



## *From the Editor*

*For the last few years, we at CMS have not had a newsletter or any other format in which to put educational articles and ideas that might be useful to parents. Hence, Janet Ashby and I (Marnie Downs) have gotten together and brainstormed to create a list of frequently asked questions in hope of answering them in this bimonthly publication. My e-mail address will be listed on the back, so parents may write to me with other ideas for articles or to just comment on the newsletter as a whole, its usefulness, etc. I would so appreciate the feedback! I am also hoping to create a publication that contains information about all three levels so that parents with children in primary through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will hopefully get something useful as to their particular child(ren) and the level of their development.*

*This being the first newsletter, I felt it would be appropriate to focus on new families and the most important things they might need to know to begin the year. Some of the more important things new parents need to know are: how to become involved in their child's new school, how to get to know the other families here, how to ask questions, how to get close to their child's teacher, how to develop trust in their new school and feel secure and happy here. This is a lot, isn't it?! Let's start with the first "how to."*

## *Study Nights*

One of the best ways to become involved is to attend every single parent-teacher study night. These are well attended, enjoyable, casual, and informative presentations. There will be four of these each year, and this is an excellent way to:

- Get to know your child's teacher.
- Meet other new parents and "old timers."
- ASK LOTS OF QUESTIONS!
- Learn about the curriculum and understand the major areas of study particular to your child's level and age.

## *Fun Fair*

Another way to become quickly involved is to attend the yearly FUN FAIR. It will be held on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, after school (from 5:00 – 8). This is a wonderful event that is "run" by the teachers with the help of all of the parents! You will be asked by your child's teacher to work the fair for a half hour or an hour selling cookies or CMS cups, helping with the cake walk, face painting, or International Food Booth, etc. It is one of the most enjoyable events of the year, and it is a great way to mingle and meet other parents and new friends of your children too.

## ***Celebration for Education***

You will hear a lot about the yearly fund raiser entitled Celebration for Education, and you will be required to work this event. But fear not! Working it is truly enjoyable, and it is a great way to meet other parents as well as be of help to your school. It will be held at the Keeneland Barn, the evening of November 3rd and is a very beautiful event, one in which our whole school is proud to participate.

## ***Various Events***

There is an annual Holiday party in mid December, there are parent visiting nights in the 6-9 year old classrooms, there is a Science Fair and a Golf Scramble, and last but not least there is a Parent Social near the end of the year. You will be hearing about all of these events well before their scheduled times and they are all listed in your parent handbook. We want to keep our families well informed as well as create ways to enable parents to get together. Parents who are involved and feel close to the school are happy parents!!!

## ***Committees***

Those of you who attended the August parent meeting will have signed up for one of our school committees. The committees not only help our budget, they also help create a wonderful sense of community. When your children see the work you do for their school, be it planting, working in the library, or chaperoning a field trip, it becomes clear that it must be a place of great importance to the whole family.

Our committees are:

Carpentry and Maintenance ,  
Library,  
Alumni,  
Curricular Enhancement,  
Grounds and Landscaping,  
Social,  
Transportation,  
Celebration for Education.

All of us at CMS hope you have fun working on one of these!

## ***Your Child's Teacher***

Besides coming to the social and educational events, it is truly mandatory to develop a good relationship with your child's teacher. In this way you will come to trust where your child is going every day, all the new things that are happening to her (him). Each teacher has her( his ) own rules about phone calls after school, at home, etc., and all you have to do is ASK your child's teacher what is a good time to call. Parents in this school are encouraged to develop a good rapport with their child's teacher, to call when it is appropriate, to get to know the teacher, so you can relax in the knowledge that your child is well cared for. So get to know your child's teacher! The teachers in our school are very well trained, have had years of experience, are knowledgeable about child development, and

## *Your Child's Teacher cont.*

can be of service to you and your child in many ways. They can help you choose the right activities for your child (away from school) as well as educate you as to what might be helpful for your child at home as far as limit setting, boundaries, and behaviors. Your child's teacher will spend many hours with your child and will be experiencing her in a very different environment than home. Thus, the teacher might perceive your child differently than you do, and this can be very helpful indeed. For example, your child might show capabilities in the classroom, such as buttoning their own sweater, something you had not yet realized. Parent – teacher trust and involvement equals the best outcome for your child!

## *School Administrator*

Last but certainly not least, it is important to mention our school administrator, Janet Ashby. She is not kidding when she says to call her. Call her with any question, any concern, any time. She is truly an administrator who gets to know every single child in this school from the very first day. She loves the children and their families and is very clear that she is here to serve families, to "hold each child in her heart," to try and help both teachers and parents for the benefit of the child. Mrs. Ashby has over 35 years of experience as an administrator as well as being a Montessori mom having two sons who went to school here. So be encouraged to step in the door, pick up the phone, ask questions, voice concerns.

## ***GET INVOLVED!!!!***

Newsletter written by Marnie Downs, previously a primary level teacher at Community Montessori School, with the help of Barbara DeVille, a seasoned Montessori mother. If you would like to comment on any newsletter as to its usefulness, along with an idea or two as to what you would like to hear more about, e-mail her at [MDowns5@aol.com](mailto:MDowns5@aol.com).

Following is a partial list of some of the most frequently asked questions that will be addressed in this year's newsletter:

1. Why do you have only ONE teacher in a classroom of so many children? How can one teacher take care of so many much less teach them all?
2. What is Grace and Courtesy? That sounds so old fashioned!
3. The children all seem so busy. They seem to be free to do pretty much what they want. Is that true?
4. I've heard the phrase "sensitive period" but have no idea what that means?
5. My child just loves all the Disney characters, has seen all the movies and heard every single story...so why do you ask us not to allow our children to bring these books to school?
6. Why do you have three age levels in each classroom? What could be the benefit of that?
7. What is the "three hour work cycle"?
8. My child says she does the same thing over and over again. Won't she get bored? When does she get to move on to "more interesting" materials?

Any ideas for topics just e-mail Marnie Downs.