



FALL 2020
VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1



cmh connections

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

9 & 12 No School, Teacher In-Service Day

November

23-27 No School, Fall Break

December

21-Jan 1 No School, Winter Break

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

CMH Community,

We did it!

I am beyond grateful to our school community who continually chooses to rise up with resilience, compassion, and creativity. CMH Montessori School is composed of dedicated and experienced teachers, flexible and devoted staff, committed families, supportive alumni, thriving students and an engaged Board of Trustees. It is abundantly clear, even on the most challenging of days that there is much to celebrate and honor in the 48 years since CMH lovingly came to fruition. Oh the stories that will be shared during our 50th Anniversary celebrations in the 2022-23 school year. We will have several opportunities to come together and be nostalgic about the good old days and recognize how far we have come as a school community. If you would like to be a part of the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, contact the school office to be included in this exciting endeavor that will need many helping hands from our past and present.

Things are a bit different in our classrooms with everyone wearing facial coverings, children having assigned work areas 6 feet apart, all of the extra emphasis on cleaning and handwashing, and not straying from those classroom environments with the freedom we are accustomed to. However, we remain a respected Montessori School with a strong focus on the outdoors, that is guided in the philosophy, curriculum and practices of Dr. Maria Montessori. Our teachers and staff have stretched themselves to meet the needs of students physically present at school and remotely through our CMH@Home program. I personally think Dr. Montessori would be quite proud of the innovative ways we are now partnering with families during this Covid-19 pandemic.

The entire year of 2020 has seemed to bring about frustration and feelings of lacking control in some of our personal and/or professional lives, yet there are always things we can control that are often the most important. We are the models for this generation of children, just like the generations before us, so be present during these challenging times and determine what you can control.

- Your **effort** and **attitude**
- **How you react** to situations or new things
- Finding the good in a situation or **celebrating the little wins** each day
- **Being grateful** for what you have or **asking for help**
- Treating yourself and others with **kindness** and **respect**

Know that we will also model these here at CMH, as we continue our focus on your child's social, emotional and academic development this year.

Casey
Casey Reed
CMH Director



For up-to-date information, follow CMH on



NEWS FROM PRE-PRIMARY

Pre-Primary classes are off to a great start! Returning children are re-learning the routines from what seems so long ago, as well as some of the new routines that are in place because of the COVID-19 virus. Our newest children have all started and we are getting to know them as they begin to learn how their day goes.

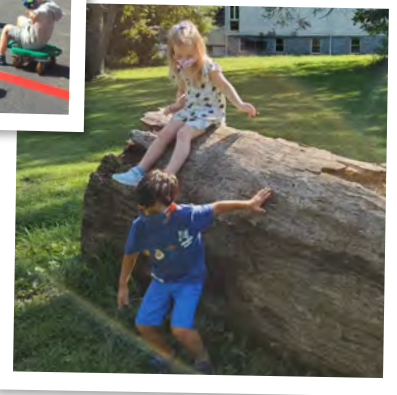
There are several changes in the Pre-Primary classrooms this year. First, each child has his/her own table/rug space to allow for social distancing. Second, children are putting STOP signs on each work after they finish using it so we can sanitize them before they are used again. Third, we are limiting our group circle times to less than 15 minutes. Children are doing a great job with learning our new routines and understanding the concept of social distancing.

As with the start of any school year, learning the structure of the day and the routines take time. We have seen how well young children can adapt to new changes, and we are all very proud of each and every one of them. Children are welcoming their on-line friends and are also enjoying getting to know their friends here at school. Though we do have to social distance, each child is still able to make new friends and get to know them even through a pandemic.

PP1 - Michelle and Jeanne

PP2 - Andrea and Anne

PP3 - Birte and Marlis



NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is off to a great start! We all have been working hard together to learn the routines of our new classroom. The children have done a great job as we work out the kinks and begin to settle into life as a new kindergarten class. One thing we focus on daily is developing a work cycle. This means choosing a work, using the work for its intended purpose, putting it back where it came from and transitioning to the next work independently. In addition, the children are learning how to balance their day and choose works from all areas of the classroom. This is all part of the "normalization" process in a Montessori classroom, and they all seem to be doing well with this.

Although there are plenty of math and language works for the children to work with, there is also a variety of topics they have learned about in science, geography and sensorial. In science, the children have explored concepts like living versus non-living, plants versus animals, seasons and states of matter. In geography we have learned about what makes up our Earth (land, air and water) and parts of a flag. We will begin learning about the world and its continents soon. In the sensorial area, children are exploring the differences between big & small, thick & thin, broad & narrow and loud & soft. There is so much more to come this year in these areas.

We are so excited to watch all our children grow and learn new things this year! Thank you for allowing us to be a partner in your child's education journey.

Megan and Theresa



NEWS FROM JUNIORS

The first six weeks of school are the most important of the entire year because they set the tone for the year. We use this time to learn about each other, learn classroom routines, and create our 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. We also had the added work of learning how to create our communities in the midst of the changes COVID-19 has brought to our world. The children have done an amazing job of adjusting to wearing masks, having a time limit for working together, and having a few of our classmates learning remotely. We are getting more and more comfortable with each other and with talking to each other through the computer screen. As we remind the children all the time, it is so important that we stay social while protecting ourselves and others by giving each other space. We are so thankful we're able to be together, and we are excited for a great school year!

