



... a good start!

Montessori Matters



Community Montessori School & Montessori Middle School of Kentucky

Week of October 5, 2006

A Note from Mrs. Ashby:

CMS Car Seat Requirements: Because we take our students out for field trips and other experiences off campus, we want you to be aware of our steps to insure our students' safety when they are riding in cars off site.

Students in Extended Day through 2nd grade, unless they are taller than 4'9" when on school outings will be equipped with:

1. High back booster or car seats
2. Lap/Shoulder straps
3. Seat Belts

Students in 3rd grade who don't meet the height standards need the same requirements.

If the parents send a low back booster seat, we will provide the high back booster or car seat.

Parents who have established standards different from those above need to understand we are not questioning their decision but as a school, and out of respect for the drivers who are volunteering for the school, and providing the utmost safety for our students, we need to rise to the highest level of safety on our trips.

Attention: Last Spring 2 of our high back boosters were used during trips and they have not been returned. Please check carefully around your home to see if you might still have a CMS high back booster seat and return it to school as soon as possible. Thanks!!

CMS OCTOBER SCHOOL CALENDAR

October	5	Thursday @	MMSK Technology/computer parent meeting from 6:30 to 8:00 4 th , 5 th , & 6 th grade parents are welcome to attend!!
	6	Friday	NO SCHOOL: Teachers Professional Visiting Day ALL DAY PROGRAM OFFERED IN THE GYM
	16	Monday	Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 p.m.
	17	Tuesday	School Picture Day
	19	Thursday	Primary Level Study Group: Extended Day PE Discussion 6:30 p.m. Classroom Topics 7:00 p.m.
	20	Friday	CFE Donations and program advertisements due
	26	Thursday	Visiting Night: Lower Elementary 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Parent Study Group: Upper Elementary 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

PRIMARY LEVEL – Franklin, Hughes, & Somsel:

We always need fresh flowers for the primary classrooms—please send flowers in when you can. The students use them in a variety of ways. All three classes will be planting bulbs this month—we are requesting donations from parents—any type are fine—Thanks!! Peggy, Jennifer, Richard

Franklin: In time for fall colors, we are beginning our study of trees. We are learning about Australia this week.

Hughes: We have had so much fun studying shells. The extended day children visited the Headley-Whitney Museum and toured the shell grotto that was truly amazing. We will start our study of fish soon, with an outing to “Just Fish” in connection with learning the names of different types of fish.

Somsel: Insects, spiders, centipedes, millipedes and harvestmen were studied the past few weeks. The Extended Day students went to McConnell Springs to view the animals live. Thanks to all the parents who attended the first study group—we all love sharing our knowledge of Montessori.

LOWER ELEMENTARY –Gray & Mason:

- Great study group!! Lots of good questions and sharing.
- Halloween biographies will be presented Tuesday October 31 starting at 8:55 a.m. in your child’s classroom. Parents are welcome, so mark your calendars. (2 guests per child, please, due to limited space in the classrooms)

UPPER ELEMENTARY -- Simpson & Spitz:

- Upper Elementary has gone “down under”! Hints: plastic mantle, magma, subduction, plate tectonics, can you guess? Yes, we are becoming geologists studying the Devonian Seas that long ago covered Kentucky and parts of the U.S.
- Our trip to the Falls of the Ohio is coming up Tuesday, October 10th and we are looking forward to seeing first hand some of the colonial corals and stromatoporoid sponges that were learned about.
- Coming soon: The Meeting of the Minds!

AFTERSCHOOL NEWS:

Remember our All Day Program is available tomorrow Friday Oct. 6th for students in Extended Day through 6th Grade. 7:20 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Please remember to send a lunch with your child if they will be here during lunch time :)

Class Updates:

- Spanish Class can accept more students.
- Quilting Class can accept 5 more students.
- Art Class with Mr. Frank Boyer will start today!
- Drum Class is Full.

MONTESSORI MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS:

The middle school students are having their annual Bike-a-thon tomorrow. The students will accept a pledge for so much per mile or just a set donation. These donations will go to children in Lexington who need clothing, school supplies, and other items. After the students earn the money, they plan what they need to buy, and then shop for the items that they will give to the children they are helping. This bike-a-thon is a wonderful event—it has happened in a variety of forms for 8 years! If you would like to make a contribution, call Janinne in the MMSK office at 277-1169 or speak with any MMSK student.

Thanks!!

COMMITTEE NOTES:

Alumni Committee: Our committee had its orientation meeting this Wednesday. We got to meet the members of our committee and also handed out assignments to start our first project of the school year—Fall Alumni Newsletter.

Celebration for Education Committee:

Four French hens...

Fantastic Four...

Four weeks in a month...

Final Four...

FOUR WEEKS UNTIL CFE!

