



FALL 2018  
VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1



# cmh connections

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### October

- 17 **Parent Workshop**  
Guest Speaker: Rachel Lott  
6:30pm
- 22 **PP Parent & Child Class Visit**  
3:00-4:00pm  
**JR Parent & Child Class Visit**  
4:00-5:00pm
- 28 **CMH Open House**  
2:00-4:00pm

### November

- 1 **Conferences**  
11:30am - Dismissal All Students
- 2 **No School - Conferences**
- 16 **CMH Turkey Trot**
- 20 **JR Thanksgiving Feast/Family Dessert**  
**SR Thanksgiving Feast**
- 21-23 **No School/Thanksgiving Break**

### December

- 5 **Family Astronomy Night**  
6:00pm
- 14 **JR Third Level Lock-In**
- 20 **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  
12:00-2:00pm - PACT Skating Party
- 21- Jan 2 **No School - Winter Break**

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear CMH Families,

I had the privilege of hosting a Coffee with Casey as I do every Wednesday morning, touring prospective families through the classrooms and campus. There are never two tours alike as I simply share what we are seeing in each classroom as we walk about. The families however are always amazed by the calmness and independence of children and the staff. Some even share that they don't think their child could be like "these kids" or that their child would be grabbing everything off of the shelves or running amuck. I assure them that a lot of hard work by the devoted staff has gone into getting to this moment in time. The teachers have carefully prepared an environment to meet the varying needs of their children and guided them through the routines with the goal of independence in all that they do. I don't believe it will ever get old sharing CMH with others because I am always filled with joy, pride, and comfort knowing that great things are taking place here every single day.

There is no other place like CMH Montessori School, and I'm so glad you made the choice to be a part of our school community. Our alumni remind us of this when they come back to visit or, better yet, enroll their own children at CMH. Whether you are a new or returning family, be sure to get involved in some way this year because it takes all of us to continue the culture and community of our school. Consider joining the Auction Committee, assisting in the office, or simply attending the Parent Workshops and Socials and get to know the other CMH families...they are pretty awesome too!



*Casey*  
Casey Reed  
CMH Director

## NEWS FROM PP1

What a great start we have had in PP1! We have enjoyed catching up with our returning children and getting to know our newest children. It has been a very busy time in our classroom, with getting to know each other, learning or relearning our classroom routines, as well as learning some new works in our room. Our oldest children have been wonderful role models for our youngest friends and they are always so proud to be able to give them a lesson on something they already know how to do or to show them how our classroom works. That is what is so great about a Montessori classroom.

The three year cycle is so beneficial for each child. Children have different roles and responsibilities, depending on their level. The first year children (first levels) learn from the older ones by observing and listening to their work, as well as being guided by them. The second year children (second levels) are more independent. They learn how to interact with both the older children, as well as the younger children. The third year children (third levels) have an opportunity to be role models and classroom leaders. They enjoy guiding the younger friends and giving them lessons on what they have already learned.

We love to watch each child's progression each year as they work toward being the leaders of the classroom!

Kim, Michelle, and Jeanne



## NEWS FROM PP2

PP2 is off to a great start this school year! The children are becoming more and more comfortable within the classroom and are working from the shelves to find many fun and interesting concepts. We are talking about the concepts of primary and secondary colors (including color mixing), living/non-living, plant/animal, land/air/water and the 7 continents that make up our world to name a few. In practical life, the children are practicing the skills of pouring, squeezing, spooning, tonging and floor sweeping along with other fine motor tasks such as buttoning, zipping and buckles. All of these works are great to help strengthen fine motor skills and gain independence. We have many new works and concepts to explore with the children throughout the year—hopefully they will begin to surprise you with something fun they learned at school.

Other than exploring with the materials, all of our children are spending their days practicing the routines, developing a work cycle, seeing new lessons, learning to be more independent with their thoughts and actions and developing social skills. This is something that is experienced to different degrees no matter the child's age. Even if this is their third year in the same classroom, there is still so much for each child to learn from all these areas throughout the school year. As Montessori teachers, it is not only our job to teach them academics, but it is our job to observe, guide and teach them how to have the skills they need to allow them to help themselves. This is certainly one of our biggest challenges yet a very important one. Maria Montessori wrote "Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed." We look forward to watching this blossom in each one of our children!

Andrea, Megan and Anne



## NEWS FROM PP3

*"Whereas the child used to absorb by gazing at the world while people carried him about, now he shows an irresistible tendency to touch everything, and to pause a while on separate things. He is continuously busy, happy, always doing something with his hands. His intelligence no longer develops merely by existing: it needs a world of things which provide him with motives for his activity."* (Maria Montessori in *The Absorbent Mind*)

Now, what does that mean for us as adults, parents, educators? Children have to be able to use their hands—all day, every day—to discover everything around them. This is what makes the Montessori environment such a special place for the children. They are allowed to touch nearly everything. No adult says things like "don't use the scissors, you might cut yourself", or "don't carry that glass, it might break". In our little PP3 world, the children get to do things for themselves and get to use their own hands to learn about the world. "What if something breaks?" you might ask! Then we teach the children how to clean it up. Montessori saw the teacher as the dynamic link between the children and the materials—teachers are there to show how to use the works and they make sure that there is always something on the shelf that interests the child. In PP3 you can see children cutting, pouring, sweeping, counting, reading, writing, gluing, drawing, matching, tracing, and so much more. And for all of these activities, they are allowed to touch and feel—"as the hand is the instrument of men's intelligence" (Montessori in *The 1946 London Lectures*).

The PP3 teachers enjoy guiding the children, showing them lessons, and watching their excitement about achievements. These past few weeks, our hands helped us learn about air, land, and water and solid, liquid, and gas. They taught us about the continents, the difference between plants and animals, living and non-living, vertebrates and invertebrates, squares, circles, triangles, patterns, and sequences.

During this beautiful time, as summer slowly turns into fall, we will start learning about the different parts of the plant, the human body, mammals, and the five senses. We will learn about measurement, the weather and all the different seasons. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to enjoy working with all your wonderful children!

Birte, Theresa and Lisa



## NEWS FROM JUNIORS

Welcome back to another great year at CMH! We have spent the last several weeks getting to know our incoming students as well as catching up with our returning students. We reminded the returning students of our classroom routines and asked that they model them and help out the first levels.

We have taken time each week working on positive discipline. The students came up with a 'wheel of choice' to use when they are having a disagreement with a friend. This wheel gives them choices on how to solve problems and what actions they can take. The students also had a lesson on Charlie (or Charlotte). They could physically see how words that you say to someone make an impact that can last forever. Please check out Charlotte hanging in the hall before the Juniors' classrooms.

The students have already started having specials. Each day they have a different special in the afternoon, which is giving them a break from the classroom. They are having a great time with Drama, Nature, and Spanish on Mondays. Tuesday through Thursday they have Art, Cultural, and Fitness. On Fridays, many of the students are having handwriting with Diane and third levels have a reading group with Diane.

We are looking forward to the rest of the year going as great as it has been to start the year!

Nicki, Todd and Jessica  
Intern: Anne



## NATURE NOTES

Nature Study is fully underway as I spend one day per week with each of the five classrooms. Getting comfortable with the outdoors has been important work for new Preprimary students. They have practiced observing Nature during our Listening Walks and have been introduced to features in the gardens and trails close to the school building. Returning Preprimary and Junior students have been filling and watching bird feeding stations, studying insect life, and exploring the gardens while we tidy up and weed. Seniors have been busy restoring the pond outside their classroom, digging out the sediment, transferring aquatic life into tanks for safekeeping, moving rocks, and placing a new liner over the torn old liner. This past week was PawPaw week, and everyone visited the PawPaw patch, tasted the sweet creamy fruit, and had fun with PawPaw facts.

In the coming months we will explore how Nature gets ready for the coming winter, practice using field guides and hone our birding skills in preparation for our annual Winter Bird Count held in January. All students will plant miniature gardens in the Growlabs in their classrooms to tend, record growth, and then harvest and eat the herbs and various salad plants that they have grown. In early December the Star Lab portable planetarium will be set up for a week to learn about constellations, movement of planets and their moons, and lots more about our night skies.

*Veronica*

Veronica Brannen  
CMH Naturalist

## NEWS FROM SENIORS

The Seniors always enjoy beginning the year with a hike to the creek. We love to wade in the water, collect fossils, catch critters and make creations from clay. We like to compare pictures from our beginning creek day with the end of the year creek day. The growth always astounds us.

Another beginning of the year custom is the presentation of Montessori's Great Lessons by the sixth levels to the other Seniors and the Junior Class. These lessons strike the imagination when learning about the formation of the universe and the coming of life on our own earth. The experiments provide a simple illustration of big concepts that explain the forces of nature.

The monarch watch is on in the Senior Classroom. Our own CMH "Queen of the Monarchs", Jeanne Berter, provided each student with their own monarch egg to hatch and raise. Each stage of metamorphosis is eagerly anticipated and observed. Everyone is responsible for feeding, cleaning, tagging and releasing their own butterfly. We anxiously await news that our butterflies have been found in Mexico.

John and Dana



# Feeling Stressed?

Mark your calendars for our **Fall Parent Workshop** on October 17 at 6:30pm if you are looking for ways to build skills that decrease family stress at home while also improving your child's academic skills. Learn tips for reading your child's signals, understanding how to help your child when they are overwhelmed, and some fun ways to support your child's learning at home with natural play.

Rachel Lott is a seasoned licensed Occupational Therapist with over 15 years experience. She is certified in Sensory Integration and has dedicated her career to working with children of all abilities and helping them maximize their potential.



## LETTER FROM THE BOARD

CMH Community,

We're over six weeks into the 2018-19 school year, and the kids, teachers and staff have already hit their stride! It's shaping up to be another great year of learning and growth at CMH.

Your Board of Trustees has had meetings to approve the budget for the school year, review the progress on a few big projects (e.g. completing the tie-in to the Loveland sewer system, reclamation of the pond and interior facilities upgrades) and discuss marketing plans to increase awareness of CMH and attract more families to join us.

On the marketing topic, we're getting good traction with our radio and magazine ads, and our web site upgrades have improved prospective families' "first moment of truth" with CMH...when they make their first direct contact with us to learn more about what CMH can offer for their child. However, none of these marketing tools are as impactful as your endorsement as a trusted friend, neighbor or family member. I'm sure each of you knows families with young children about to start their pre-school years. I encourage you to share your experience with those families so CMH can at least be on their radar screen as they select a school.

Casey and the entire team at CMH have done an excellent job keeping a close eye on costs while making important investments in facilities, classroom equipment/"works" and thoughtfully structuring full-time teaching roles and assistants at each level. Even just a modest level of growth from our current enrollment position will help to ensure we can maintain these investments over the long-term.

Our Board priorities have not changed:

**Fiscal Discipline** - This includes not only regular reviews of costs, but also includes working with Casey to evaluate options to improve new student recruitment and current student retention.

**Facilities Maintenance** - Our focus is on long-term planning and budgeting for preventative maintenance, periodic major replacements (e.g. roof, HVAC, etc.) and general beautification of the buildings and grounds, including work on the pond.

**Board Renewal and Specific Skill Additions** - We've had some turnover on the Board as we begin this year. Susan Maggard has taken a role on staff at CMH to lead our Business Operations, and Anne Tobe is an Elementary Intern spending a semester with Juniors and a semester with Seniors to complete her degree in Elementary Montessori Education. We thank Susan and Anne for their service on the Board, and we're very happy that CMH continues to benefit from their skills. I'm pleased to announce that Mark Sancrant is joining the Board. Mark has experience in Finance, Marketing and as a former board member for a school which will be of great value for CMH.

We appreciate your commitment to CMH. We encourage you to look for more ways to get involved. Most important, we ask you to support CMH by using your voice to tell your friends and neighbors what an awesome place CMH is for your children...and could be for theirs!

John Chevalier  
CMH Board President

## How Can You Support CMH?

Participation Programs are such an easy way to support CMH in your day to day life. THANK YOU!

### Box Tops

Send them in to the office throughout the year. CMH receives ten cents per box top or label.

### Kroger Community Rewards

If you shop at Kroger please be sure you register your Kroger Rewards card with CMH as your designated organization. Remember you need to re-register each year for this program.

### Amazon Smile Program

Amazon shoppers be sure to register CMH as your organization of choice and we in turn enjoy .5% percent of your online shopping.

### For Small Hands

Peruse this Montessori catalog, and CMH will earn a percentage off of our own order for materials.  
School Customer Number: 103399

### Scholastic Reading Club

See the current books available.  
CMH Code: PCB24

For up-to-date information, follow CMH on

