



# Alumni Newsletter



**Community Montessori School and  
Montessori Middle School of Kentucky**

[www.cmsmontessori.org](http://www.cmsmontessori.org)

Fall 2006

## Dear Former Students and Parents,

Just a word to tell you how grateful I am that we have an alumni committee that is working to be sure we have an alumni newsletter. This is the type of communication we have needed for a long time.

We have heard from many past students and parents since we started the newsletter. Several of you have e-mailed, written notes or called the school office. Every time this happens I share your information with all of the staff members. We are very interested in hearing about your life. Where do you live? Are you working? Do you have children? Are you in college?

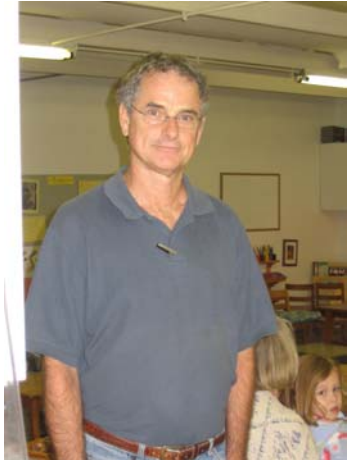
As most of you know, Mr. Ashby and I are living in the small white farm house on Stone Road. The house sits on the 12 + acres that the school has purchased for our new campus.

Do you remember that I had two sons? Joey was in the first three year old class when the school started in 1970. He married his high school sweetheart Kristi Terhune. They have three children. Joey works for an engineering firm in Louisville.

My other son, Jeremy, graduated from CMS in 1990. He is the executive chef at Azur Restaurant in Lexington. Jeremy got married last June. His wife Leslie Ann Asbury is from Maysville, Kentucky.

Please contact me. I want to hear from each of you. Let me know what's happening in your life.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Ashby



## Teacher Spotlight: Richard Franklin

By Melody Pennington-Cole

Who would bike to UK Hospital every day (for weeks) to see a student who had been in a car accident? Richard Franklin – or “Mr. Franklin”, as the students call him. Yes, this truly happened in the 1980’s. Richard Franklin has a long history with CMS/MMSK and is dedicated and caring teacher today.

Mr. Franklin hails from Elizabethtown, Kentucky and spent most of his young life there. He finished two years at Elizabethtown Community College before moving to Lexington. Once here, he completed his undergraduate degree in English from the University of Kentucky. Thereafter, Mr. Franklin was drafted, sent to Vietnam, and spent about 21 months in the military. Afterward, he went back to college on the GI Bill, taking many different courses trying to decide on his



**Oh, What a  
NIGHT!!!!**

**Friday,  
November 3, 2006  
7:00 pm**

**Keene Barn &  
Entertainment Center  
Keeneland Race Course,  
4201 Versailles Road**

**Tickets available at CMS office  
or through a current parent  
\$35.00 (in advance)  
\$40.00 (at the door)**

***Come join us!!!***

life's work. He finished his Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology (from UK), but ultimately decided to enter the field of education.

Mr. Franklin was briefly a bartender before starting at CMS, good to know before Celebration for Education! He started as an assistant in Miss Stickler's primary class (ages 3-5) in 1981. The next year, a teaching position opened and Mrs. Ashby convinced him to get his Montessori training in Washington, D.C. He says, "Mrs. Ashby convinced me to get trained on a Thursday and I was in D. C. by the following Monday!" After 9 months of training, Mr. Franklin became a primary teacher.

After two years at CMS, Mr. Franklin decided on a change. He went to work for the Lexington Health Department as a sex educator for surrounding communities. After the project evolved into locally run programs, Mr. Franklin started a neighborhood center in the Bluegrass Aspendale housing project. He ran the center for 12 years and saw it transform from an elementary-aged program to include students from grades 1-12, for which he received the Lexington Humanitarian Award. However, he eventually found his way back to our campus.

Around 2000, Mr. Franklin became the office manager for Montessori Middle School of Kentucky (MMSK) and stayed in the position for 5 years. Unexpectedly, a primary level teaching position opened up at CMS. Mr. Franklin team-taught the class in 2005-2006 with Susie Oldham and Marlene Owens, as assistant. It had been a while since teaching, so he acquired additional training with all the primary teachers, which as he says, "was a wonderful and invaluable experience!"