CFE Tips of the Week:

- 1. We need your donations as soon as possible!** Don't want to ask a merchant for an auction donation? Buy a Gift Card for a popular business and let that be your donation: Starbucks, Meijer, Macy's, etc. Remember to complete the donation form and attach it to your auction contribution. If you have any questions, just ask in the office. If you need additional donation forms, you may get them in the office or go online to download a form. **OH! What a night!**
- 2. The good shifts are quickly disappearing in our worker notebook.** Come in and sign up for your "job" as soon as possible to ensure you get the job and shift that you prefer. Just remember that all shifts must be filled, and the early shifts go fast! This is one of your parent requirements to fulfill your obligation to our wonderful fund raiser. **OH! What a night!**

Quote of the Week:

"Loved the dancing at the end. It makes the evening complete"

--Anonymous

***The credit card machine is ready to use in the office
if you would like to pay for your tickets in this way!!**

***There will be two meetings of the full CEF committee in October. Committee members please mark your calendars for Wed. Oct. 11 and Wed. Oct. 25.

***Also, Leslie Bales' CFE team members will meet at 8:30 am Tuesday mornings in October in Jock's Gym starting on October 10th and ending October 24th.

Transportation Committee—We had our orientation meeting this week to update our drivers for this year's exciting field trips, cultural experiences, going outs, etc. We have already called on our drivers for 7 excursions! This committee can always use more drivers. Please call Diana in the CMS office if you would be able to help the school in this way.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>
Monday, 9 th	Linda Slagel	Karen Hilty
Tuesday, 10 th	Kushi Reddy	Mary Lamm
Wednesday, 11 th	Lois Ward	Stephanie Schoff
Thursday, 12 th	Carmen Wampler-Collins	Julie McDaniel
Friday, 13 th	Jan Hellebusch	Patty Webb
Monday, 16 th	Sally Wahle	Keri Hayes
Tuesday, 17 th	Stacey Pitt	Trena Thomas
Wednesday, 18 th	Kristi Lancianese	Katie O'Brien
Thursday, 19 th	Ellen Downs	Ellen Demos
Friday, 20 th	Dick & Diana Martin	Philip Wahle

FOR SALE:

50" Big Screen TV 5 years old, perfect working order, good condition. \$300.00
Call Chris & Lauren Howard at 983-7426.

Needed:

CAT TAILS needed for CFE decorations. If you or anyone you know have access to real cattails, please bring them into CMS the week of Oct. 30th!! Call Alyson Jeter at 396-9877 if you can do this.



Observations from the Campaign Team... Why? Do we really need a new building?

Every time there is a heavy rain in Lexington (and sometimes even a light rain) a sense of panic rises in me wondering if water is coming into the CMS building. I am not alone in this feeling – it is a sensation that runs through all of the CMS staff.

When I arrived at school last Monday morning, after the heavy rains and flooding in Lexington, everything at school appeared normal. The children were skipping down the sidewalk and greeting Mrs. Ashby on the way to their classrooms. Little does everyone know the work that occurred over the weekend to prepare the building for school on Monday. As I listened to the staff talk throughout that day I heard stories of teachers coming in on Saturday to see what needed to be done, and then finding other staff members already here. Many people worked throughout the weekend cleaning up the water that rushed into the primary level classes – this past rain brought water into all three! Yet, the school was ready for the children Monday morning!

It reminded me of a Board Meeting I attended a few years ago when it began to downpour. The group assembled immediately jumped into action to tackle the flooding. Some of us were inside with towels; some of us were outside – in the downpour – clearing the area where the water was coming in. It was a routine that was too familiar to this group, each person knew just what to do – they had done it so many times before. Janinne Johnson and I ran around in search of a camera to try and document the response to the flooding; *this is the piece that often times our families do not see first hand.*

We have such a devoted and hard working staff that takes care of the many building issues that exist, but sometimes I wondered if they do too good of a job; too many times our families are not aware of how real these problems are. I wish you could be in the building each day as I am, not only to see the beautiful Montessori Method in action, but also to see Mrs. Ashby or another staff member running to plunge the toilets because of a poor and unfixable plumbing system, or Mr. Hickner climbing on the roof to work on the aging heating and air system... and always, the flooding problems that we have in the building.

When I think about the vision for the new campus I am thrilled and excited by the many educational opportunities that will be available to CMS and MMSK children. It will truly be the complete vision of Maria Montessori’s educational plan and how lucky we will be – *how lucky our children will be* – to have this unique educational experience. The added bonus of the new facility will be a fresh start for our staff ... to be free of the continual maintenance problems that they handle so well each and everyday.

Katie Toffey
Campaign Manager

Remember to check our website for news and information @ Cmsmontessori.org

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.