for their generous support of our programs and initiatives. This year, families and friends of Parker Woods Montessori donated over \$8,500 towards our children's education! See below how your generous contributions were put to good use! Thank you for your continued support!



Two New Presidents

This year Angie Asselin and Missy Maxfield stepped into the role of co-presidents of the PTO, as well as being the fundraising chairs. One of their favorite achievements was building on the movie night events. This year we featured The Lego Movie and Frozen, and both were very popular events. Next year we hope to continue to grow the community connection by hosting 3 family movie nights throughout the year!

Dr Seuss Day

by: Nuria Lopez-Ortega



Parent Academic Committee

by: Nuria Lopez-Ortega

The Parent Academic Committee worked on several ideas to help improve educational outcomes this year for all students at Parker Woods Montessori.

In the fall, 250 students attended a Youth Concert by the Cincinnati Symphony orchestra at Music Hall. A minimal fee included not only free entrance to the concert for all children and chaperones, but also free transportation. We hope we can attend a Youth Concert every fall!

We worked with the UC community, bringing in around twenty students to volunteer as tutors in the classrooms all year long.

We encouraged every parent to volunteer in the classroom by spreading the word about the Room Parent Program. Many parents established on-going relationships with classroom teachers and were able to make a difference by volunteering regularly in the classroom.

For the second consecutive year, a Public Library staff member visited Kindergarten classes for story time activities. Students loved this experience and we look forward to Mr. Eric's visit next year.

In March, we held our first March Reading Madness which ended with Dr. Seuss Celebration Day. We had a very special guest, Cat in the Hat, who went to classrooms and gave away prizes, talked to students and collected reading logs. Several rooms won a special pizza party for their fantastic reading record! We continue to encourage every family to spend 20 minutes a day reading with their children. Reading is an essential skill for school, work and for life. "The more that you read the more things that you'll know; the more that you learn the more places you'll go!" -- Dr Seuss.

Spring Fundraiser

by: Nuria Lopez-Ortega

Our fundraiser this spring collected money for special programs as well as for Montessori materials replacement. Collected funds will aid in purchasing materials and equipment for our art, music and physical education classes. If you did not have a chance to make a contribution we encourage you to do so. You can go to our PTO website and contribute online.



Planting Day

by: Brook Agliata

On Monday May 11 the view of our garden was a wonderful sight to see! The newly-named Koster Montessori Teaching Garden was abuzz with over 50 parents, community members, and teachers, and more than 250 students – including Pre-Ks and Ks – working together to launch the heart-healthy section of our garden. The organized chaos resulted in 9 raised garden beds filled with soil and over 130 vegetable seedlings planted and watered! With a 2-year sponsorship from The American Heart Association and new curriculum developed by Cincinnati Public Schools, PWM is now the city's first teaching garden. Our goal is to harvest and sell our vegetables at the Northside Farmer's Market. And watch for our Harvest Celebration in the fall!



Students gathered in the gym for a presentation.



It's okay to work and play.



Students fill the raised beds with new plants.



Classroom 1102

by: Mrs Ridley

Thanks to the wonderful children and families from 1102, we had an amazing year! Daily hard work lent itself to many new readers, writers, mathematicians and scientists in our classroom! We had so many amazing experiences both in and out of the classroom walls. Some of our highlights included: witnessing the birth of many baby birds in our classroom, sharing a Thanksgiving Feast with 1108, seeing The Snow Queen at Children's Theater and visiting the animals at Sunrock Farm! Our community grew richer each day as we learned to respect ourselves, each other and our environment! We grew stronger as we tackled big jobs together like planting flowers on Earth Day and we realized that it takes all of us to make the world go 'round as we talked about how we

are all unique and all have special talents we bring to our community. We can truly say that we had fun each and every day!

Walkathon and Fall Festival

by: Missy Maxfield

The 2nd Annual Walk-a-thon and Fall Festival was held on October 9, 2014. The children had a fun week full of school spirit as they prepared for the Friday events. The students walked through Parker Woods nature preserve into the neighborhood and ended the walk by making a tunnel and cheering on their classmates. The festival was held after school and enjoyed by many of our families. We had a bouncy house, games, face painting, and food. The funds raised helped pay for transportation to field trips and educational materials for the classroom.



