



WINTER 2021
VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2



CMH
Montessori School

cmh connections

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

- 27 Parent Workshop
Fixed and Growth Mindsets, 6:30pm
- 31 CMH Open House
2:00-4:00pm

February

- 12 No School, Teacher In-Service Day
- 13 CMH Love Auction
- 15 No School, Presidents Day

March

- 26 No School, Teacher In-Service Day
- 29-Apr. 2 No School, Spring Break



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

CMH Community,

The year of 2020 certainly challenged us in ways that we never could have imagined, so we are welcoming 2021 with "socially distanced" open arms. We all contributed to and benefited from the overall health and well being of our school community by honoring the risk mitigating strategies that were put into practice. Thank you for the partnership and trust you continue to extend to CMH's committed staff, even in the midst of a global pandemic. I'm eager to have parent volunteers and observers back in the building to spend more time together, so be patient for the ways we may be able to make this possible.

This is the time of year when we have prospective families inquiring about our school and applying for the next school year. Other than connecting with students, staff and families, my absolute favorite role in my work is sharing what CMH has to offer with inquiring families. What a gift it is to believe in and be able to share the wonderful things going on at any given moment inside the beautiful classrooms or outside on our gorgeous campus. The personal experiences I have been privileged to be a part of over the past 2 decades allow me to tell the stories of many of our alumni students and families, giving knowledge and hope to these future members of our school community. I'm fairly certain the office team has now limited me to just 3 new families a day to keep my joy and passion in check!

I'm looking forward to the CMH Love Auction next month and hope you plan to participate in some way...by being a volunteer, sponsor, donor, bidder, and of course maybe a winner!

Casey
Casey Reed
CMH Director

For up-to-date information, follow CMH on



NEWS FROM PRE-PRIMARY

We hope everyone had a relaxing and restful Winter break and was able to enjoy some special time with your families. The children all seemed excited to get back to school and see their friends! Beginning in mid-January the pre-primary children will be able to enjoy weekly nature time with Veronica, our staff naturalist. She will be taking the children outside for hikes, bird watching, gardening and other various outdoor activities. In the past the children have always enjoyed their weekly nature time and we are excited to be able to offer it again this year. We are all looking forward to this extra time outside.

The children have been busy working and have settled into their classroom environments. They are doing great with wearing their masks and following all of the new rules and expectations. We have enjoyed getting to know your children in a more intimate environment with fewer children in each class. Despite all of the new guidelines and smaller class sizes the children have been able to socialize and develop and grow their friendships, as well as develop their academic skills. This year has definitely been a different and unique year, however it has taught us resilience and has allowed us to grow and develop in new ways. Thank you for sharing your children with us each day!

PP1 - Michelle and Jeanne
PP2 - Andrea and Anne
PP3 - Birte and Marlis



NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

Once again, we are awestruck by the power of childhood! This year, CMH was blessed with 16 beautiful children who came to us with the simple goal of finding joy in this new and exciting experience called Kindergarten. They came expecting to happily make friends and quench their thirst for doing, working, and learning. Even this great pandemic, despite its masks, partitions, and social distancing, hasn't stopped them from becoming a strong group and making connections with one another. As teachers, we love listening to the conversation of two friends who share a partitioned table, watching one child read to another or even overhearing an in-class child chatting with an online friend through Zoom.

In addition to developing friendships, the children are naturally progressing through the curriculum at their own unique paces and stepping up to the task of extending their learning. Throughout the Kindergarten year, they continue developing skills and learning new subjects such as facts about Reptiles and Dinosaurs, Parts of Speech (nouns, adjectives), and exploring North America. However, the children also take their knowledge and abilities and apply them in new ways demonstrating mastery. A few examples include using Sensorial materials to create a poster of shapes or writing sentences and creative stories. Through the year, they are moving from the concrete base of knowledge (ie. counting beads) to more abstractions (ie. memorizing addition facts), which prepares them for Juniors, the next step in their CMH journey.

Theresa and Megan



NEWS FROM JUNIORS

The children came back from Winter Break ready to get back into their daily routines. We are excited to reintroduce independent cooking and demonstrations to the curriculum, in addition to reading groups across all grade levels. As the weather grows colder and the days longer, our students are integrating mindfulness practice into their daily work cycle. Yoga, gratitude journaling, directed drawing, and meditations are a prime focus during these cold winter months in the lower elementary classrooms. A love of research is beginning to emerge and is driven by botany, geography, history, and zoology studies. Our 3rd grade students' leadership skills are being practiced and honed this season through various responsibilities which include research, presentations, cooking demonstrations, and of course, assisting the younger students in their everyday work. We are proudly watching them develop into strong and confident leaders in our classrooms.

