



WINTER 2017
VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2



cmh connections

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

- 17 Winter After School Clubs Begin
- 25 & 27 Pre-Primary Parent Visit Days
- 29 Winter Open House
2:00-4:00pm

February

- 4 Winter Family Hike
- 13 Junior Parent Education and Information Night
6:30-7:30pm
- 14 Junior Red Love Day
- 15 Senior Lunch and Crazy Hair Day
- 16 Pre-Primary Winter Celebration and Valentine Exchange
8:45-11:30am
- 17 No School/Teachers Inservice Day
- 20 No School/Presidents Day
- 27 Senior Science Fair, *Open to All*
7:00-8:00pm

March

- 9 Senior Play
7:00-8:00pm
- 17 Grand People's Day
PP-9:00am, Elementary-10:00am
- 18 CMH Spring Auction
6:00-10:00pm
- 21 Parent Workshop
Executive Functioning
6:30-8:00pm
- 27-31 Spring Break

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

CMH Families,

The start of each new year tends to bring with it a time of reflection and a desire to be better. We see this in the renewed inspiration and change of direction amongst us all. The CMH campus is certainly filled with a busy buzz as everyone is working towards attaining their goals. The energy is contagious and has spread almost as rapidly as the cold viruses that have impacted many of us. Perseverance is a character quality that some of us are naturally blessed with, while others have to work really hard at it. I am able to observe perseverance in action in all of our classroom environments each and every day. It is both the children and the teachers that simply don't give up! They work together tirelessly to master skills, create routines, resolve conflicts, set the tone of their classroom communities, keep their environments prepared and beautiful, communicate amongst themselves and with parents, and to spread joy along the way. It is impossible to not feel this joy each day in the spontaneous moments shared with the children. The staff often refer to these as "Montessori Moments" and we share them with one another as if they were our own children.

Every child has a remarkable story and I wish I could share each of them with you.



Casey

Casey Reed
CMH Director

NEWS FROM PP1

These past months in PP1 have been full of opportunities for the children to get to know and learn from each other and experience the joy of building their knowledge through the materials they choose each day. Now that the beginning weeks of school are past us, we are able to see the children fully come in to what Dr. Montessori called “normalization”—a time when children are happy, engaged, and joyful in their work. The teachers are able to observe, take time to sit and watch, and truly learn what each child’s strength’s are, what things are exciting for them to learn about, and how we can best create a classroom environment to meet each child in an individual way. We also have been fortunate to add two new families to our PP1 community—Miles Warnke and Quinn Butler—and it has been wonderful to see how welcoming the children have been to these boys.

These past months have been full of lessons from all the different curriculum areas. In Geography, we have learned about the 7 continents, North America, and now the United States of America. In Zoology, we have focused on learning about the human body and Mammals. Trees, leaves and seeds have been introduced in Botany, and in Physical Science we have learned about solids, liquids and gases, fossils, rocks and minerals. Art and Practical Life have been very busy areas with different types of tools that build eye-hand coordination, concentration, and independence skills. We love to see the children so engaged and we thank you for allowing us to share in this time of your child’s growth and development!

Michelle, Kim and Jeanne



NEWS FROM PP2

Happy New Year! We are excited to get going on the second half of the school year. At this point in the year, the children have become so comfortable with their classmates, teachers and routines that it allows for a great understanding of their environment. We are able to look around and see children being role models, little teachers with each other and many children independently learning. This is what Maria Montessori calls “normalization.” We are looking forward to watching your children grow and learn even more over the next few months in our Montessori environment.

In the classroom, the shelves have some new and exciting works for the children. They have been shown some extensions to the basic Montessori materials from the practical life and sensorial areas. This allows them to learn ways to expand on the core materials. We also have new paint works on the art shelf, which the children are so excited about! In Geography, we are beginning our study of The United States of America. The children are being exposed to the names of all 50 states, learning about some famous landmarks, our USA seal and USA flag. In Science, we are studying mammals. We talk to the children about what a mammal is and its characteristics.

Lastly, we had a new animal join our PP2 community after the passing of our gerbil “Shadow” over the winter break. We now have an adorable Chinese Dwarf Hamster who has been named “Mickey.” She is very sweet and is beginning to get comfortable enough to pop out of her home and say hi to the children!

Andrea, Megan, Anne and Clarissa



NEWS FROM PP3

This is the best time of the school year; everyone is primed and excited for learning. At the beginning of the year, we were all working on getting to know each other and with most of the class being new to Montessori, we worked hard on learning the routines and flow of a Montessori classroom. The children learned how to be independent in choosing works and taking care of their personal needs such as serving themselves snack and cleaning up spills. As our new community developed, they also learned how to see the needs of others. Now, the newness is in the past and PP3 is home; each child has made it their own space.

As teachers, we see not only academic growth but also development of skills that will serve them well as productive members of their community. We have added many new materials to the Sensorial area to develop the children’s ability to see and hear small differences. Practical life is full of work to continue to build arm and hand strength such as basting, spooning and tonging small objects and squeezing tiny sponges. We have also added table scrubbing which has many, many steps and develops memory and extends their ability to focus. In the cultural areas of science and geography, we are learning about dinosaurs, trees, sound, and the United States. Art, of course is teaming with creative opportunities using many media. Thank you for sharing your children with us. We are so glad to be a part of their lives.

