



Montessori Matters



Community Montessori School

Week of February 9, 2007



Important Notes from Mrs. Ashby:

I thought this letter was a good follow-up to the Combined Parent Study Group that was held on January 25th. This was written a few years ago by a former CMS parent!

Joy, Open Arms, and Happiness

We are looking at the end of an era in our family. We have had a child attending either CMS or MMSK for the last 11 years. Our last graduates from MMSK in May. It has been a sweet 11 years. I have laughed as primary teachers worked to encourage my small children to behave in civilized and responsible ways. I have been moved to tears as I have watched extended day, elementary and middle school teachers work with my maturing children to learn to deal with the frustrations and difficulties involved in absorbing not only new subject matter, but also (and more importantly) as they have learned how to navigate the intricacies of getting along with others. I asked one of my children recently what he had learned from Mrs. Farrar. "Oh, Mom, she wouldn't let me give up when I couldn't understand math." The beauty of a good Montessori education is that no one gives up.

Besides being a parent watching my children learn, however, I have another interesting vantage point for observing the value of a Montessori education. I teach at a local high school and I have had the opportunity to watch Montessori children relate to their peers and teachers after they move into a far less nurturing and more "real world" atmosphere. I see lessons these students learned as children applied after the Montessori teachers and administrators have let go. Here is a sampling of what I have seen. I can pair a student in trouble with a Montessori child and both succeed. Respect for others and the ability to work with another person comes with very little effort to these adolescents. It is touching to watch them extend themselves in kind and helpful ways. Another lesson that seems to be second nature to these children is that they are responsible for themselves, In a world where so many adolescents want to shift blame and ownership for anything and everything, the Montessori students are very willing to own their own lives. Wonderful! The third thing I have observed is that the Montessori children are comfortable analyzing information and making decisions. This makes them good leaders. Recently one CMS student was valedictorian of her class at our school while another was Senior class president and spoke at graduation. He encouraged his peers to change the world as they embraced it. These children are amazing. They have had a very good start.

Not long ago during a lull in a class, I watched a former CMS student make a basketball hoop from a box, attach it to a board and get a game of ball going. These students are risk takers, they are creative and they enjoy life. They confidently share these attributes with their peers. It is heartening and gratifying to know with a certainty that the lessons they bring from their early years will stand them in good stead as they become adults. Thank you CMS. Thank you MMSK.

CMS FEBRUARY- MARCH CALENDAR

February

11	Sunday	New Parent Meeting on the Land 3:30 p.m. Childcare available at CMS starting at 3:00 p.m.
16	Friday	NO SCHOOL--Teacher Professional Day All Day Program Available
19	Monday	NO SCHOOL--President's Day Holiday NO All Day Program Available **Parents Day Out Program available: see info below
22	Thursday	Primary Level Study Group 7:00 p.m.
26	Monday	CMS/MMSK Board of Directors meeting 7:30 p.m. at CMS

March

1	Thursday	Visiting Night Lower Elementary (Gray/Mason) 6-7:00 p.m.
9	Friday	Parent/Teacher Conferences All Day Program Available 3 & 4's may use the All Day Program during Family Conference Time ONLY—Call the Office with Questions
16	Friday	Parent/Teacher Conferences All Day Program Available 3 & 4's may use the All Day Program during Family Conference Time ONLY—Call the Office with Questions
19	Monday	CMS/MMSK Board of Directors meeting 7:30 p.m. at CMS
24	Saturday	Science Discovery Fair in Jock's Gym 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. All Families & Friends Welcome!

Parents Day Out

CMS Jock's Gym
Monday, February 19th, 2007
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Fund Raiser for MMSK MMUN Trip
Games & Activities, Pizza Lunch & Snacks

Several MMSK students and parents will host a Parents Day Out at CMS on Monday, February 19th

Will help raise funds for the Montessori Model United Nations trip to New York City.

There will be games and activities for children ages 3 years old through 6th grade.

Fee: \$30 per child for Full Day

\$20 for ½ day (less than 3 hours)

If more than 1 child per family:

the fee for full day will be \$30 for 1 child &

\$20 for each additional sibling. ½ day fee is \$20 per child

Please RSVP by 5:00 p.m. Friday, February 16th

Email: dionamullins@aol.com or

Call 859-231-6906

Specify: Parent Name

Emergency Phone Number

Child's Name and Age

Note if child has any food allergies

PRIMARY LEVEL – Franklin, Hughes, & Somsel:

Franklin: We are continuing to study fish and the extended day students are hoping to visit Just Fish Shop after two postponements.

Hughes: We started our study of reptiles this week. We have also been discussing dental health. The extended days will be visiting Dr. Rebecca Wheeler’s dental office on February 23rd in conjunction with National Dental Health Awareness Month (Feb.)

Somsel: We are celebrating African American month learning about different people past and present. We’re enjoying the snow and learning about it!

LOWER ELEMENTARY –Gray & Mason:

****Both classes are looking forward to the Valentine’s Day “Read Your Heart Out” event!
If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office.****

Gray: We are gearing up for our play “Frog and Toad”...busy making props and music and having fun. Sorry for the postponement of the play. Dress rehearsal is today and the play will be Monday and Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. both days. Thanks for your patience. We look forward to seeing you next week.

Mason: The play was a wonderful success! Congratulations to all the students.

UPPER ELEMENTARY -- Simpson & Spitz:

The fourth and fifth year students are finishing up notes for their research papers. All students are engaged in the study of the Renaissance and personal projects. The sixth years had a visit from “the vulture”, who helped them in learning Latin sounds. Nineteen students attended the Book Club meeting Monday, February 5th at Fazoli’s...Mama Mia! We had wonderful food and discussions about the book Wings. We are enjoying Read Your Heart Out Month by reading and getting ready for the 9-12 Coffee House on Valentine’s Day.

NEWS FROM MR. HICKNER:

If your child wears “Crocs” to school, please send in tennis shoes for PE classes. The crocs do not stay on the children’s feet in PE class as we are doing our activities & this can be a safety issue. Thanks!

AFTERSCHOOL NEWS:

Adult Drum Class with Tripp Bratton has begun. ☺

We meet on Tuesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

The cost is \$10 per class—there is no charge for any class that you do not attend.

Our next class is on Tuesday February 13th.

There is room for 6 more people, more if you have your own drum.

This is a fun class!! Please join us!

LIBRARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>
Monday, 12 th	Linda Slagel	Karen Hilty
Tuesday, 13 th	Stacey Pitt	Mary Lamm
Wednesday, 14 th	Lois Ward	Stephanie Schoff
Thursday, 15 th	Carmen Wampler-Collins	Julie McDaniel
Friday, 16 th	Jan Hellebusch	Patty Webb

