



FALL 2016
VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1



cmh connections

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

- 5 **Parent Workshop**
Montessori in the Home
6:30-8:00pm
- 7 **PACT Family Social**
Skate Party at Castle Skateland
3:30-5:30pm
- 10 **No School—Teacher In-Service**
- 13 **PP Parent Education Night**
6:00-8:00pm
- 18 **PACT Social Ladies' Night**
Hosted by Laura Thrun
7:00-9:00pm
- 24 & 26 **JR Parent/Child Night**
6:30-7:30pm

November

- 6 **CMH Open House**
2:00-4:00pm
- 7-11 **Conference Week**
- 11 **No School**
- 17 **PP Parent Visit Day**
3:00-4:00pm
- 18 **Turkey Trot**
- 22 **PP Fall Celebration**
JR Thanksgiving Feast/Family Dessert
SR Thanksgiving Feast
- 23-25 **No School/Thanksgiving Break**

December

- 1 **Parent Workshop**
Character Development
6:30-8:00pm
- 19 **Winter Concert**
7:00-8:00pm
- 21 **Last Day of School Before Winter Break**
8:30-11:30am - JR & SR Holiday Celebration
11:30am - Dismissal All Students
11:45am-12:45pm - Staff Holiday Luncheon
12:00-2:30pm - PACT Bowling Party
- 22- Jan 3 **No School - Winter Break**

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

CMH Community,

The first weeks of CMH's 44th year are off to a great start with the return of the Pre Primary 3 classroom after a year's hiatus. We currently serve 135 children comprised of 70 Pre Primary, 35 Junior, and 30 Senior students. We still have room for a few more Pre Primary students if you have any friends wishing to start their children in Preschool this Fall. The Coffee with Casey casual, informational tours will continue every Wednesday at 9 am again this year.

While the Back to School Family Picnic didn't offer the best weather conditions it continued to be a good time for all. Stay tuned for other opportunities for CMH parents and families to come together for events like these throughout the school year.

We are fortunate to have a faculty at CMH with a wealth of experience, commitment to the Montessori principles, and dedication to the children and families of our community. CMH parents value the whole child educational approach and certainly make a commitment through tuition and volunteerism. When you put the two together it allows for a partnership between school and home that is vital to the future of our children.

Casey Reed
CMH Director

MISSION STATEMENT

Children's Meeting House Montessori School's mission is to foster the development of the whole child by implementing the philosophy, practices and curriculum of Dr. Maria Montessori. We strive to nurture a child's life long love of learning and honor the diversity of each individual. It is our desire to instill self-confidence, independence, self-discipline, respect, personal and social responsibility. We create partnerships with families for the benefit of each child, and work to cultivate a genuine sense of community.

NEWS FROM PP1



PP1 is off to a great start! We have introduced 8 new friends to our class and the returning friends are being wonderful helpers to them. It is always great to see Montessori in action, as our returning, older friends guide and help our newer, younger friends move through the classroom.

We are introducing a lot of new lessons at this point in the school year. Many of these lessons are ones seen previously by our returning friends, but now that they are a year older, they are seeing the lesson in a different way. Our new friends are seeing many lessons for the first time and are figuring out how to do these works on their own, with a friend or with his/her teachers. This is BIG work for all children, especially our new ones!

Our observation window opens on October 1st. Please schedule a time with Emily to watch your child in action. Please plan to stay for at least a half hour (if not more) to get the best insight into some of what your child does each day.

Michelle, Kim and Jeanne

NEWS FROM PP2

This is the time of the year when the word on every Montessori teacher's lips is "normalization." You may have heard this word before, but what does it actually mean? It is a concept born out of Dr. Montessori's scientific observation of the children in her care. Slowly, Maria Montessori realized that young children have an innate desire for order and independence. She saw children accomplish incredible feats of concentration when given the right materials and environment. Perhaps the word "nature" is better used when talking about normalization—guiding young children to that natural state in which they can accomplish tasks independently and take pride in those accomplishments. We allow them to establish a sense of order and routine within themselves as well as practice concentrating for long periods of time.

