



# Border Star News

Newsletter issue 5, January 2010

## GET TO KNOW MONTESSORI

Over these few short months since the start of school, I hope you've gained a little more understanding about Montessori. Have you been keeping up with the Montessori articles in the newsletter? They're informative. Have you tried a quick link on the website? They'll lead you to great resources. Did you catch November's guest speaker, Carol Hicks? Her presentation was instructive and can be viewed online at [www.borderstarpta.com](http://www.borderstarpta.com).

Coming up next month on February 9<sup>th</sup> is our second Parent Education Night. This event will offer a glimpse into your child's Montessori future, as we'll be talking about Lower & Upper Elementary classrooms. Last year we featured a panel of Border Star

graduates and plan to have them come back again this year to share their experiences of moving on from Montessori to Middle School. Make a point to attend this event and see why Montessori is worth the commitment!

If you're unable to attend and are curious about these upper levels of Montessori or just want to know more about your child's classroom, consider making the time to observe in a classroom. This is an excellent way to see Montessori in action and your child's teacher is a ready resource for all your questions. So get to know Montessori!

-Jan Powell, PTA President

## Patience Please

We are working diligently to iron out some of the irksome issues that keep occurring with our wonderful big purple container. As Border Star parents please help us spread the word about how excited we are to be a part of this wonderful opportunity, and also remind friends and neighbors to be respectful and not dump glass on the ground when the container is full. Interested in helping out? Please contact Angie Lile at [angie@lilestyle.com](mailto:angie@lilestyle.com) or Rochelle Brickner Owings at [rrbowings@gmail.com](mailto:rrbowings@gmail.com). Read the article on the following page to better appreciate Ripple Glass.

## Check it out: [www.borderstarpta.com](http://www.borderstarpta.com)

The PTA's website is starting the New Year with a New Look! Volunteer Angie Lile began reconstruction shortly after school began last fall. The new site was created with Border Star's creative talents in mind and features a colorful fall photo of the school and the playground as its primary background.

Any visitors to the new site will be able to find helpful links, the monthly newsletter, kid and parent friendly videos, and the PTA Newsletter. Parents are urged to submit video ideas to be included on the page by emailing Angie ([angie@lilestyle.com](mailto:angie@lilestyle.com)). We also welcome any links or story ideas.

Angie Lile is the owner of a video production business, LifeStyle Productions LLC, which primarily provides video production for small businesses on a budget. LifeStyle also offers marketing service for business owners who want to take advantage of Social Networks but don't know how.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JAN 27-SPIRIT WEAR  
ORDERS DUE

FRIDAY, JAN 29-MOVIE NIGHT

MONDAY, FEB 1-  
PRINCIPAL COFFEE

THURSDAY, FEB 4-HALF DAY,  
11:50A DISMISSAL

TUESDAY, FEB 9-  
PARENT ED NIGHT

THURSDAY, FEB 11- VALENTINE'S  
DAY PARTIES (2:00P)

FRIDAY, FEB 12- NO SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY, FEB 17-  
SAC MEETING

## Montessori Moment

The child meets the alphabetical symbols by using the **Sandpaper Letters**. Each letter of the alphabet is outlined in sandpaper on an individual card, the vowels on blue and the consonants on red. The teacher shows the child how to trace the letter with two fingers following the same direction in which the symbol is normally written.

Use of this material gives the child a three-fold impression – he sees the shape, he feels the shape, and he hears the sound of the letter which the teacher repeats when introducing it. The fact that the letter is made of sandpaper rather than ink, invites the child to trace the shape. This is an important step in learning to write. The repetition of this exercise fixes the path of each of the letters in the child's

muscular memory.  
From: *A Parents' Guide to the Montessori Classroom*  
by Aline D Wolf.



## A Plea From the Garden Box Committee

The Border Star Garden Box committee needs parent volunteers to assist with showing the kids around the garden. Please consider taking a group of kids from your child's class out to the garden boxes weekly for a walk and to pull weeds. In the effort to make the garden more

useable and kid friendly, we need the support of as many parents as possible. It is the intent of the garden box committee to make this the best year for the garden and a beacon for the entire community but your help is needed. So please donate

some time if you can. Contact Celeste Marble, [celestemarble@kc.rr.com](mailto:celestemarble@kc.rr.com) or Brian McAree, [bmcaree@everestkc.net](mailto:bmcaree@everestkc.net).

## Don't Worry, Your Glass is in a Better Place

Kansas City area residents will appreciate the ease of recycling their used glass containers, and they will be able to take pride in the fact that Ripple Glass's fully localized system is one of the most environmentally advanced in the country. After residents drop off their empty glass containers in the purple Ripple Glass bins, the glass will then be delivered, crushed, cleaned and sold to Owens Corning Fi-

berglass for processing in their Kansas City plant. At this point, it will be made into building insulation used to lessen the energy burden of heating or cooling homes. Much of the insulation produced locally will be used in regional building efforts.

*Ripple Glass is the first such fully localized system in the country that has energy savings built into every step.* Transportation and fuel costs of reclaiming glass are radically re-

duced; the Ripple Glass processing plant utilizes state-of-the-art technology that is ecologically sensitive, and the new product – fiberglass insulation – makes the built environment more energy efficient. Bin hosts and Ripple Glass will be making a significant and positive environmental impact in Kansas City.