Theresa and Birte



NEWS FROM JUNIORS

We had a busy and productive 1st semester getting to know one another and building our classroom community. We have completed our study of Asia with a culminating project where students presented their countries to the classroom and parents. The students are already looking forward to what project awaits them at the end of our European continent study. We have spent a lot of time learning about the different vertebrates in Zoology and have had three more classroom field trips. In October, the third levels went to see Alice in Wonderland at The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati. We were able to make a trip to the Cincinnati Nature Center in November and had the Cincinnati Art Museum do an in-house field trip in December. In February, the first levels will also be seeing a play from the Children's Theatre of Cincinnati. They will be going to see The Wizard of Oz and in April, the second levels will be going to see Tarzan.

This month, be sure to ask your children about our visitors. Several days this month, we will be hosting the Kindergartners so that they can see what it is like to be in the Junior's classroom and what they can expect next year. Our third levels will also be making a visit to the Senior's classroom so that they are able to see what it will be like for them next year.

In our cultural studies, we had the whole class participate in a comparative study of the animals of Asia. We have also made our New Year's Resolutions. Stop by and see our display in the Junior's hallway.

Jessica, Nicki and Diane



NATURE NOTES

Students have been so busy engaging in Nature exploration and study! Everyone enjoyed the classroom salad parties before the winter break. We shared in the harvest of lettuce, spinach, chives, and cilantro that we planted and tended in the Grow Labs. Preprimary and Juniors brought home the Observation Books they created as the plants grew. Seniors walked the campus property lines and created a list of possible features as they work towards creating an updated school map. Before winter break on a very wintry frozen day, Seniors quieted their minds, set their own pace, and silently walked the Labyrinth at Grailville. When finished we had an Impression Session of our experience. Words used by them to describe the hour of walking the grass path include "calming," "made me feel peaceful," "felt closer to Nature," "heard birds that I didn't hear before."

After winter break we will rev up for our annual Winter Bird Count. Preparation will include learning or reviewing bird basics such as bird anatomy, bird color variables, perch and flight patterns, binocular and field guide use, and becoming familiar with bird songs and calls to identify species by ear. The CMH Bird Count project builds confidence, scientific skills, and patience. In addition, children gain an understanding of the value of diversity and indicators of a healthy habitat. Last year students reported a total of 796 individual birds representing 29 species.

Veronica
Veronica Brannen
CMH Naturalist

NEWS FROM SENIORS

Back to school, back to work, back to fun! The Seniors are busy preparing their Science Fair projects. The purpose of the Science Fair is to involve the students in a long-term, inquiry based science project and give them some experience with the scientific method of designing an experiment. On Science Fair day, the students will present their projects to their classmates. In the afternoon the Preprimary and Junior Classes will have the opportunity to walk through and view the projects. The entire CMH community is invited to experience the Science Fair projects with the Seniors from 7:00 to 8:00pm on Monday, February 27.

Oliver Twist is our musical production this year. The children have chosen the characters they will play and are busy learning their lines and practicing the songs. We have also begun to build the set and props. Soon we will begin learning the choreography. We will be performing this extravaganza in the CMH Multipurpose room on Thursday, March 9, beginning at 7:00pm.

John and Dana



SAVE THE DATE

Join us Saturday, March 18th from 6-10pm for our Carnevale Celebration at Receptions Conference Center in Loveland. This is our annual Auction to benefit the children, faculty and staff of CMH. There will be awesome silent and live auction items including special Teacher Treasure activities, Classroom Projects, and a Classroom Quilt raffle. A dinner buffet with complimentary house wine and beer is included in the ticket price.

New this year we will be using an on-line bidding system, Gesture! Even if you are not able to attend, everyone can participate via Gesture to bid on silent auction items. We will provide a registration link on the save the date card and school emails. Last year our generous families raised a record amount for the school which allowed us to fund playground renovations as well as other improvements on our campus. Please join us for our largest and most fun fundraiser/social of the year!

The Auction Team

For up-to-date information, follow CMH on



MARCH 18, 2017
6:00 - 10:00 PM

Receptions Conference Center

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

CMH Community,

It's a joy to see the school buzzing this time of year. So many people play a role in the school's success, including administrators, teachers, parent volunteers, and board members. If you're still looking for your way to help the school, there are ample opportunities to serve children and teachers directly (via PACT - contact Jess Hughes) or as part of the Board of Trustees.

Charlie Halcomb is the most recent person to answer the call to serve on the Board. It was our pleasure to welcome him as our newest member in November. Charlie is a CPA with extensive experience in economics and public affairs.

Here is an update on the Board's priorities for this school year:

Continue to be fiscally disciplined

Our finances continue to be healthy thanks to disciplined spending and careful budgeting.

Maintain the facilities

We've received a satisfactory bid for the project that will replace our septic system with a connection to the public sewer. The work will occur this summer when the building is unoccupied.

Recruit new Board members with specific skills

Charlie has filled the need for accounting expertise, but we are still looking for new members with skills in 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.

One other item of interest is that the Grail, our neighbor on all sides, will be selling some of their land to Clermont County. The purchase is being funded in part by the Clean Ohio Fund, whereby it shall be preserved indefinitely as public green space. This is a terrific outcome for the school, as it maintains large nearby areas for the outdoor nature activities that make our school special.

Franco Medeiros
CMH Board President

2016-2017 BOARD

Franco Medeiros

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Member

ANNUAL FUND

Please join us this year and make a tax-deductible gift as part of our Annual Fund Campaign at a level that is meaningful to you. Our goal this year is **100% participation** from our 105 CMH families to assist us in qualifying for various grants. Participation is of far more importance than the amount of the contribution.

No gift is too small to show your commitment to CMH.

