



cmh connections

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

- 12 Family Winter Hike
10:00-11:00am
- 14 Juniors Date with Dad 8:30am
Winter After School Clubs Begin
- 21 No School - MLK Jr Day
- 23 & 25 Pre-Primary Parent/Child Visits
8:30-10:30
- 27 Winter Open House
2:00-4:00pm
- 28 What's to Love About Juniors?
5:30-6:30pm

February

- 14 Senior Lunch and Crazy Hair Day
Pre-Primary Valentine Exchange
8:30-11:30am
- 15 No School/Teachers Inservice Day
- 18 No School/Presidents Day
- 25 Senior Science Fair, *Open to All*
7:00-8:00pm

March

- 13 Family Astronomy Night
6:30-7:30pm
- 25-29 Spring Break

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear CMH Community,

We have said our farewells to the year 2018 and are now busy planning and preparing for whatever 2019 has in store for us. Surely your year was filled with many life lessons, along with the highs and lows of life. While preparing for the new year with an awareness of the lessons learned is a grand undertaking and is certainly a worthwhile cause, the outcome of our efforts will really depend on our ability to grow and stretch ourselves in each unplanned event/turn that arises. The ability to collaborate with one another along with a sense of belonging amongst the students, families and staff is vital to the success and growth of everyone in our school community.

While we don't yet know how 2019 will play out, I do know it will be a year filled with courageous conversations and commitment to our students at CMH. If we decide to replace fear, worry and the need to control with the reaction of curiosity, trust and gratitude, it can bring about a remarkable transformation in our lives and in the lives of those around us. The children are our greatest gift so let's allow them to be honored and supported in their growth, challenges and development of life skills.

Re-enrollment time is just around the corner and I hope to have many courageous conversations with our current families as I also have the joy of sharing our school with prospective families...who want what your child has at CMH. Take a moment to reflect on your introduction to CMH and why you made the choice to enroll your child. Do you still value those goals, hopes and experiences for your child? We do and are frankly very fond of our students and hope to see them graduate from CMH ready to spread their wings.

Cheers to a courageous 2019!

Casey

Casey Reed
CMH Director



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NEWS FROM PP1

Happy New Year! Our PP1 classroom family has been so glad to see each other again after the long Winter Break! We hope everyone had a wonderful, restful, and joyful time at home with your family! We are definitely ready for a very busy learning time now that we are in the second half of the year. This is the time we start to see what Montessorians call a “normalized” class—a time when children are happy, engaged, and joyful in their work. The teachers are observing and learning each child’s strengths, what things each is interested in learning about, and the children start to learn many new skills and concepts. It is a very exciting time of year!

The children have been quite busy with new lessons from all the different curriculum areas in our room, and we hope your child is sharing some of this with you. In Geography, we have learned about the 7 continents, North America, and now the United States of America. We will soon move into studying Canada, Mexico and Ohio. In Zoology we have begun learning about fish and ocean life. Trees, leaves and seeds have been introduced in Botany through puzzles, books and labeling works. In Physical Science, we have been learning about solids, liquids, and gases and will soon be exploring experiments about the properties of water. Art and Practical Life are always busy areas where children can be creative, help us care for our classroom and use many activities that build eye-hand coordination, concentration, and independence skills. We love to see the children so engaged and we thank you for allowing us to share in this time of your child’s growth and development!

Michelle, Kim and Jeanne

NEWS FROM PP2

Happy Winter! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and enjoyed some special time with family and friends. The children all seem excited to be back at school after break. At this time of year the children have all settled into the routines and expectations of their classroom and are starting to get into some longer, multi-step works. In Practical Life the children have been introduced to table scrubbing and will soon be introduced to floor scrubbing. These are great multi-step works to develop their concentration, coordination, independence and order, as well as learn how to take care of their classroom. They enjoy being able to keep their classroom beautiful!

The children have been busy in the various cultural areas of the classroom. After studying the World the children learned about North America and are now concentrating on the United States of America. Next, they will learn all about Ohio. In Zoology we wrapped up our study of insects, learning about the different kinds of insects and their characteristics and about the life cycle of a butterfly. Next we will begin studying dinosaurs followed by a study of reptiles. In singing circle John will begin singing all of the dinosaur songs with the kids. They always seem to love these!

In the Math area of the classroom the children have been introduced to fractions. They all learned what fraction they make up of their family. They have been exploring with various materials to help them understand the concept of fractions. Next they will begin studying measurement.

We are looking forward to some days filled with snow to get the children out for snowy hikes and fun play time outside. Thank you again for sharing your children with us each day.

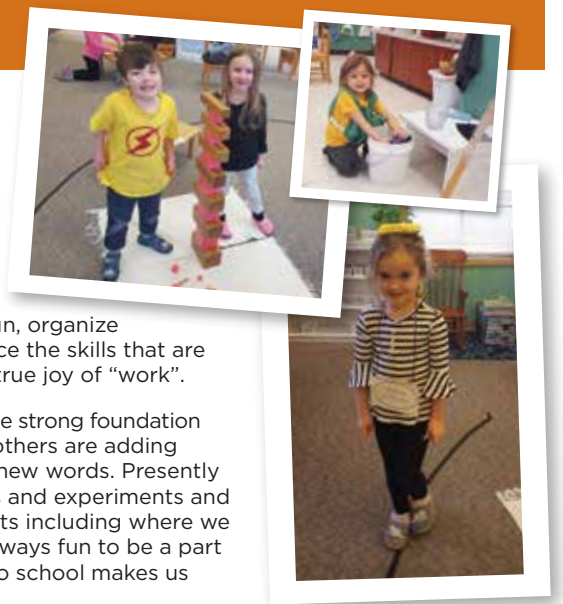
Andrea, Megan and Anne

NEWS FROM PP3

As we head back from the Winter Break, we are settling in to the routines of school. PP3 is a happy and lively classroom; the children are all comfortable and content and enjoy connecting with the teachers and building friendships with one another. During their work time, they are practicing big works like scrubbing tables and the floor and painting activities. Completing these works is a big accomplishment as there are many steps in each work, which build muscle strength and their ability to sequence the steps of the task. In the sensorial area, they are learning the names of colors and shapes such as hexagon, trapezoid, ovoid... as well as training their senses of seeing, hearing, and touching to notice slight differences within the materials. As they become more skilled with these, the children are encouraged to use multiple materials and create a new design, organize shades of a color, or find shapes in the classroom. All of these works develop and enhance the skills that are needed for learning such as concentration, independence, the ability to organize, and a true joy of “work”.

The time spent developing and honing their skills in Practical Life, Sensorial, and Art build the strong foundation that leads to growth and success in math and language. Some learn to count 1-10 while others are adding four-digit numbers. Some are learning the sounds of letters while others write and read new words. Presently in science, the children are learning about properties of light through hands-on activities and experiments and facts about reptiles and roots. In geography they have learned about the seven continents including where we live - North America. We are beginning our studies of the United States and Ohio. It is always fun to be a part of their learning and development, and hearing about and seeing them happy to come to school makes us teachers feel accomplished.

Theresa, Birte and Lisa



NEWS FROM JUNIORS

We have completed our study of Australia with a culminating project where students presented their states, landmarks or native Australian to the classroom and parents. We were so impressed with all of the hard work the students put into their research and projects. Before the break half of the students had their posters or projects displayed in the third grade hallway. We have now switched them and the other half is now displayed. Please stop by to see our displays.

We have also spent much time learning about botany this year. We have explored the different parts of the plant, roots, and stems as well as the types of plants, roots and stems. The children have enjoyed many different cultural enrichment lessons where they complete more hands-on projects, like decorating their own boomerang. As you may know, the students will no longer have fitness but instead have a movement class. We are all excited about what the program has in store for the Juniors.

Over the next couple months, be sure to ask your children about our visitors. Several days, we will be hosting the Kindergartners so that they can see what it is like to be in the Junior's classroom and what they can expect next year. Our third levels will also be making a visit to the Senior's classroom, once a week, so that they are able to see what it will be like for them next year.

Nicki, Todd and Jessica



NEWS FROM SENIORS

The days leading up to the holiday season were filled with fun and hard work. The Seniors labored away rehabbing the little pond outside our back door. First we replaced the liner which was leaking. Then we rebuilt the rock wall. Finally, each child chose, named, and released a new fish into the pond.

We took an extended day field trip to Sunwatch Indian Village in Dayton and Ohio Caverns. The students learned about the Fort Ancient Indians and got a chance to marvel at the beautiful crystal formations of the Caverns. We are looking forward to our next extended day field trip to Connor Prairie in Indianapolis. This will kick off our studies of the lives of the Pioneers in preparation for our Senior project this year, Pioneer Day!