Flying Pig Marathon

by: Brian Bachmeyer

Students, Parents, Teachers and Staff joined together and finished the 26th Mile of this year's Flying Pig Marathon as a team. In

preparation for the event, students met in the gym every Tuesday after school to walk, run, and log the first 25 miles of the marathon.



Family Movie Nights

by: Missy Maxfield

The PTO held two Family Movie Nights during the school year. We loved seeing our movies on the big screen in the cafetorium. At our Fall Movie Night we watched the Lego Movie while Frozen was our Winter Movie Night theme. Everyone sang along to their favorite songs, and we had lots of Anna and Elsa princesses in attendance. Our 9-12 students enjoyed open gym with Ms. Austin. Everyone loved the pizza, popcorn, and snow cones.



End of Year Celebration

by: Rachel Morgan

Parker Woods Montessori PTO held their annual End of Year Celebration on May 9, 2015. It was a wonderful day filled with fun for the kids. All the families that joined us enjoyed multiple bouncy houses, games for prizes, free food and games. Happen Inc., Wordplay, and Galaxie Skate Shop hosted free activities as well! Making its first appearance, The Big Kahuna Splash Down (similar to a dunk tank), was by far the most popular activity. Students nominated teachers and other students to get splashed through the whole celebration! Thanks to the many volunteers, donations of numerous Northside and outside businesses, and to the support of Parker Woods Montessori Teachers and Staff, the students had a celebration to remember.

Thank You PTO

by: Mrs Ganance

Graciously from the 9-12 Level, thank you for the many ways you helped support our students this year, including: Trip to Ft Ancient; Raptor's Incorporated - live birds of prey; Science Boards for Science Night; Batteries for electric circuit study; Adventure Outpost at Winton Woods - program fees & bus; 6th Grade Tickets for End of Year Celebration; PTO Scholarship for 6th Level student rising to Clark or Gamble Montessori; Pencil Pouches (PAC); Chapter books - Island of Blue Dolphins & Number the Stars (PAC); Reading Month reading logs pizza parties; Walkathon Pizza Party.



Science Night

by: Brian Bachmeyer

Science Night was a big success. The gym and cafeteria were full of student experiments. Many guest organizations attended and helped fill the school with scientific inquiry and exploration.





Local School Decision Making Committee

by: Michelle Kinkele

We devoted this school year to making connections and building relationships with people and organizations who can contribute to the academic achievement of all students at Parker Woods Montessori.

The LSDMC was instrumental in bringing the Leadership Scholars Parent Academy Program to PWM. We hope to maintain our relationship with Leadership Scholars and continue to offer this invaluable program to all parents.

Work has begun to bring the Adopt-A-Class program to PWM next year. This program will provide added resources (volunteers, funding) for our ongoing quality instruction.

We agreed to devote a portion of our Title I budget to selecting a lead agency and hiring resource coordinator for next school year. This is an important step for Parker Woods Montessori to realize the vision of becoming a Community Learning Center.

We have been meeting regularly with our counterparts at Chase Elementary and St. Boniface School to work on a model of community learning for all three schools.

We invited Heather Sturgill from the Apple Street Market Co-Op to school to share the vision of a locally-owned grocery store opening in Northside. Having access to healthy foods and good jobs makes our community stronger.

If you would like to know more about the Parker Woods Montessori Local School Decision Making Committee (LSDMC) please visit our page on the PTO website, (pwmpto.org/school/lstdmc/). If you have any questions about the LSDMC, please contact a member of the LSDMC.



Leadership Scholars Parent Academy

by: Erma Baugh-Schaffer

The Leadership Scholars Parent Academy Program is an eight-week program that was held this spring at Chase Elementary and Parker Woods Montessori. The graduation ceremony was held at Mt. St. Joseph University. The keynote speaker was Dr. Victor F. Garcia, the Founding Director of Trauma Services at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Speaking on behalf of the Parker Woods Montessori class, Erma Baugh-Schaffer shared her experience in the program. Here is the text of her speech:

Good afternoon. My name is Irma and I am 70 years old. I am the GREAT grandmother of Kanylah, Jared, Kanaisa, and Kydell. Kanylah attends Parker Woods Montessori so when my friend told me about the Parent Academy at her school, I was interested in learning more. After I signed up and attended the first session, I wondered why I was there. I was definitely the oldest person there and was not sure if I should return. I voiced my concerns and they assured me that I had a lot of life experience and wisdom to contribute-so I stayed. And I am so glad that I did.