As Montessori said, children will thrive when provided an environment full of purposeful activities, and the Junior students are perfect examples of this. We started the year with The Five Great Lessons, and we are now taking a dive into the details of Botany by learning about the parts of a plant, the function of each part, and what plants need to grow. The children are studying the characteristics of all living things and vertebrates, in particular, in Zoology. They are being introduced to History by studying the Eras of the Earth and, of course, learning about continents, oceans, and maps in Geography. There is great learning happening each day!

Jr North - Kim and Nicki
Jr South - Diane and Anne



NEWS FROM SENIORS

We are all very excited to be back in school together in the Senior Classroom! We are all doing in-class learning, so it is so nice to see everyone, every day. We have all adjusted very well to the new classroom COVID safety procedures. The children have done well and have been very responsible for following all of our safety protocols. We even made our own personal hand sanitizer.

We begin each year with student interviews and self-portraits. The children take turns introducing their classmates to each other. The sixth levels started the year off with a bang—The Big Bang! They presented Montessori's Great Lessons with experiments to the rest of the class. We look forward to creek day every year. Hiking down, looking for fossils, getting wet, playing with clay and catching critters makes for a full day of fun.

Our Chromebooks have arrived, and we are excited to learn how to use them. Students will continue to master their proper typing technique as well as learn word processing and research skills. We feel very fortunate to have Chromebooks for each individual student. We will also practice using Google Classroom in preparation for online learning, if that becomes necessary.

We're enjoying the great weather and utilizing our new outside tables for working and meetings. One of our favorite outdoor activities has been the big black balloon experiment. It's a wonderful visual representation of hot air rising and a really fun experience!

We are all looking forward to a great year!

Dana, John and Lisa



PARTICIPATION PROGRAMS

AMAZON SMILE

Register at smile.amazon.com and designate CMH as your organization. Shop through smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon-Smile purchases to CMH.

BOX TOPS

Send clipped box tops to the CMH Office or scan your receipt to the Box Tops app! If you use a grocery service, forward your receipt to receipts@boxtops4education.com within 14 days of purchase. CMH earns \$.10 for every Box Top clipped, scanned and forwarded!

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

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

STAPLES INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Please send in your used/old ink jet cartridges, and we will recycle them for you and get a discount on CMH office supplies.



LETTER FROM THE BOARD

CMH Community,

Welcome to a new school year! It is one that will certainly be like no other. I'm happy to report that we are off to a strong start, and the teachers, staff, parents and especially students are all adapting to the changes that have been made as a result of COVID-19. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you all for your support and willingness to work with us through these unique times.

We have learned a lot in this first month back at school, and we have been making appropriate changes where needed. We continue to monitor the COVID situation as well as those resources that we rely on for guidance. The children have embraced the "new normal," and it is great to be able to offer them both in-person learning as well as CMH@Home.

Given the circumstances, CMH is in good shape. To give some perspective, we ended last school year with 138 students which was the highest enrollment we have had in several years. COVID has created a varied situation for many in our community. Between furloughs, unemployment, general uncertainty and health related matters, families in our community have been impacted. But, I am very thankful to report that our current enrollment stands at 133. In addition, we have been very focused on our budget and are in a strong financial position. With the help of the CARES Act, our 2019/2020 operating budget ended with slightly positive cash flow. This is a great accomplishment given the challenges we faced in the second half of the last school year's budget cycle.

We continue to be fiscally minded and are making investments where needed to adapt to COVID. These include things like cleaning products, PPE, HVAC adjustments, adding the gravel path for carpool etc. I'm also excited to share that we have recently welcomed the addition of a school nurse, Nurse Lebe, to help us monitor symptoms, exposure, quarantining, and other concerns like anxiety.

While COVID has caused us to stop, take a breath, and give our attention to this moment in time, I don't want to lose focus on the future of CMH. The Board will be reviewing various fundraising options, researching grant opportunities, exploring special projects, and preparing for our 50th anniversary! We are working hard to ensure that we are prepared and well-positioned for another wonderful 50 years.

I would like to thank you all for your trust in CMH to provide your children with a superb education and unique life experiences. As I mentioned in our Back to School Community Meeting prior to the start of the school year, one of our greatest assets is our community. CMH wouldn't be what it is if it weren't for each family, staff member, and teacher. On behalf of the Board, I hope you have a great school year and we appreciate your commitment!

Mark Sancrant
CMH Board President

NATURE NOTES

Even though we have all had to adjust to changes since last year, one of the changes you can see is the increase in time outdoors for our students. Look around and see children lounging under trees to eat lunch, math lessons on the porch, small groups sitting on the grass as their teacher reads to them, and teachers guiding students for a short trail walk. Volunteers and staff have worked hard to prepare our campus for this increased use. They have tidied up features that had become overgrown, cleared trails that were unkempt since last March, and repaired and installed benches and other sit-spots for student use. Families are welcome to come during weekends and afterschool to enjoy our amazing campus.

While I truly miss directly engaging with each classroom for weekly Nature Study, creating Nature Lessons via video has been a fun experience. "CMH Loves Pollinators" and "Nectaries and Pumpkins" have been viewed and discussed in the classrooms, and those students @Home have received an invite to watch them as well. As new videos are added, I hope that you will gather as a family, review the video and then go outside to explore the great outdoors together. As your CMH Naturalist, I welcome you to contact me for any Nature-related questions or resources you might have.

Enjoy the beauty of the outdoors!

Veronica Brannen
CMH Naturalist