We have several exciting things happening in PP2 this fall already. As you may have heard, we have a Black Swallowtail caterpillar in our room that the children can come and observe throughout the day. We have watched it grow from an egg to a now large caterpillar and will continue to observe it as it enters into its chrysalis. Once it becomes a butterfly, the class will be involved with the release within 48 hours of it hatching. Watching such a powerful transformation take place right in our own classroom is an incredible experience for the children and one we love having each year. The beginning of the school year, for the most part, is all about getting into our routines and helping children settle into their environment. Each child is working toward independence at their own pace. We are already seeing signs of normalization throughout the classroom, but this is not a process that happens overnight. However, seeing a child comfortable, happy, and independently functioning in the environment makes it all worth it. We are looking forward to helping each and every one of our children make that journey.

Andrea, Megan, Anne and Michelina



NEWS FROM PP3

After a year of being used as a room for specials, after school activities, and even storage, it was time to fill PP3 with love, laughter, and learning again. We are happy to report that this is exactly what is happening right now. Lots of students who are new to Montessori get to experience a whole different way of learning and they all jumped right into it—each of them in their unique and beautiful way.

During these first weeks of school we learned about our planet Earth and what it is made out of. The children went on a hike with CMH's naturalist Veronica and collected some air, land, and water to put in big jars on our Geography shelf. The topics for Zoology and Botany are living vs. non-living as well as plant vs. animal. Speaking of which, we are proud to announce that our classroom gerbil—who is definitely an animal and super living (or should we say lively?)—finally has a name. We had decided to wait for all of our students to arrive before we asked them for name suggestions. After eliminating some rather innovative name ideas, all PP3 students got to participate in a democratic vote and the majority decided that our little friend's name should be "Strikey". While Strikey seemed rather unimpressed after hearing his new name, the children are still excited and love to watch him during their work time. We cannot wait to see all of our wonderful students grow and feel very fortunate to be on this Montessori journey with them.

Birte and Theresa



NEWS FROM JUNIORS

The first six weeks of school are the most important of the entire year. These first weeks set the tone for the year. We use this time to learn about each other, learn classroom routines, and create a community. This fall has brought a lot of new transitions for the classroom. There have been new students as well as new teachers. We have worked hard to make the class a loving and welcoming community. During this time we worked together to establish the rules for class meetings, classroom rules, and create goals for the year. To build our community and send everyone home with a warm fuzzy we have started a compliment circle at the end of the day. In the afternoon we come together to send compliments to each other before going home.

We had our in-house first field trip! The Zoo Outreach program came into the multipurpose room and taught us about adaptations of two different animals. We were able to observe a barn owl and a lesser hedgehog tenrec. This fall we will be studying Asia. We are learning about the plants, people, animals, biomes, and countries of Asia. We have also started on our classroom project for the auction that will tie in with our study of Asia. All the students are hard at work to make a beautiful and functional piece of art. We can't wait to see how much they grow and learn.

Jessica, Nicki and Diane



NATURE NOTES

If you were to join us for Nature Study these past several weeks you would observe children actively engaged in understanding their outdoor world with curiosity, trust, and a desire to learn. The youngest students learn how to transition from their inside classroom, to independently change into outside shoes and jackets, and to practice using a soft voice to observe without startling wildlife. Once outside, we have been getting familiar and comfortable with our outdoor classroom while we have been searching for butterflies. With the diversity of habitat and host plants around CMH we have been excited to see Clouded Sulphurs, Gray Hairstreaks, Cabbage Whites, Silver-Spotted Skippers, Red Admirals, Monarchs and more. Older students have also spent time exploring the gardens and landscapes and sharing mini-lessons of butterfly life history, habitats, host plants, anatomy, and migration. Seniors and Juniors take seriously their role as stewards of the outdoors as they plan, gather tools, and conduct various projects such as gardening, maintaining bird feeding stations, and trail upkeep.

In the months to come, all students will plant personal gardens in the classroom Grow Labs, study the night sky as they visit the Star Lab, assist with our annual Bird Count, and continue to enjoy direct experience with the natural world. Seniors will begin their special year-long project of creating a workable map of our schoolyard. After a survey of our campus, Seniors will translate the visible natural and man-made features into a 2 dimensional format along with the guidance of Manuel Susarett, CMH Tech Support.