Jr North - Kim and Nicki

Jr South - Diane and Anne



NEWS FROM SENIORS

The Seniors are back in full swing. We extended our holiday spirit a few days after our return. We had to postpone our holiday celebrations, so we left the decorations up and enjoyed a belated Pajama Day and Secret Santa gift exchange. A good time was had by all!

Some of our favorite winter community projects have been tree planting and setting up a Storybook Trail for our Pre-primary and Junior friends. We miss being able to interact with our CMH community. We brainstormed ways to involve our fellow students in fun and engaging ways. These projects got rave reviews. Everyone loved our first snowy day and the opportunity to build snowmen.

We are looking forward to our upcoming annual Science Fair. In the spirit of scientific inquiry, each Senior level student selects a topic and applies scientific method to conduct independent research on their project throughout January and February. At the end of February, each student assembles a board and presents their research and findings to the class. Another activity the Senior class will be taking on this winter is the much anticipated Maple Sugaring Project. Every three years the Seniors tap the Maple trees on CMH's property. After collecting gallons of sap, they learn the process of turning the sap into syrup. This always ends with some delicious results!

Lisa, Dana
and John



SAVE THE DATE!

CMH LOVE AUCTION

Join us **Saturday, February 13**, for our annual auction to benefit the children, faculty and staff of CMH. We'll be virtual again this year.

Look for more information to come on this fun event!

SUMMER CAMP

Week 1: June 14-18
Week 2: June 21-25
Week 3: July 12-16
Week 4: July 19-23

Look for more information in the coming weeks about our 2021 Summer Camps.



MAPLE SUGARING IS BACK!

A beloved CMH tradition is the Maple Sugaring event that occurs every three years. The Senior Class will learn about all facets of maple sugaring and maple syrup making. Fourth, fifth and sixth level students will soon begin tapping the Maple trees on the CMH property to collect gallons and gallons of maple sap. Once enough sap is collected the students will learn the process of turning it into delicious maple syrup.



LETTER FROM THE BOARD

CMH Community,

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that the first half of the school year is over. I'm hopeful that in 2021 we will get closer to our old "normal". As challenging as 2020 has been for a lot of families, I do think it's important to reflect on the bright spots of the year and to begin looking to the future.

CMH has always been a tight knit community. We really showed that in 2020. We came together, accepted major changes to our routines (especially our children), and successfully navigated the challenges of COVID (it's an ongoing effort). While we didn't escape the year completely unscathed, we have fared much better than many schools in the area. We have learned a lot and we have adapted. We should be proud that we have been able to offer our children in-person learning since the start of the school year.

We sincerely appreciate your efforts in completing the health assessment forms every morning, conducting temperature checks, supporting the children wearing masks for a full day, and generally monitoring your family's health. As we enter the second half of the school year, I ask that you continue to be diligent in these safety measures.

Our enrollment continues to be strong as do our finances. We are closely monitoring unexpected expenses to ensure that we maintain a healthy financial position and stay within our budget. We continue to research opportunities for us to apply for grants and receive support from various legislative efforts. But tuition and grants alone do not finance CMH.

There are a number of ways you can help us prepare for the future. Our Annual Fund Campaign is active. We've had a great response so far and are asking for your support. The CMH Love Auction will take place on February 13th. Please save the date and plan on participating. We are looking for handmade items to auction off. Finally, our biggest ask is that you spread the word about CMH to your personal and professional networks. Word of mouth is one of the most effective marketing tools we have and is a great way to make sure the region knows how amazing CMH is and how much our children love being here. Help make sure our future remains bright through a donation, an auction item, bidding on items, spreading the word, or volunteering.

Another area I ask that we all focus on is the community. I truly believe our community is one of our greatest assets. With the presence of COVID, many of our traditional community building activities are not currently possible. I encourage you all to find a way to engage with other parents as well as the faculty and staff. Whether it's setting up a Zoom call with one of your child's classmates and their parents or simply making an email introduction to a new family, let's make sure we know one another and keep our community strong.

Here's to a great 2021! As always, thank you for your support and we sincerely appreciate your commitment to CMH!

Mark Sancrant
CMH Board President

NATURE NOTES

Children thrive in Nature. Studies prove undoubtedly that time spent in Nature means those children are healthier, happier, and smarter. According to the Children and Nature Network, children in the U.S. spend an average of 44 hours per week staring at a screen and less than 10 minutes a day outside, so it is even more crucial than ever to support time outdoors for kids.

Since the founding of our school 48 years ago, CMH has honored time and space for children to learn, play, explore, and connect to Nature. Perhaps this is why you chose Children's Meeting House for your child. As I write this and prepare for Nature Study with each student at CMH I think of Maria Montessori's words, "There is no description, no image in any book, capable of replacing the sight of real trees and all the life to be found around them in a real forest."

Let's get to the woods.

Veronica Brannen
CMH Naturalist