After a summer spent mostly working on his classroom, Mr. Franklin is teaching solo this year, with Marlene as assistant. When

asked what he would tell his former students who are adults, he says, "I want them to know they didn't scar me for life! I've grown a lot since teaching back then. I'm more patient and I still enjoy it. Kids are the same today as they were years ago."

Perhaps his growing patience results partly from becoming a parent. His 12-year-old daughter, Sofie, attends MMSK. They enjoy playing softball and camping together. If you would like to send your regards to Mr. Franklin, you may e-mail your memories to [jashby@cmsmontessori.org](mailto:jashby@cmsmontessori.org) or visit our website at [cmsmontessori.org](http://cmsmontessori.org).

## DID YOU KNOW??

Josh Hopkins,  
a former CMS student is  
a member of the cast of  
the new ABC series  
"Brothers and Sisters",  
on Sunday nights at  
10:00pm

### The Difference a School Makes By Bill Adams

If you attended CMS in the mid to late 70s, we may have known each other, or at least we were in the same building together. We shared the same rooms, learned from the same teachers, ran and laughed and played together... and picked up strange bugs and worms from the grass behind the school together? Anyone? Before it was the gym? Anyone? Hmmm.

I've attended both private school (CMS) and public school, and I'm sure many of you have also. If so, you know there's generally a world of difference between the two

types, most of which relates to *how* - not *what* - we learned. Maria Montessori's genius was in the simplicity of her method and the clear understanding that the educational environment should be set up to foster learning through natural curiosity. If I am interested, I will explore. If I explore, I will encounter. If I encounter, I will analyze. If I analyze, I will learn. Well, that's my novice take on it anyway. To me, it's a great way to experience the world at a young age.

The "CMS Era," as I like to call it, was a magical time for me, and the few years that I spent here left a lasting impression that remains to this day, some thirty years later. In fact, the school means so much to me that my wife and I have already sent one child to CMS and have another who will attend soon. We couldn't be happier. Her fellow students are friendly, her teacher is fantastic, and having her start the day with a hug (even if it's raining) from Mrs. Ashby is wonderful. All of these things are probably obvious reasons why parents might love a school, but something happened a few weeks ago that went straight to the heart of why we chose this one in particular.

The confirmation that my wife and I needed that we had made the right decision in having our girl attend CMS began as a discussion I had with my next-door-neighbor about where his kids go to school. They attend a public school here in Lexington, and they're the same age as my oldest daughter, and he thought it might be a good idea if my child went to the same school as his. I gave it some thought, looked into the school, thought about carpooling, considered the cost savings, and casually mentioned it to my girl one evening to get her reaction. She turned her head to look at me and said clearly, "I don't want to go to a sit down school." And without another thought she went back to playing.

There it was. A "sit down" school. She has heard this somewhere, I think, but perhaps that's irrelevant. Even at her age she understands the basic Maria Montessori philosophy... without knowing she knows it of course. It's not a knock on public schools, as there are certainly fine public schools. It isn't about public vs. private or rich vs. not-so-rich. It is about a natural learning method vs. a fabricated learning method. She is *actively* learning at CMS, and she is engaged in the education - not a recipient of someone's training. She will learn broadly and deeply because of the Montessori method, and the new school will only serve to enhance natural learning when it comes to fruition.

I think I mentioned we love CMS, didn't I? And I'm sure you do also. Really, what a difference a school makes.

## The Embodiment of Respect, Teamwork, and Community

By Mike Childress



The rough-and-tumble of the rugby field seems very different from the relative quiescence of the Montessori classroom, but Chris McGinley, a rugby player for the Lexington Blackstones since 1995 and a teacher at the Montessori Middle School of Kentucky (MMSK) since 2000, finds many parallels between the two. Respect, teamwork, and community constitute the ethos of rugby and represent fundamental values in the Montessori approach. There is camaraderie and consideration --a palpable sense of

community—displayed by bruised and battered rugby players at the conclusion of each game when they line up to shake hands and congratulate each other. Indeed, were Maria Montessori to witness this heartfelt demonstration of mutual respect, she would likely reveal a slight smile and offer an approving nod.

