



SPRING 2022
VOLUME 7 ISSUE 3



cmh connections

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

- 10-12 6th Level Graduation Trip to Gatlinburg
- 12 CMH Parent Education Workshop: Summer Survival Tips (via Zoom)
- 13 Peace Out Picnic
- 20 Spring Afterschool Clubs End
- 25 Seniors Graduation
- 26 Last Day of School and Kindergarten Graduation



For more information, visit cmhschool.com or follow CMH on



Our **Roots to Wings** auction was a success! Thank you to all the CMH families who attended virtually and participated in the bidding! Fantastic prizes such as a hot air balloon ride, one of a kind wooden bowls made from CMH trees, date nights galore, and the most creative one-of-a-kind birdhouses were auctioned off to benefit our school. Our class projects once again made for some spirited bidding wars and no doubt have found happy homes.

The Chevalier family went home with the amazing quilt made by Carmen Fightmaster—fun fact, the Chevalier family has had a student at CMH since 2007 and this was their first quilt win! Congratulations to the Chevalier family and a generous thank you for their years of supporting CMH in the classroom, as board members, and on the auction committee for their 15 years at our school.

A big thank you to our auction committee for their efforts in pulling together this fantastic event! Thank you Jessica Anderson, Kristin Brandstetter, Alicia Butler, Crissy Cole, Sarah DeJager, Carmen Fightmaster, Julie Lyjak, Carrie Lyons, Susan Maggard, Nichole Metzger, Bridget Oyer, Angela Schroeder, Tammy Stiver, and Lori Walker. Also a big shout-out to Children’s Theater of Cincinnati for an incredible production of *Abiyoyo*, and a special thank you to our donor for making it possible.

If you missed the festivities, never fear—the auction will be back live and in person next year to celebrate 50 years of Children’s Meeting House. It will be an event that you do not want to miss!



GOODBYE DANA & JOHN

Weighing heavy on all of our hearts as we approach the end of the school year is the retirement and departure of the beloved Senior Class teachers John Phenix and Dana Dale. Combined, John and Dana have been a part of the CMH community for three-quarters of a century! Together, Dana and John developed and grew the vibrant Senior Class community that has seen dozens of students graduate and sent out into the world. We recently asked a few of the Senior students to share their thoughts and some parting wishes for our amazing teachers.



“Dana...you’ve been working very hard over the years. You’ve made an amazing impact on CMH and learning. Enjoy the rest of your life knowing that you’re an amazing person.”

- Zoe T.

“When I was little, I really had fun doing singing circle and seeing John! I’ve created many memories and I will never forget you.”

- Lili S.

“I’ve only been in your class for one year, but I can already tell you’re a terrific teacher, John. If only you could stay longer.”

- Hannah G.



“I am so lucky that I could be taught by you for your last year here in Seniors, Dana. My favorite thing that you taught me was the history of Ohio.”

- Charlotte P.



JOHN & DANA FACTS

19

TRIPS TO GATLINBURG

John and Dana have driven 9,500+ miles with excited CMH sixth graders for 19 trips to Gatlinburg!

Other fun destinations for graduation trips over the years include Great Bear Lodge, Mammoth Cave and Falling Waters.



21

SCIENCE FAIRS

These two have mentored CMH's budding scientific minds by overseeing and directing research projects in 21 science fairs. And as though that isn't enough scientific learning, they have survived **5 overnight trips** to COSI in Columbus!

49

YEARS

John has led Pre-Primary singing circle for 49 years—his rendition of “*You Are My Sunshine*” brings smiles to our youngest students and is known to bring tears to parents’ eyes.

30

YEARS

John has been the master grass cutter for our beautiful grounds for 30 years



9 TEACHING PARTNERS

John has partnered with 9 different teachers in the Pre-Primary and Seniors classrooms over his 49 years at CMH.

He says his time at CMH has been “challenging and rewarding” and his colleagues are “devoted” to their mission of educating young minds.



5 TEACHING PARTNERS

Dana has partnered with 5 different teachers in the Juniors and Seniors classrooms over her 27 years at CMH.

She describes her years at CMH as “creative, nurturing, and heart warming” and the CMH staff as “family and hard-working.”

NEWS FROM PRE-PRIMARY

Happy Spring! It's hard to believe the school year is coming to an end. It has been another wonderful year in the pre-primary classrooms and we have enjoyed getting to know your children throughout the year. We have loved watching them grow, learn and develop! So much learning has happened in the classrooms this year and your children have been exposed to so many new concepts. We are looking forward to this last part of the school year with them!