I became a teenage mother at 16, but I continued on with my education and graduated from high school. I had another baby after that and so I did not have the opportunity to go to college. Even so, I made sure that both of my children went to college and graduated.

My favorite topic in Leadership Scholars was learning about the amygdala-the part of the brain that controls fear and stress. We learned how to calm down our amygdalas through deep breathing and meditation. I taught my great granddaughter about the amygdala. I wasn't sure if she understood until one day I yelled at her. She said, "Grandma I will help you calm down your amygdala!"

I also loved learning about grit because I didn't know that was something I could change in children. I really liked the grit triangle because it gave me new ways of thinking about how to instill grit and persistence in my great grandkids.

It was not until this program that I realized how important I was. I spend much more time with her now and know that I can make a big difference in her life. I learned a lot of new strategies to work with my great grandkids, and I didn't do a lot of these things with my own children--but now I know how.

I also didn't realize that teachers would want me to come in, but now that I know this, I come in more to the school. I even plan on volunteering now that I understand why that is important.

This is the most valuable program I have ever been in because all of the parents knew that the facilitators cared about them and wanted us to be successful. When we brought up situations, the facilitators were helpful in working through how to solve our problems. The parents in the class also formed strong bonds, and we were there to support each other.

I have collected all of the materials from the program and put them into a binder. It now serves as my reference guide for how I can be the best influence in my child's life. I reviewed this information each night and I know it has made me a better great grandma, grandma, and parent. Thank you Leadership Scholars.



Spring Art News

by: Mrs Nall

Third and Fourth quarters have been a whirlwind of activity here in the art room. All of Parker Woods Montessori students were very busy getting ready for the 9-12 team music program, the Scholastic Book Fair, our big Community Open House, and for the American Heart Association Planting Ceremony. Five of our students also displayed their art work at the downtown library, in the All City Art Show.



9-12 children in Ms. Greenler's class created two dimensional representations of Greek Pots. The students studied different forms of Greek vessels and researched the different purposes of them. These representations were then used as backdrop items for the 9-12 music program "Dig It!" a musical about ancient world history.



9-12 Students in Mr. Held's class and Ms. Best's class studied the art of Wayne Thiebaud. He is a painter who focuses on desserts! Students learned that he was a contemporary of the pop artist Andy Warhol.



Kindergarteners have been studying symmetry. Children created flowers with symmetrical radial balance designs; they also made large symmetrical butterflies using oil pastel, and tempera paint. These butterflies really brighten up our main hall!



9-12 students in Ms. Bockstiegle's Class, helped create a welcoming environment in the main hall, and the Media Center, by making Japanese Fish Windsocks. In Japan, they are called "Koinobori" and are hung in honor of Children's day, celebrated on May 5th.

Students in 6-9 classes completed Biome landscapes. Students created depth by making a horizon line, and put objects in the foreground, middle ground and Back ground. Some of the biomes depicted are: African Savannah, desert, Tundra, and Temperate Forest. Kindergarten

students also created their own beginner landscapes, and talked about different types of land found on the Earth.



Art club kids and other students from various classes were a big help in getting our school ready for the Open house, and American Heart Association Ceremony. Students designed and painted over 20 giant flower pots. These pots can be viewed all around our school. Most have been placed at different entrances to welcome all into our learning community.



BIG congratulations to our All City Art Show Participants! All City, is an art exhibit that displays artwork from students in all Cincinnati Public schools. Cassidy Wales, Ezra Heichel, Peace Mbabazi, and James Blackmon were finalists in the exhibition.

Lai Connelly, was a gold seal recipient. Lai is Parker Woods Montessori's 12th student to receive this distinction.