Mr. McGinley, affectionately known by his colleagues and students as "Ginley," began teaching humanities at MMSK 7 years ago. Originally from Andover, Massachusetts, just north of Boston, he graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a degree in English in 1988. Foreshadowing his current career trajectory, he took his freshly minted diploma to his old junior high school and began teaching English to middle school students, getting his first taste of the passion and enthusiasm that young minds bring to the old classics. Finishing out that semester, he moved to Lexington in 1988 to attend graduate school at the University of Kentucky, where he earned his M.A. and worked toward his Ph.D. in English.

In 2000 he was a full-time instructor in the English department at UK, attempting to imbue undergraduates with the same passion for American literature that those middle school students in Andover had years earlier. Yearning for students who embrace the exchange of ideas with more intellectual fervor, he responded to a job advertisement: *Teacher wanted, unconventional, interdisciplinary setting*. A short time later, he was a chaperone for a MMSK class trip to Key Largo.

Ginley loves teaching at MMSK. Whether it is literary analysis, historical revisionism, philosophical debate, or film criticism, he finds MMSK students sophisticated and insightful, able to demonstrate a range of thematic sensitivity and a grasp of literary subtlety that rival college undergrads. Their passion

fuels his drive to teach, giving him a strong sense of purpose. Despite his love of teaching young adults, he sees himself teaching youngsters at the lower elementary level someday. Ginley worked on his Montessori elementary certification for the past three summers, completing the requirements this year. First, however, he plans to finish writing a young adult novel about a female samurai warrior.

Despite the fundamental similarities between his vocation and avocation, there are also importance differences. Rugby has led to four broken fingers, three fractured ribs, and innumerable cuts, scrapes, and contusions. Conversely, he has yet to suffer his first injury while engaging and channeling energetic and creative minds through the meanings, nuances, and contours of philosophy, culture, history, literature, and film. For the near future, Ginley will continue to meld his two passions, rugby and teaching, and embody the core values of each: respect, teamwork, and community.

## A FUN AND EASY WAY TO HELP SUPPORT CMS/MMSK

We are using GoodSearch.com to search the Internet. Every time we do, money goes to our school. We hope you'll give it a try and support our school—a penny every search.

The site is powered by Yahoo!, so you'll get the same quality search results that you're used to. What's unique is that they have developed a way to direct money to our school with every click.

The more people who use this site, the more money will go to CMS/MMSK. So please spread the word to your friends and family.

Visit <http://www.goodsearch.com> and enter Community Montessori School as your charity. Try it today!



## Charitable Giving By Scott Neal

Giving to CMS is probably a way of life for most of the families that have had or currently have a child attending the school. Of course, we are right in the middle of the biggest (and only) capital campaign that the school has ever known. I have talked with a number of people who want to know if there are ways to give other than current income. In other words, they follow the principle of giving some of each paycheck to charitable causes. However, there are some very good ways to give that go beyond simply writing a check from current income. In fact, in addition to outright gifts from current income, there are at least nine ways to make charitable gifts. They are:

1. Use a charitable trust that provides current and/or future tax benefits.
2. Give stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or real estate that have appreciated in value.
3. Give tangible assets such as art, jewelry, antiques.
4. Give business inventory or crops.
5. Sell an asset to a charity at a bargain sale price.
6. Gift through a partnership or limited liability company.
7. Gift through your corporation.
8. Leave property in your will.
9. Use life insurance, in a variety of ways.

Each of these methods has, at its cornerstone, the longstanding recognition by Congress of the need for public support of charitable educational organizations. Through our tax code, Congress and the State have provided means to enhance our gifts, if we will but take advantage of those tools. Many of these methods may sound so exotic as to cause you not to even consider them. The value however, is too great to ignore. We encourage you to consult with your tax advisor about the long term gifting strategy that makes sense for your family. If you want to discuss these further, please call Katie Toffey 859-608-2456. We look forward to talking with each of our alumni in the near future.

### Site plan for Stone Road



### Proposed rendering of our future building



Visit the newly revised CMS & MMSK website at [www.cmsmontessori.org](http://www.cmsmontessori.org).

Thank you to alum and current parent, **Bill Adams**, and his company, **NetMedia One** for developing and hosting the website!