Sometimes summer can be an overwhelming time for parents, especially if you are trying to work while your children are off school. Give yourself grace and enjoy the extra time you have with your children. Pre-primary age children thrive on routine and predictability. It is helpful for your children if you are able to establish a summertime routine or schedule of some sort. Allow for time each day for your child to have down time, rest time, or nap time, whatever their needs may be. This will look different for each family, and might look different day by day, but children need some time to just "check out" (not zone out on a screen) and relax. Give yourself permission to take some down time also if you are able.

During the summer we encourage you to arrange some special individualized time with your child. Let your child pick something they want to do with a parent and do that special activity with them. It could be something as simple as a 10 minute walk around the neighborhood or reading their favorite book to them. It could be as big as a day at Kings Island. It is the time spent with you they will remember and cherish, not necessarily the activity they did with you.

If your child is a reader, find time each day during the summer for them to read to you. This will continue to help them practice and enhance their reading skills.

They can also read to a younger sibling, the dog, a neighbor, a grandparent, or a friend. Read to your child each day regardless of whether they are reading independently. At this age many children begin to love listening to simple chapter books. Read one or two chapters each night and talk about what is happening and what they remember from the night before. This is a great activity to help your child work on their listening and comprehension skills.

Spend time out in nature and explore the outdoors! Set up bird feeders at your house and let your child help you pick out the feeders and food. They can then be involved with keeping the feeders filled. By using their bird watching skills learned from Veronica they can keep a checklist of the birds that visit your house. Plant a vegetable garden and allow your child to help care for it and harvest the vegetables. Disconnect from electronics and take nature walks. CMH is a great place to hike and the trails are familiar to the children.

Throughout the summer continue to foster your child's independence. This is a great time to let them practice their personal care skills. We encourage a great deal of independence from the children, so the more you are able to foster this, the more successful your child will feel at school.

Most importantly this summer, have fun and enjoy your children! Laugh with them, play with them, sing with them, dance with them, swim with them, hug them a little tighter, and enjoy the time you have together. We have amazing children and families here at CMH, and we thank you all for sharing your children with us every day.

THE PRE PRIMARY TEAM

Andrea, Anne, Colleen, Birte, Jessie, Marlis, Megan, Michelle, and Jeanne



NEWS FROM JUNIORS

G'day, mate! This spring, Junior South students have really enjoyed their studies of Australia and Oceania. Biome studies enabled children to gain a broad understanding of the Australian temperate forests, Mediterranean woodlands, grasslands, deserts, and forest. They were also introduced to Australian animals, food, culture, indigenous peoples, and music. We were so excited to welcome musician and beloved Montessorian, Manuel Susarret, to our classroom and share music from this region of the world. Accompanied by his

amazing spirit and ukulele, we learned "Waltzing Matilda" which was hummed or sung for days after.

Chemistry and physics were reintroduced to the children in our Juniors cultural curriculum and it was a big hit! First year students were excited to learn more about the most important states of matter: solids, liquids, and gasses. Next, second level students began their chemistry study with understanding the different types of mixtures. Third level students began with a survey of energy.

Physics focused primarily on the study of light and sound for first year students. They jumped right into this new cultural subject with an inaugural lesson on buoyancy and Archimedes' Principle. Second level students already had a basic understanding of properties of solid, liquids, and gasses, so they moved on to studies on inertia, simple machines, magnetism, and electricity. Again, exciting lessons, experiments, and follow-up experiments were designed to peak the scientist in all of the children. Lastly, third level students

NEWS FROM SENIORS

The second semester has been a busy one in the Senior Class!

SCIENCE FAIR

We began the year with our annual science fair. Starting in the fall, the Senior students begin the complex task of coming up with a science experiment they would like to explore. The students follow the scientific method of inquiry, step-by-step, to search for the answer to their initial question. While the science project is done at home, the Seniors prepare a tri-fold board to present their project to the rest of the Senior Class. It is a wonderful opportunity for the children to practice their formal presentation skills, explain their process, and answer thoughtful questions from their classmates. The variety of projects and the depth of scientific curiosity was inspiring! Students explored such fascinating topics as which materials best conduct electricity, does the size of a parachute change the speed of descent, what materials melt ice most efficiently, and investigations of climate change.

ASTRONOMY DAY

In March and April the Senior Class traveled beyond the confines of Earth to explore our extraordinary Universe! We divided the class into small groups, each of which studied a different aspect of Astronomy. The students then created 13 experiential learning stations for our Astronomy Day event and we invited the Junior Classes to come down to join us. The stations included topics such as, the phases of the moon (complete with edible Oreo models), a human's age on other planets, how far the

planets are from the Sun, creating constellations with toothpicks and marshmallows, and several dramatic performances from some of our favorite constellations from Greek mythology. Through this engaging project, the Seniors were able to explain what they had learned to the Juniors, further solidifying their knowledge. As always, learning is so much fun here at CMH!

