



Montessori Matters



Community Montessori School

Week of September 8, 2006

Special Note: Montessori Matters will be sent home every other week this year.

Please read it carefully for important school information.

Please also check: CMS Handbook or MMSK Handbook &

www.cmsmontessori.org for info & dates

A Note from Mrs. Ashby:

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child back to CMS for another school year. For those who are new to our community, I would like to extend a special welcome. I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

My major goal is for there to be consistent communication with me and with your child's teacher regarding your son or daughter's Montessori experience. I encourage you to call me and/or the teacher with your thoughts and concerns. We will need to work as a team to ensure your child's path to becoming an independent learner and their ability to develop personal responsibility and a strong work ethic. Your child's individual needs are foremost in our minds.

The parents in the lower and upper elementary levels, for the most part, have been with the school 6 to 9 years. They are also a good resource for answers to questions you might have about CMS activities.

Please call the office if you need information. The Parent Handbook is a good place to check if you have confusion.

My wish is that every family in CMS has the feeling that their thoughts, ideas, and participation is as important as the next family. Keep me informed if that is not the case.

Sincerely,
Janet Ashby
Administrator

P.S. I would like to extend an invitation to all parents—returning and new—to visit our 12 acres of land on Stone Road. Returning parents are acquainted with the land and the open invitation to bring your children to walk the land, see the stream or have a picnic on the deck. I live in the white farm house on the land. You are welcome to visit the land without notice to me. If I'm there I will try to come out and say "hi", if not, just enjoy yourself. This will be our new campus sometime in the future and I think it is important for the children to start to feel ownership

Just a reminder of several essential traffic and safety rules:

- 1. You must park on our side of the road, beyond our driveway. Do not park or use the opposite side of Crestwood Drive. No cars should be parking and letting out children or adults to cross the street, EVEN MOMENTARILY! We must follow this rule by request from the Fayette County Police Department.**
- 2. Once the assistants have come out to start arrival, you may not pull around the inside of the circle to pass a car.**
- 3. Please allow the assistants to open your vehicle's door and let out your student. Even older students need to wait for the assistant to open the door before they get out.**
- 4. Please remember that the assistants load the cars at the 3:00 dismissal but they do not fasten the student's seatbelt/car seat. Most of our older students are able to do this on their own. If your child needs special assistance, just let the assistant know.**

If this is confusing, please call the office and we'll try to talk you through it and help you better understand. These rules are for the safety of our students. We know it takes a while to get the routines down pat. Please make sure all your carpool drivers understand these rules also. Thank you so much for your help.

Remember that we hold our Board of Directors meeting every third Monday of the month. Parents are welcome and urged to attend. This month's meeting is Monday September 18, 2006 at the white house (Mrs. Ashby's house) 727 Stone Road at 7:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER CMS SCHOOL CALENDAR

- 11 Monday - Primary Level Extended Day Classes Begin**
- 15 Friday - FUN FAIR 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. See new start time of 5:00 p.m.**
- 21 Thursday - Primary Level Study Group**
 - Discussion of Extended Day begins at 6:30 p.m.**
 - Regular Study Group begins at 7:00 p.m.**
- 28 Thursday - Lower & Upper Elementary Parent Study Group at 7:00 p.m.**
 - Physical Ed. Discussion with Mr. Hickner 6:30 p.m.**

PRIMARY LEVEL – Franklin, Hughes, & Somsel:

The new children and returning children are rediscovering their classrooms and each other and the new assistants in Peggy and Mrs. Hughes' classes.

Extended day begins next week: 5 year olds stay for lunch and until the 3:00 p.m. dismissal time.

Please put names clearly on lunchboxes!! Try and send containers for foods so as to create as little waste as possible. No candy please and no soft drinks. No peanut or any tree nut products!

If your extended day child needs to leave early for any reason, please send in a note to the office and have Mrs. Davis come and get your child at the appropriate time. Thank you.

LOWER ELEMENTARY –Gray & Mason:

We are off to a great start. The new children have transitioned well. We had a fun and interesting trip to Hummel Planetarium with 3rd years. We are studying the Universe and the amazing particles that make up our Earth. Please check with your teacher if you don't have a job for Fun Fair.

UPPER ELEMENTARY -- Simpson & Spitz:

The 4th & 5th years are enjoying their study of Kentucky and work on their personal projects. The 5th years enjoyed a trip to Boonesboro and White Hall. The 6th years left Wednesday for their traditional Pine Mountain Environmental Study trip. They are scheduled to return today at 4:30 p.m. It has always been a wonderful opportunity to study at the center with such knowledgeable staff and teachers.

Lunch at school with your child?

Many parents like to come to school once or twice a year and have lunch with their child. You are most welcome. Please notify the school office and the classroom teacher. We will make sure there is a special place in the school library for you to have lunch with your child.

You are also welcome to take your child out to lunch. Just make every effort to have them back to school by the time class starts.

Mrs. Mason and Mrs. Gray's classes have recess at 11:30 a.m. & **Lunch at 12:00 p.m.**
Mrs. Spitz and Mrs. Simpson's classes have **Lunch at 11:30 a.m.** & recess at 12:00 p.m.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Mrs. Ashby

Administrator

AFTERSCHOOL NEWS: New Before and Afterschool Phone Number is 333-0020!!

The number on the Afterschool Packets will ring into the school office, but will no longer be used for the Before and Afterschool Program.

This year's programs will start as follows:

Spanish	Wednesday	Sept. 13 th
Art	Thursday	Sept. 14 th
Gymnastics	Monday	Sept. 18 th
Drum	Tuesday	Sept. 19 th
Quilting	Wednesday	Sept. 20 th
Yoga	Friday	Sept. 22 nd

Please remember to turn in your child's enrollment forms with emergency information and phone numbers and your sign up forms for any and all classes your child would like to attend. If you have sent in your forms, your child is in the class. If you have any questions, please call Miss Marlene. The sign up forms are included in your Afterschool packets .The office has extra Afterschool Packets if you need one. If you have not sent your forms for the classes you have chosen, please send them in ASAP.

September 15th is Fun Fair!!

Our part of the "fun" is a Magic Show at 4:00 p.m. Fun Fair starts at 5:00 p.m. on the school grounds. Everyone is invited to attend the Magic Show. Children 4 or younger may come to the magic show with adult supervision. We will dismiss from the primary level playground after the magic show. Students will be dismissed only when a parent or other designated adult comes to sign them out. If you know you won't get to school and the fair until after 5:00 p.m., please make every effort to ask another parent to sign your child out of afterschool. We really want each & every child to be able to start participating at 5:00 p.m. We cannot let any students go to the Fun Fair without being signed out from the Afterschool Program. If your child will be checked out by another parent, please send a note into the office to let us know. Please remember to send money with your child too. :)

MONTESSORI MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS:

The students left bright and early on Saturday morning August 26th , pulling off on buses with excitement and energy abounding for Grand Manan Island—Whale Camp. They settled in well and had an amazing week. This is the 3rd time our middle school has had the Whale Camp experience and it has been wonderful for all involved. It is an amazing component to the curriculum and a bonding experience that sets up the entire year of learning and being part of the middle school.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest member of the teaching team at MMSK: Bernie DeVille. Mr. DeVille has been a part of our CMS family for the past nine years—his son Julian is currently a 6th year in our upper elementary program. He has worked for the past 16 years with Joseph-Beth Booksellers. Their loss is our gain! We are thrilled to have his energy, enthusiasm, and skills as part of our adolescent program.

MONTESSORI SCHOOL BAND NEWS:

Parents,

If your child is interested in our school band, please contact Mr. Hickner at school or home (296-1346). He is also available for private lessons if your child has expressed an interest.

Beginner band meets on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m..

Level II band meets on Thursdays 3:30 p.m.

Level III band meets on Fridays at 3:30 p.m.

PARENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Fewer allergic kids exposed to peanuts by mistake

August 29, 2006 Yahoo News

By Amy Norton

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Children with peanut allergies may be less likely to accidentally eat peanut-containing foods than in years past, but the problem still needs attention, a Canadian study suggests.

In a study of 252 children with peanut allergy, researchers found that over a year, about 14 percent accidentally ingested peanut allergens. That's lower than what's been reported in previous studies -- suggesting, according to the study authors, that preventive measures are helping.

Greater public awareness of peanut allergy, "safer environments" -- like peanut-free schools -- and changes in food manufacturing and labeling may all be helping to reduce children's accidental exposures, study co-author Dr. Ann Clarke told Reuters Health.

But the 14-percent rate shows there's still room for improvement, according to Clarke, an associate professor of medicine at McGill University in Montreal.

What's more, she and her colleagues found that when children did have moderate to severe reactions to peanuts, they were usually not given epinephrine, a self-injected medication that's the treatment of choice for serious reactions. And in more than half of these cases, parents and other caregivers failed to seek medical attention.

"Accidental reactions tend to be treated inappropriately," Clarke said, adding that parents and caregivers may need better education on managing such situations.

She and her colleagues report their results in the Journal of Allergy & Clinical Immunology.

Peanuts are one of the most common food allergens, and exposure to even trace amounts can trigger sometimes life-threatening allergic reactions. Symptoms range from itchy, red skin and hives to breathing difficulties, severe blood pressure drops and loss of consciousness.

Avoiding peanuts can be tricky because many prepared foods contain peanut products, while other foods come in contact with peanut proteins during processing, which can be enough to trigger an allergic reaction. Parents have to read labels carefully and alert other adults in their child's life to the importance of peanut avoidance.

To help prevent children's accidental exposure, many schools have banned peanut-containing foods; most children in the current study went to a peanut-free school.

Perhaps because of this, accidental peanut ingestion most often happened at home or at a friend's or relative's house.

It's not clear why these incidents occurred, but Clarke and her colleagues speculate that at least some were caused by "mislabeling" on food products or caregivers' misreading of labels.

Better education on peanut avoidance for parents, along with tougher standards for food manufacturing and labeling, might help prevent more accidental exposures, the researchers conclude.

In the U.S., a federal law went into effect this year requiring product labels to clearly state whether a food contains proteins from peanuts or any of seven other major food allergens.

SOURCE: Journal of Allergy & Clinical Immunology, August 2006.

More Peanut Butter Info:

One of our families has found a website that carries nut free, dairy free, egg free baking mixes, etc. Feel free to check out this site if you are interested: www.cherrybrookkitchen.com

***Meijer's carries mixes from this company. One of our families sent in frosted sugar cookies made with 2 of their mixes and the students loved them!! See the attached photocopies of the boxes' labels.

COMMITTEE NOTES:

Grounds Committee—the committee has already had its first work session of the new school year clearing out overgrown bushes and tree branches and weeding and mulching all around the building before our first day of school. Many thanks for your hard work...we can really tell a difference.

Celebration for Education Committee—To all committee members New & Old: The committee met on Wednesday, Sept. 6th at 7:00 p.m. on Mrs. Ashby's deck at 727 Stone Road (the "white house" on the land.) We had a very good meeting and we are so excited to be getting our CFE 2006 "Oh what a night!" off with a bang. If you were not at the meeting, please call Todd Hamill at 269-7408 and he will update you on when the next meeting is and what you need to be doing! You will hear more from this committee as the days go by. **Parent Packets coming soon!!!**

Library Committee—the committee is up and running well. All our volunteers have their schedules set and are really enjoying being directly involved with our students. All the elementary students have had their initial training sessions and are enthusiastically using the library. They are very glad to be back among the shelves and doing research for all of their studies. We are also gearing up for the **Book Fair** held in conjunction with our Fun Fair Friday Sept. 15th 5 – 8:00 p.m. and Monday-Wed. Sept. 18, 19, 20.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>
Monday, 11 th	Linda Slagel	Karen Hilty
Tuesday, 12 th	Kushi Reddy	Katie O'Brien
Wednesday, 13 th	Lois Ward	Stephanie Schoff
Thursday, 14 th	Carmen Wampler-Collins	Julie McDaniel
Friday, 15 th	Jan Hellebusch	Philip Wahle

FOR SALE:

Peggy Somsel has finches for sale. She has a grey zebra and white zebra that need to be sold as a pair. They live 5 – 7 years. Call Peggy at 278-5529.



We are at an EXCITING point in the capital campaign – halfway to breaking ground for Phase I construction! We have raised over \$1 million and we need to secure an additional \$1 million in commitments before construction can begin.

- The PERCENTAGE of parent participation is the key. We need 100% participation by parents.
- We are currently working on these additional sources of funding: foundations, major corporations, alumni and past parent donatons, in-kind donations, stocks, etc.

Starting next week, Kerry Hamblin, the campaign vice-chair and Katie Toffey, the Campaign Manager, will begin phoning our returning families from whom we do not have commitments yet. We would like to set up appointments and meet with each family individually. Our goal is to wrap up commitments from our returning family body by October 15, 2006.

New families will receive the Capital Campaign materials in October and informational meetings regarding the campaign will be scheduled in January.

We need everyone’s help to make our vision of the new school for our children a reality. Please put careful thought into what your family is capable of giving to the capital campaign. We also encourage everyone to think about contacts they may have - locally and beyond, from individuals and corporations - they may be an additional source of funding for the campaign.

If you have any questions, please call Katie Toffey at school or on her cell phone at 608-2456. She can also be reached by e-mail at ktoffey@cmsmontessori.org.

The school is updating our email address book. Please send your address ASAP in to the school office on the following form. Committee chairs often use email to communicate in a timely fashion with their volunteers, we send Montessori Matters every other week by email, and sometimes other notices may be sent in this format as well as printed matter. **We do not ever send any information of a personal matter by email.** If you have any questions, please feel free to call Mrs. Ashby or Ann Evans.

UPDATES & ADDITIONS FAMILY EMAIL ADDRESSES: Sept. 2006
Please detach this form and send it into the CMS office ASAP

Father’s Name: _____ Email: _____
Mother’s Name: _____ Email: _____

Please make the following corrections to your Parent Handbook:

Delete:

Kyle Estebo	Patterson Callahan
Luke Yurkoski	Anna Callahan
Emily McClain	Landon Callahan

Add:

MaKenna Goff	338-2757
Mindy Goff	
3405 Hyannisport Dr. 40503	

Shane Cochran	699-0469
227 Koster St. 40503	

Tilda Wildinon	278-0192	Hughes
Marshall & Rebecca Wilkinson		
126 Greenbriar Rd. 40503		

Huon Wilkinson	278-0192	Franklin
(Same as Above)		

Peggy Somsel's New Assistant:	
Kriis Zeps	277-1003
110 Lackawanna Rd.	
Lexington, KY 40503	

New Addresses:

Taryn Thomas	
4849 Bud Lane 40514	

Marin Hillard	
572 Judy Lane 40505	

Correct phone number for:

Cathe Mason (Teacher)	608-8728	*IMPORTANT—PLEASE NOTE
-------------------------	----------	--------------------------

Kaitlyn & Hunter Hayes	879-6850
------------------------	----------

Mia Lundy	229-6271
-----------	----------

Shankar & Ananth Miller-Murthy	Dad's Cell 321-3767
	Mom's Cell 321-3235

Special Thanks to Wilhite Company for the donation of their crane, time, labor and absolute patience with our MMSK students in placing the new truss bridge over the stream on our Stone Road Land!! The bridge building project has been an amazing undertaking by the students and staff of the middle school. With the help of Wilhite Co. & coordination by Rob Mudd with **Denham-Blythe**, we were able to move the bridge into place on Monday August 14! Be sure to stop by either school office to see the wonderful write up that was in the Lexington Herald-Leader earlier this summer.