



# cmh connections

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### January

- 19 Priority Registration  
2018-19 begins
- 22 Winter After School Clubs Begin
- 24 & 26 Pre-Primary Parent/Child Workday  
8:30-11:30
- 28 Winter Open House  
2:00-4:00pm

### February

- 3 Winter Family Hike
- 14 Senior Lunch and Crazy Hair Day
- 15 Pre-Primary Winter Celebration  
and Valentine Exchange  
8:30-11:30am
- 16 No School/Teachers Inservice Day
- 19 No School/Presidents Day
- 26 Senior Science Fair, *Open to All*  
7:00-8:00pm

### March

- 9 Grand People's Day  
PP-9:00am, JR/SR-10:00am
- 17 CMH Spring Auction  
6:00-10:00pm
- 21 Family Astronomy Night  
6:30-7:30pm
- 26-4/2 Spring Break

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

CMH Families,

The new year brings thoughts of the future and aspirations to be better than the year before; and CMH is doing just that with thoughtful planning amongst the children, families, staff, administration and Board of Directors. We are guided, first and foremost, by our Mission Statement and then by the demands of today's society to create actionable, short and long term goals towards the pursuit of providing an authentic Montessori education.

We have already made great strides with the Junior class transitioning into two classroom environments to better serve the children's individual needs and further enhance the relationships with their teachers. The classrooms had a makeover and the children were involved and engaged all along the way. The addition of another teacher, Todd Rubin, has been another asset to the children and teachers in our Junior program. Please take a moment to welcome Todd to CMH and introduce yourself and your family when you cross his path. We are prepared for the future and growth of our Junior Program, which will continue to blossom into our Senior Program.

Our Pre Primary Program has seen the benefits of launching the More Montessori Program six years ago, as well as the Part Time Program just two years ago to serve the needs of families seeking either all-day care or just beginning their school experience with three mornings a week. Both of these programs support our guiding Montessori principles of giving our students a three-year cycle to allow for the foundation of a Montessori education to come full circle. The value of beginning with the Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten years and concluding with the Kindergarten year is well worth the investment in your child's future. The Kindergarteners are given the opportunity to be the leaders and guides in their classroom community, grow and develop at their own pace versus that of a typical Kindergarten level curriculum, and enjoy the additional enrichment programs that make this culminating year all the more special.

Priority registration for our current families will soon begin for the 2018-19 school year; and as you reflect on the goals and future you desire for your children, you are encouraged to take some time to observe or volunteer in the classrooms and to ask questions to seek understanding. As you do so, I trust that you will see the many benefits of continuing your child's journey with CMH Montessori School.



*Casey*  
Casey Reed  
CMH Director

For up-to-date information  
follow CMH on



## NEWS FROM PP1

Happy New Year to all of our PP1 Families! Can you believe we are already into the second half of our school year? As we start back to school after the Winter Break, we begin to learn about many new topics in the different areas of the classroom.

Geography will bring us to the study of The United States of America where we will learn about the animals of our country, the flag and its parts, as well as its symbols. In Zoology, we will continue the study of the human body, learning different body parts through puzzles, matching works and books. We will then move on to mammals. In Botany, we continue with our seed study and then move on to roots, followed by fruits and vegetables. We will begin our study of weights in the Science area, using a balance to determine what objects are heavier or lighter. Children will learn that they can also use their hands to find out if some objects weight more or less than others.

We will be introducing several other multi-step works in the Practical Life area, such as chair scrubbing, hand washing and bubble making. These are great works to help develop memory skills that will be used in the multi-step works of the Math and Language areas later on. As you can see, our class will be very busy throughout the next several months!

Michelle, Kim and Jeanne



## NEWS FROM PP2

Happy New Year! The children have been hard at work since returning from Winter Break. At this point in the school year we are happy to see something Maria Montessori calls "normalization". With this, many children are settled in and able to choose work freely, concentrate and work independently. It is a wonderful thing to experience in a Montessori classroom.