DISSECTION IN THE SENIOR CLASS

Because we recognize the great benefits of hands-on experiential learning here at CMH, it should be no surprise that dissection is an essential part of our botany and zoology work in the Senior Class. This spring the 4th level students studied the five classes of vertebrates, their characteristics, and how they meet their needs. After learning about the digestive system of birds, the students got to dissect owl pellets, the fuzzy little packages of regurgitated bones and fur that the owl cannot digest. They loved reconstructing and identifying the skeletons of their owl's most recent meal!

Wrapping up the study of Human Anatomy and Physiology, the 6th level students will soon be dissecting the parts of a pig. Dissection provides hands-on, concrete experiences with anatomy of living creatures. The firsthand experience in seeing how tissues and organs are interrelated is an important step after the students have read about and researched the various organs of humans.

THE SENIOR TEAM

John, Dana, Lisa, and Rachel



explored the history of light and developed an understanding of visible light which is essential to a solid physics foundation.

We were happy to welcome spring. A big thank you to our 6th grade visitors who have spent some afternoons with us, and even led hikes. We will miss their leadership, friendship, and kind spirit but wish them the best of luck as they continue on their journey.

THE JUNIOR TEAM

Diane, Anne, Karen, and Kim



MEET THE TEACHER

VERONICA BRANNEN



Veronica has been a Naturalist for 13 years at CMH and before that she spent 2 years as a Teaching Assistant in a Pre-primary classroom. Prior to bringing her considerable talents to our lovely school, Veronica was a naturalist with the Clermont County Parks District and in this role served as the nature preserve caretaker and land manager. So, how did Veronica become a naturalist at a Montessori school? The path took some twists beginning at the University of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky University where Veronica not only accomplished a M.A. in English literature, but focused on Natural Sciences in her academic career. Anyone who has been taught by Veronica or read her articles in the newsletter can tell that she is a natural

born writer and educator. She opens childrens' eyes up to the natural world around them in a way that stays with them long after their time at CMH. Ask a former student what bird calls they know—which bird sings "drink your tea, drink your tea? Or ask them if they can sing about the Paw Paw tree and what one of Ohio's indigenous pawpaw fruits taste like. These are all examples of knowledge gained from Veronica.

This summer ask your child to take you to CMH and show you where they walk the trails with Veronica, care for the raised beds outside of the Junior's classroom, observe the pond teeming with tadpoles, and watch the birds from the bird blind.

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

CMH Community,

Welcome to Spring! I hope everyone had a wonderful spring break vacation! It's hard to believe but we are now in the final stretch of the 2021-2022 school year. Spring is often thought of as a time for renewal and growth. In order to grow, I believe one must reflect on the past and show gratitude for those who have made a difference.

I want to thank all of the families that participated in our annual school survey. These surveys are an important tool that Casey and the Board use to identify areas for improvement and to ensure all CMH stakeholders—parents, staff, and faculty—have the opportunity to share their views. I'm pleased to say the results across the board were very positive.

One piece of feedback that we continuously hear is the desire for more connectivity in our community. We just completed a Campus Care day where several CMH families volunteered on a Saturday morning to help beautify the campus. Thank you for your time and effort, and thank you Veronica for organizing the event! We will continue to find ways to bring our community

together and hopefully do so more frequently. As I've said in past newsletters, the CMH community is one of our greatest assets and we need to celebrate it more often.

I also would like to thank all of you who participated in our **Roots to Wings** Auction. It was a great success! I would like to specifically highlight the Auction Committee. Once again, you did an amazing job organizing and leading a wonderful event. I'm hopeful that next year we will be able to come together in person for the Auction.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone in the CMH community for helping to make it another great school year. We are very well positioned for next year with record enrollment and are in a healthy financial position. But CMH wouldn't be what it is if it weren't for our talented director, staff, and teachers. Thank you for all you do for our children, our campus, and our community.

With gratitude,

Mark Sancrant
CMH Board President

ANNUAL FUND

The 2021-2022 Annual Fund Campaign is shy of its fundraising goal for the year, please consider making a gift to the Annual Fund to help us reach our fundraising goal that will expand our educational programs for the coming school year.

Please join us this year in making a tax-deductible gift as part of our Annual Fund Campaign at a level that is meaningful to you. Our goal is to reach 100% participation from our CMH families. No gift is too small to show your commitment to CMH.

Contributions can be made on our website cmhschool.com

or sent directly to the school:
927 O'Bannonville Road
Loveland, OH 45140