Veronica
Veronica Brannen
CMH Naturalist

NEWS FROM SENIORS

Leadership and learning abound in the Senior classroom. Our sixth level leaders started the year by presenting Montessori's Great Lessons to their classroom peers, as well as, the Junior classroom. These lessons, complete with experiments, strike the child's imagination, and are the foundation of the entire cultural curriculum. Each year the incoming sixth levels look forward to carrying on this tradition during the first school days of the year.

Our first field trip of the year was a ride aboard a river boat to do research on the health of the Ohio River. We sampled the water for pH, temperature and macro and micro invertebrates. The students determined that the health of the Ohio River is good.

We are looking forward to an awesome year in the Senior Class.

John and Dana

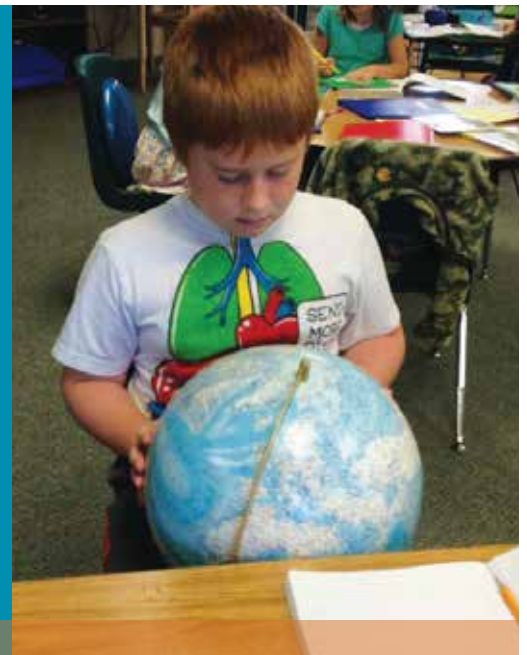


CMH's Aftercare Team



From Left to Right:
Michelina, Jaimie, Robyn and David

CMH's Aftercare Team is having a ball everyday after school with the children. If you are ever in need of child care or want to arrange a play date for your child between the hours of 3-6pm just contact the office. We do ask that our front office be notified by 2:00 p.m. each day so we can ensure we are appropriately staffed.



LETTER FROM THE BOARD

CMH Community,

Welcome to the start of another enriching year at CMH! It's my pleasure to serve as the President of the Board of Trustees. What is the Board of Trustees? It is the group that is responsible for the oversight, direction, and control of the school's business and affairs. Board members do both "steering" (setting policy and direction) and "rowing" (doing work related to the school's business).

We recently welcomed our newest member, Melissa DiMuro. Melissa is a parent at the school and a Human Resources Professional with General Electric.

Priorities for this school year include:

- Continue to be fiscally disciplined such that the school delivers quality and value to current families, maintains a reserve for future large spending items, and keeps tuition competitive.
- Maintain the facilities, including improvements to the playground and connecting the school to the municipal sewer.
- Recruit new Board members with specific skills. A healthy Board has natural turnover, and so it is necessary to recruit new members every year. The specific areas of expertise that are needed are: Accounting, Montessori Education, and Development (fundraising, alumni connections, etc.). Please contact me or any other Board member if you are interested in serving on the Board.

Franco Medeiros
CMH Board President

2016-2017 BOARD

Franco Medeiros
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Member

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Member

PACT NOTES

Welcome new CMH families and welcome back familiar families! We have a busy year planned and hope that in the course of the year many of you will be able to attend one of our social events and get to know your CMH community. You should have received Evites for two upcoming events, a skating party and a ladies' night out at Laura Thrun's house. If you haven't received the Evite, please let Emily know. We hope to see you at these fun outings!

CMH is fortunate to have such a dedicated community of families that involve themselves in the classrooms. October brings the opportunity for you to become involved in your child's classroom as lunch helpers, reading helpers, material makers etc. Room Parents will be sending out SignUp Genius links, be on the lookout, and if able, come see what the kids have been learning! Thank you to Amy Phillips for once again organizing volunteers to supply our wonderful teachers with snacks during staff meetings.

Mark your calendars for the annual early release PJ Bowling party on December 21st and also look for opportunities to help out with our Teachers' Holiday Luncheon on the same day. If you have any questions, or are wondering how to get involved, please do not hesitate to contact me, jessicaranderson77@gmail.com.

Jessica Hughes
PACT Coordinator

For up-to-date information, follow CMH on