Our fifth levels have been busy drawing the "Tree of Life" which is the final project after studying each of the five kingdoms of biological classification. Each of these kingdoms fit together to make a tree. They were really proud of their BIG work!

The Science Fair is quickly approaching. This is the culmination of lots of hard work by our students and their families. Everyone is invited to come check out the projects on family night, February 25 from 7-8pm.

Happy New Year!
John and Dana



NATURE NOTES

In the build-up around the late-Fall and Winter holidays, students have been very busy during Nature Study. In the woods younger kids searched for fungi and explored leaf litter to discuss fungi decomposition. Older kids removed invasive plants and seeded with native trees in order to learn about the importance of a balanced habitat and reforestation. In the gardens students created garden labels to mark plants we will watch re-sprout in the Spring. On the few snowy days so far we looked for tracks and kept watch at the bird feeding stations. All students visited the Grailville Oratory (the big white barn to the East of our playground), learned about the early history of CMH that was once located in the basement of the building, and explored the calming labyrinth set up inside.

During the month of January students will conduct our annual Winter Bird Count. Every student will participate after an introduction or review of the use of field guides, binoculars, and field check lists. Look for the always-exciting results to be posted on the CMH lobby wall. Back in the Fall, students collected and processed seeds that we found as we wandered the lower fields on the North side of Grailville. February will be spent propagating these seeds in our classroom Grow Labs. In March or April these seedlings will be replanted in CMH gardens and selected areas to enhance the native populations of pollinator birds and insects. Other outdoor learning will include Gardening, Herpetology and Macroinvertebrate studies in our pond, Blue Bird Nest Box monitoring, flower morphology and physiology and more.

Veronica
Veronica Brannen
CMH Naturalist

VOTED BEST PRESCHOOL!

CMH has been voted **CINCINNATI'S BEST PRESCHOOL** by the readers of Cincinnati Family Magazine!



"Best choice I could have made for all four of my kids. Children's Meeting House was the rock solid foundation our kids had to build their education on. Two are now in High School. Only now do we fully appreciate the importance of the investment we made in our children's education at CMH."

- Trevor Stansbury

"My education at CHM provided me with social and problem solving skills that do not exist in most public institutions. I would not trade my education there for anything. Impressively, the founding group of educators that taught me are still involved with the school some 35-40 years later." - David Welsh



LETTER FROM THE BOARD

CMH Community,

It's hard to believe we are at the mid-way point of another school year. We're all getting back into our post-holiday routines, including the kids, teachers and staff.

I want to take this opportunity to describe a bit more of what The CMH Board of Trustees does throughout the year. Like the Board of most any public or private institution, the primary responsibilities of the CMH Board are to ensure we have the right leadership in place to run the school on a day-to-day and year-to-year basis and to ensure we are managing the finances of the school with both the short-term and long-term health of the institution in mind.

I am very confident that the Board is succeeding on both of these responsibilities. Casey Reed is an outstanding leader for CMH. She cares deeply about delivering an excellent Montessori education for each student at CMH. She wants to build engagement and involvement for all families to create an even stronger community. She strives to build strong working relationships with each teacher and staff member, empowering them and encouraging them to be actively engaged with you as parents.

On the financial front, we are facing some short-term pressures. Demographics affect CMH just as they do other institutions. The dip in birth rates from 2008-2011 is currently showing up in lower enrollment in the Junior and Senior classrooms versus what we experienced four or five years ago, when my oldest son was moving through those grade levels. The other reality is that there is increased competition for the all-day education of your children, especially at the kindergarten level, versus four or five years ago.

We will address the short-term financial challenges a few different ways. First, we will take an even sharper look at the budget to see if there are opportunities to save a bit more. Second, we will continue to be very active in recruiting new families to join CMH (you play a big role in this, as word-of-mouth is by far the most powerful way to build enrollment). Third, we will look forward to your active participation in events like the annual auction...our most important fundraising activity of the year. Fourth, we will have many opportunities for you to learn more about what CMH offers your children at the next grade levels.

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!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Chevalier'.

John Chevalier
CMH Board President

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us Saturday, April 13th from 6-10pm for **Spring in Provence** at the Marmalade Lily 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.

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!

For more information, contact Susan Maggard
maggard@cmhschool.com



SUMMER CAMP

Look for more information in the coming weeks about our 2019 Summer Camps.

Week 1: June 17-21

Week 2: June 24-28

Week 3: July 15-19

Week 4: July 22-26



ANNUAL FUND

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!