Journal **Science** releases new study in Sept. 29, 2006 issue:

## MONTESSORI EDUCATION PROVIDES BETTER OUTCOMES THAN TRADITIONAL METHODS, STUDY INDICATES

A study comparing outcomes of children at a public inner-city Montessori school with children who attended traditional schools indicates that Montessori education leads to children with better social and academic skills.

Montessori education is characterized by multi-age classrooms, a special set of educational materials, student-chosen work in long time blocks, a collaborative environment with student mentors, absence of grades and tests, and individual and small group instruction in academic and social skills. More than 5,000 schools in the United States, including 300 public schools, use the Montessori method.

The authors concluded that, "when strictly implemented, Montessori education fosters social and academic skills that are equal or superior to those fostered by a pool of other types of schools."

Lillard plans to continue the research by tracking the students from both groups over a longer period of time to determine long-term effects of Montessori versus traditional education. She also would like to replicate the study at other Montessori and traditional schools using a prospective design, and to examine whether specific Montessori practices are linked to specific outcomes.

**Please help us support these CMS & MMSK parent- run businesses that are giving back to the Capital Campaign. Alumni and past parents can help by taking part in these special promotions:**

**Mary Kay Cosmetics**  
**Parent: Stephanie Schoff**  
Phone number: 276-5063;  
E-mail: shschoff@insightbb.com

10% donation to Campaign on all orders from CMS & MMSK families

**Highbridge Spring Water Co.,**  
**Parent: Linda Slagel**  
859-858-4407;  
E-mail:  
info@highbridgesprings.com

Home/Office delivery of special label CMS/MMSK Bottled Water \$1.00 back to campaign for each case of 16.9 oz CMS/MMSK water sold

**StoneHorse Car Wash**  
**Parents: Bryan & Kelly Mullins,**  
2284 Versailles Road  
859-619-7512;  
E-mail: bryan@cgsautomation.com

\$1 back to the campaign for each "The Works" Car Wash, please turn receipt in to the school office.

**Azur Restaurant and Patio**  
**Parent: Rob Mudd**  
Lakecrest Circle in Beaumont  
Centre, Suite 550  
859-296-1007;  
www.azurrestaurant.com

10% of Azur's total net profits will be donated to the capital campaign at year-end.

**Premier Designs Jewelry**  
**Parent: Andrea Robinson**  
859.948.0298;  
E-mail:  
andrea@atdesignandillustration.com

30% donation to campaign on all orders from CMS/MMSK families.

**Scott Boggs, Realtor, Keller Williams Bluegrass Realty-**  
**Parent: Scott Boggs**  
859.221.8852;  
E-mail: smboggs@kw.com;  
www.scottboggs.com

Donating 10% of net profit from any real estate transaction involving a CMS/MMSK families or referral from same.

**Arbonne**  
**Parents: Michelle and John Campbell**  
859.519.6759;  
E-mail: camp\_rbon@yahoo.com

25% donation to the Campaign from all party and sales through CMS and MMSK families.

**Dream Dinners, Meal Preparation Service**  
**Parent: Beth Engel,**  
859.269.3563;  
E-mail:  
lexingtonky@dreamdinners.com

**Doyle & Baker, PSC**  
**Parent: Dr. Chris Baker**  
4009 Nicholasville Road,  
Lexington, KY  
859.272.3773;  
E-mail:  
drchris@doyleandbaker.com

10% donation to the campaign for new patients from CMS and MMSK.

**Have you relocated? Please provide your new information. Thank you!**

Name	
Maiden Name	
Street Address (apt. #)	
City, State, Zip	
Home Phone (area code)	
Alternate Phone (area code)	
Email Address	

Tell us about yourself. What have you been up to...marriage, birth of a child, new job, etc...?	
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Please provide any contact information on your classmates.	
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Thank you for taking time to update us.

**Please return this form to:**

**Community Montessori School**  
**166 Crestwood Drive**  
**Lexington, KY 40503**  
**859 277-4805**  
Or Email us at [Jashby@cmsmontessori.org](mailto:Jashby@cmsmontessori.org)

Community Montessori School  
166 Crestwood Drive  
Lexington, KY 40503

DO NOT FORWARD  
ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED