

# LMA Newsletter

November 2010

## Montessori Moment:

This week in AP the students discussed what they were going to do over winter break. Many of them wanted to get together and go to the movies, the mall, etc. Knowing that their parents work and wouldn't be able to drive them to these places, the students came up with a plan to do these things on their own. They took the time to map out the MTU bus routes to see where it went. Then they looked at the times that the busses ran and the connections they would have to make. Once they knew that they could get to where they wanted, they Googled local restaurants to see where they could eat and to make sure that they had enough money with them. It was great to see the independence that these students have gained, the work put into it, and how excited they are to do these things over break.

## Up coming dates to remember:

Dec. 1 & 8	Vision and hearing Screening
Dec. 1	Beginning of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Trimester
Dec. 2	Equal Exchange Fundraiser due
Dec. 6	Report Cards mailed out
Dec. 13-17	Scholastic Book Fair
Dec. 13	Finance Meeting 5:00pm @ LMA
Dec. 14	Parent Night 5:30-7:30
Dec. 15	Board Meeting 5:30pm @ LMA
Dec. 22	Fourth Grade Early Humans Presentations @ 9:30am
Dec. 23-31	No School - Winter Break
Jan. 3	School Resumes

- These dates are subject to change as new information is gained.

## STEM

Students testing their trusses with the different types of forces

STEM is a high level of science, technology, engineering and math being applied to the student's everyday life. It prepares students to be competitors in the world market. STEM related fields are among the 30 fastest growing fields and account for almost half of the



economic growth in the last 50 years.

*Over the last three years LMA has been implementing STEM education. In order for students to deeply understand a concept, they have to live it. Without the experience that a STEM focus can bring, students have little understanding of what makes the things work.*

Two teachers from LMA are in the final year of a 3-year training program from the University of St. Catherine. From this program, STEM has been integrated at all levels. STEM has been added into EI in the form of the types of levers, water cycle, and rock cycle. E2 STEM consists of the river study, Laws of Nature, engineering technologies throughout history, etc.

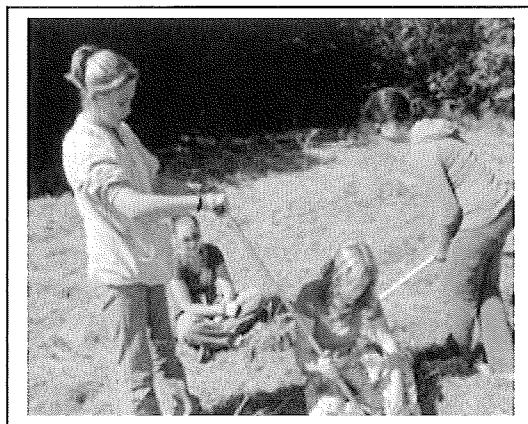
STEM is a major focus in AP. It is currently run on a three-year cycle. This year's cycle is adding the advanced mathematical equations to the last two years of engineering and earth science.

The push of STEM comes from a federal push that started four years ago as the nation was falling behind other countries. Here are some facts about how the US and state of MN compare to other industrialized nations in the area of math and science:

- The US ranks only 21<sup>st</sup> in science and 25<sup>th</sup> in math out of all industrialized nations
- In the US only 43% of high school students are ready for basic college math classes and 29% are ready for science.
- MN is slightly better with 61% of students ready for basic college math and 42% are ready for science.
- US projects a shortage of 3 million workers with college degrees or better by the year 2018

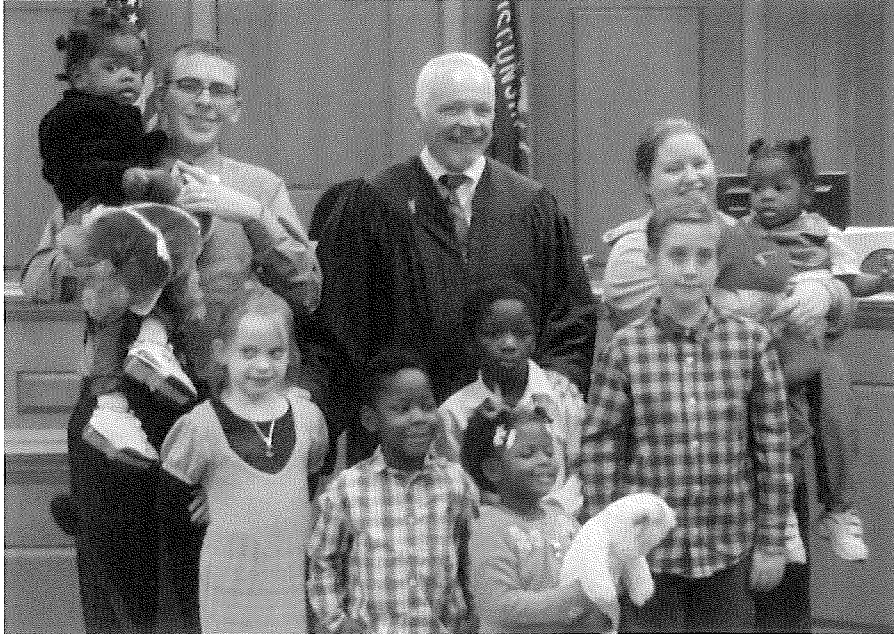
*Our children are the ones who will be leading the nation very soon. LMA strives to help prepare our students for this world. The US is projecting that there will be a shortage of 3 million workers in STEM related fields by the year 2018. The Minnesota Department of Education projects a 20 to 33% increase in scientific and technical jobs in the state and estimate that it would take an extra 10,500 college graduates per year to fill those jobs.*

Soil Sampling: Maya, Megan and Heidi



In our thoughts:

The month of November was a very exciting for the Carter family. They got to officially welcome three members into their family through the finalization of their adoption process. Congratulations Carter Family!



Carter Family @ Adoption

Reminders:

- Please make sure that you are sending winter coats, hats, mittens, scarves, boots and snow pants with your child everyday. Please let us know if these are not available to you. We would love to help you out.
- The LMA Parent Survey will be available to you from this link <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PCFLF8V> until Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. Please fill this out if you have not done so already.