## Movie Night: Featuring the Hit Movie "Up"

Don't miss movie night on Friday, January. 29, when we show the hit animated movie, "Up." Show time is at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

The movie is FREE, but we encourage you to buy drinks and treats at our Upper Elementary concession stand. Upper Elementary students will be selling popcorn, juice, water, candy and other treats.

All proceeds will support Upper Elementary participation in the Model United Nations program in New York in February.

The movie "Up" (rated G) is the story of an elderly man who meets a young boy, Russell, and their balloon adventure to a hidden area of South America. The movie is nominated for an Academy Award and just won a Golden Globe for Best Animated Feature.

For more information, email Pattie Mansur, pmansur@kc.rr.com.

## Montessori Model United Nations Fundraising

Fundraising for our 6th Grade trip to the Montessori Model UN continues! The bake sale and Auction of Services have been successful, with over \$1000 being raised for this year's trip. Our upcoming Movie Night (Jan 29th) will be the latest fun event that you can participate in to help us reach our goal.

In addition to keeping an eye out for other opportunities to get involved and contribute, if anyone would like to volunteer to help, we have a number of positions that need to be filled in various on-going committees - please contact Paula at paulabusser@yahoo.com for more information.

## SNOWFALL

The clouds are thick  
The air is chilled  
The time is ripe  
The flakes keep coming.  
Claude Thornhill plays again...

The streets are white  
The busses are afraid  
"No school today"  
The children are delighted.

While the ground is full  
The roses stay sleeping  
But little blades of blue-green grass  
Come peeping through the snow bank.

But Jack Frost keeps on coming  
So find yourself a winter dream  
Write your name on a cold damp window  
Look at yourself in the frosted glass  
And call yourself a star.

e.c. binford "Mr. B" January '10



### PTA Business Members

LileStyle Productions  
[angie@lilestyle.com](mailto:angie@lilestyle.com)

Renew Therapeutic Massage  
[arbrenow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:arbrenow@sbcglobal.net)

Price Chopper in Brookside  
[www.pricechopper.com](http://www.pricechopper.com)

### PTA Teacher Members

Elmer Binford  
Wendy Comens (& Gary)  
Beth Garrett  
Elaine Hansen  
Shirlene Hayes  
Carol Johnson  
Elaine Kniepfel  
Kathleen Lacey

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- ★ PTA OFFICERS ★
- ★ Jan, Powell, President ★
- ★ [jankp@earthlink.net](mailto:jankp@earthlink.net) ★
- ★ Mary Silwance, Vice- ★
- ★ President ★
- ★ [silwance@sbcglobal.net](mailto:silwance@sbcglobal.net) ★
- ★ Abby Mueller, Treasurer ★
- ★ [abzymueller@earthlink.net](mailto:abzymueller@earthlink.net) ★
- ★ Mary Anne Penrose, ★
- ★ Secretary ★
- ★ [mapensrose@hotmail.com](mailto:mapensrose@hotmail.com) ★
- ★ Paula Busser, SAC Chair ★
- ★ [paulabusser@yahoo.com](mailto:paulabusser@yahoo.com) ★
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If you didn't place an order for Spirit Wear in the fall, now's your chance. Order forms were sent home in your child's Wednesday folders on January 13, 2010. If you didn't receive one, pick one up in the office or you can download it at [www.borderstarmontessori.com](http://www.borderstarmontessori.com).

Payment must be included with your order. We accept cash or check to "Border Star PTA." Return your orders to your child's classroom or PTA box in the office by Wednesday, January 27, 2010. Questions? Contact Sarah McTighe at [smctighe@kc.rr.com](mailto:smctighe@kc.rr.com) or call 816.333.8448.

**SAVE THE DATE: Brookside St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
 This year's Brookside St Patrick's Day Parade is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year with an 80's theme. We'll be looking for volunteers to sell green hair spraying through the crowds either before or during the parade and of course getting as many families there as possible. This is a super fun family friendly event. Contact Robynn Nevins if you want to help: [robynns@gmail.com](mailto:robynns@gmail.com) or want to donate/shop for beads, candy, hairspray and other materials.



**RESCHEDULED SAC MEETING**  
 The next SAC meeting is on Wednesday, February 17th - 3.30pm in the Art Room. If you would like to be involved, please come

**We Need You**

The nominating committee is working on filling PTA board positions and committee chair positions for next year. Elections for PTA officers will be held in March. Please email Jodi McAree at [jmcaree@everestkc.net](mailto:jmcaree@everestkc.net) if you are interested in any of the following:

PTA Officer Positions: President, Vice President, Secretary

Not ready to be an officer? Consider being part of the PTA team by joining a committee:

Audit, Carnival, Hospitality, Website, Green Team, Farmers Market Liaison, Field Trips/Assemblies, Fundraising, Newsletter, Nominating, Outdoor Classroom/Prairie, Welcome, Parking Fundraiser, Staff Appreciation

This is a way to be involved, show school spirit and it counts toward your "Three For Me" parent involvement!