Currently in the classroom, the children are working with and being introduced to longer processed and multi-step work such as easel painting, table scrubbing, hand washing and food preparation where students get to prepare a snack for themselves! These works are great for practicing the skills of concentration and order. In the geography area, we are wrapping up our study of North America and are going to begin to study the United States of America. In science we have finished studying our four seasons and are now talking about fruits and vegetables. In botany, the children will also be introduced to the botany cabinet, which teaches them about different shapes of leaves. In zoology, we will begin to study fish after wrapping up our study of amphibians. We will also start to talk about measurement in our math area. We hope your children will share some of these topics with you at home!

We have a lot going on in the classroom in January as it is such a busy time of year. Thank you for allowing us to enjoy your children in our Montessori environment. We truly enjoy our time with each and every one of them.

Andrea, Megan and Anne



## NEWS FROM PP3

*"The basis of society is movement with a useful aim. When we recognize this fact in children, we will better understand the essence of their psychic life. Children who act with purpose are happy because they are concentric with humanity's vital function."*

- Maria Montessori in The 1946 London Lectures

The fact that children need to be enabled to move purposefully can be observed countless times a day. Children who are invited to help in the kitchen (using real knives and real food), children who are allowed to change their own clothes, children who are responsible for part of the yard work, are happy children. In a Montessori environment, the child is responsible for his or her own work. The purposeful movement can be almost invisible such as carefully transferring objects from one vessel to the other, or big and heavy like carrying a lot of Golden Beads from the shelf to the rug to create long numbers.

These past months, a lot of purposeful work and purposeful movement were observed in PP3. Our little ones are learning how to navigate the environment, how to carefully carry trays with delicate china and precious glassware, how to serve themselves some snack without spilling it, how to unroll a rug and not interrupt somebody else's work at the same time, how to quietly push in a chair, and much more. The second level and Kindergarten children are all still refining the same skills while already working on different goals: how to move the letters of the Movable Alphabet to create words, how to order the Golden Beads to create and add numbers, how to sort the arrows to label the long chains, how to arrange the shapes to make different triangles. Purposeful work is happening every day and the children are happy and proud to own what they are doing while we are happy and proud to be able to guide and watch them. We are excited for more purposeful work in PP3 in 2018!

Theresa and Birte





## NEWS FROM JUNIORS

We are now officially two rooms! The kids have really acclimated to the Juniors North and South rooms and truly feel that they can only go to their "homeroom" teacher for any questions, concerns, and comments. They are enjoying the bigger space with a smaller number of children, as are we.

Before winter break, the students completed their study of North America with a culminating project. The students presented their countries or states to the classroom and parents. It was a great joy to see all of the work that the students put into their projects.

We have spent much time learning about different invertebrates in Zoology and learning about the origins of days of the week and months of the year in History. In October, the first levels went to see Peter Pan at The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati. In November, we had an in-house field trip where Mother's Nature talked to the children about Native Americans. Each student was able to hold and use an instrument that Native Americans would have made, using nature as their materials. The third levels went to see Cinderella at The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati in December. This version was a British Pantomime. The children really seemed to enjoy it and found it quite funny.

We have welcomed Todd into the classroom and the students already put him to work. They are utilizing his expertise and enjoying his company.

Jessica and Nicki



## NEWS FROM SENIORS

Field trips, food, and festivities have been a delightful part of our last three months. We learned about Ohio's Prehistoric Indians on our field trip to Ft. Ancient. We took a scavenger hunt through the museum, learned to throw an atlatl, and played a round of double ball.

We celebrated Columbus Day with an explorer's picnic, smells and tastes of the New World and journaling aboard the Niña. The children drew a scaled version of the Niña and got a feel of what it would be like to live for a period of time in that small space. They didn't think it would be much fun to be an explorer.

Halloween, Thanksgiving, the first snow, Christmas, Hanukkah, and the New Year have all come and gone. We loved celebrating all of these special times with our friends at CMH.

Some of the activities we are looking forward to in the new year are the Science Fair at the end of February and our Maple Sugaring Project.

John and Dana



## NATURE NOTES

I was with a small group of 3 and 4 year olds as we harvested leaf lettuce and spinach into a large salad bowl for our much-anticipated Salad Party. One of the boys asked me this question, **"Why do we grow salad gardens here at school?"** Inside my head I had so many answers to list off and could think of so many research studies that have proven the positive results of school gardening. Children that participate in a school gardening program...

show significant increase in self-understanding and the ability to work in groups.

report calm and happy feelings and ease in connecting with their peers while gardening.

score higher on science achievement tests.

express increased understanding of ecology, interconnections in nature, and responsibility to care for the environment.

show greater knowledge about nutrition and healthy eating.

show greater curiosity towards learning.

The above list is only a portion of the many proven benefits that have been reported through in-depth analyses of gardening at school.

My answer to the friend's question, **"Because it's fun to see things grow."**

*Veronica*  
Veronica Brannen  
CMH Naturalist

# SAVE THE DATE

Join us Saturday, March 17th from 6-10pm for **A Woodland Gathering** 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.

Consider joining the Auction Committee to make this event another HUGE success for our CMH community. The team is currently looking for sponsors and donations of services, gift cards or items for silent auction baskets. Look for more information to come on this fun event!

## Event Co-chairs

Kim Tran (*mom of Austin 5th grade*)  
kimtran@cinci.rr.com

Lori Walker (*mom to Calvin 6th grade and Camille PP*)  
ljwalker75@yahoo.com



SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018  
6-10 PM



RECEPTIONS CONFERENCE CENTER  
LOVELAND

## LETTER FROM THE BOARD

CMH Community,

It's hard to believe we are at the mid-way point of another school year. As I write this, we're enduring some of the coldest weather we've experienced in several years. The kids don't seem to mind, and have returned from the holidays eager to learn in our wonderful, natural CMH setting.

This is my first opportunity to address you in my new role as President of the Board of Trustees. I feel fortunate to have this chance to serve the school, and even more fortunate to work with a Board filled with highly capable people who care so deeply about the welfare of our children, the staff and the CMH institution.

On this note, I'm pleased to say that Stephen Richey, a former instructor at CMH and a very accomplished lawyer at Thompson Hine in Cincinnati, has agreed to join our Board meetings on a regular basis as an advisor. CMH has called on Stephen for advice over the years, and it will be great to have him involved in the regular flow of our discussions.

I'd like to thank Franco Medeiros for his leadership of the Board over the past three years. Franco stepped up to serve at a critical juncture for CMH, and he has put the school on a solid track to thrive well into the future. I'm also grateful to Franco for agreeing to stay on the Board in the role of Vice President.

To conclude, I'll share a brief update on the key Board priority areas for this year:

### Fiscal Discipline

At each meeting, the full Board reviews our enrollment, budget and cash flow status. Casey, Charlie Halcomb (our Treasurer) and I also review these key financial documents in our non-meeting months. In addition, Barnes Dennig provides a third-party review of our financial statements and work processes annually. I'm happy to say CMH is in solid financial position.

### Facilities Maintenance

Our latest project, connecting CMH to the municipal sewer system is complete. Many thanks go to John Phenix and Franco for their tireless efforts working between the various agencies and contractors who had to approve the project and execute the work. Our focus now shifts to longer term planning and budgeting for preventative maintenance, periodic major replacements (e.g. roof, HVAC, etc.) and general beautification of the buildings and grounds.

### Board Renewal and Specific Skill Additions

We've had a great response to our call for new Board members over the last year, adding Melissa DiMuro, Charlie Halcomb and Anne Tobe...and Stephen Richey in an advisory capacity. We are still looking for new members with skills in Montessori education and development (fundraising, alumni connections, etc.). Regardless of your background, if you are interested in serving on the Board, please let Casey know.

We appreciate your commitment to CMH, and we encourage you to look for more ways to get involved. From helping in the classrooms, to events we hold at the school, to attending the annual fundraising auction, to participating in the Annual Fund Campaign, there are opportunities for everyone. Most important, you can 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

  
**45 YEARS**  
OF CULTIVATING CURIOSITY,  
CHARACTER & COMMUNITY

## ANNUAL FUND

We are celebrating 45 years of enriching the lives of your children and our community. Although our facilities, programs, staff and families have changed over the years, our core belief in the value of a Montessori education has never wavered.

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 all our CMH families to assist us in qualifying for various grants. Participation is of far more importance than the amount of the contribution.

***Thank you for being a part of the Growth, Change, Future, Support and Strength of CMH!***

