



MONTESSORI MATTERS



Community Montessori School

Week of February 6, 2009

REMINDER:

Contracts for the 2009-2010 School Year were due on Monday, January 26, 2009.
Please turn your contract into the CMS Office as soon as possible.
If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Ashby or Marla Ross 277-4805 ASAP!

We like to support our former CMS students in their various careers and endeavors—
to that end we would like to tell you about Josh Hopkins, former student,
who will be in several episodes of “Private Practice” soon!

Note from Mrs. Ashby

Thank you for your patience during these last bad weather days. I hope you were able to get the information you needed about openings and closings in a timely manner. I would like to say again that it has always been the intention at Community Montessori School to stay open if at all possible.

Through the years, snow has never been a big problem. Always when we have had to miss more than one day it has been due to ice. We do not delay schedules. Someone, usually me, can always be here on time if we are going to be here at all and it just makes sense to keep our regular hours.

Also, once we are in session, we will not dismiss early. However, parents are always welcomed and encouraged to come get their child early if their hearts or situations feel that is the best for their family.

Keep in mind that the TV and radio stations do not announce that schools are open, just closings. You can always give me a call: 859-338-8767. Mrs. Evans and I are usually at school no later than 7:15 a.m. so you can call the school after that time.

February & March CMS 2009 SCHOOL CALENDAR

February	13	Friday	No School—Guides Professional Day All Day/Drop-In Program available in the Gym
	16	Monday	No School—Presidents Day NO All Day/Drop-In Program available in the Gym
	19	Thursday	Primary Level Parents Study Group
	26	Thursday	Lower Elementary Visiting Night 6:00 – 7:00 p.m
March	6	Friday	No School—Parent/Guide Conference Day All Day/Drop-In Program available in the Gym
	13	Friday	No School—Parent/Guide Conference Day All Day/Drop-In Program available in the Gym
	21	Saturday	Science Discovery Fair—Jock’s Gym 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
	27,30,31	Fri, Mon, Tues	No School—Spring Break

PRIMARY LEVEL – Franklin, Hughes, Somsel:

***We are in need of girls underwear sizes 3 to 6 to keep in our emergency clothes. If you have any that you can donate, please send them into school in a bag marked “Emergency Clothes”. Thank you!

Franklin: We are in the midst of our Asia study. We have 8 children in our class with recent ancestry in this vast continent. We are also beginning our study of fish.

Hughes: The children are settling in nicely. There is lots of wonderful work happening every day. We are studying amphibians. The children are excited about the new things they are learning about them.

Somsel: The class is studying fish. The extended day students have done several service projects for the school—leaf raking and tree pod clean-up.

LOWER ELEMENTARY - Gray & Mason

Gray: Class Play Dates and performance times are as follows:

Tuesday Feb. 10 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday Feb. 11 10:00 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.

Wednesday Feb. 11 at 10:00 a.m. has been set aside as a parent performance date.

If you cannot make this performance,
please call the school office (277-4805) & tell us which performance you plan to attend.
Space is very limited and the other performances have at least 40 children attending.

Mason: Our class has started working on Shakespeare’s “Hamlet”. Performances will be Tuesday thru Thursday March 3, 4, and 5. Exact times to be announced—generally one performance in the morning and one in the afternoon each day.

UPPER ELEMENTARY - Simpson & Spitz

Upper Elementary has been working on interesting research in the areas of botany, zoology, and history. We will be celebrating Chinese New Year’s this week (since the snow froze our plans last week) with crafts and tasty Chinese food by our cooking groups on Friday. Next week we will have a Coffee House Thursday afternoon of Read Your Heart Out Day—Feb. 12th. The students may share their creative writings and poetry with their friends and a special treat will be served.

PARENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Half Price Sale!!! Nice pool table with all accessories: **\$200** To inquire or view, please call Richard Franklin at 268-4430.

2. Attention Parents of 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Girls

In January, your daughters received an invitation to enroll in the new Girls on the Run Lexington group at Providence Montessori. Because of the inclement weather, the deadline has been extended to Feb. 12th with a start date of February 17th. If your daughter is interested in participating, please email your intent to register to Lynda Ison (Lynda.Ison@uky.edu) Lynda is one of our middle school parents.



Notes from the Capital Campaign Trail...

The Bridge to the Future Capital Campaign just received a **\$25,000 grant from the Humana Foundation**. This grant is a match to a donor's contribution. **This brings our total in gifts and pledges to: \$1,950,000!**

Mrs. Ashby and Katie Toffey had the pleasure of meeting with some of our new families at the parent study group last month to discuss the history of CMS and the Capital Campaign. Additional informational meetings will be schedule for early March for the rest of the new families. Campaign brochures will be sent home next week.

A flyer is attached regarding a program H & R Block is offering where they will make a donation to CMS for new clients. We want to bring this to our families' attention, but please feel under no obligation to participate. Just as with Kroger cards and Target, this is a way for school to earn rewards for money that families are already spending.

Official building construction will soon be underway for the MMSK building on Stone Road. Stay tuned for ground-breaking details!

EXPECTATIONS

(Written by: Marnie Downs, retired Primary teacher of CMS)

Lately I have been thinking about parents and the powerful role they play in the lives of their children. This can be very daunting if you have never been a parent before! Most only get one or two chances to “get it right” and as they will discover, there is no such thing. There is only huge effort, total love, and great commitment. I write these articles in hope of making parenting just a little more enjoyable and a smidgeon easier. Parents deserve all the breaks they can get and more.

Right at the start I will tell you that your child should not be the CENTER of the family around which all else turns. They need to be a family MEMBER: each important one to the other. They need to be given real tasks and then expected to fulfill them. They see their parents as living examples of what *they* will look and act like as adults (that can be daunting), so what you expect of yourselves comes into play here. It is what you SHOW your children that is the true teaching. Forget all that talking. By the age of 2 they have already stopped listening to all the repeated phrases and endless pleas. What you do, they do. How you behave is how they learn how human beings behave. The family is their very first “group” experience and it is here that they learn the value of work.

Age-appropriate expectations mean gearing tasks to the ability of your child. A two year old can sort socks by color while an older child can be expected to put them away. Please realize that no task is appropriate without first having SEEN you do it (a lesson). Do not expect the child to do it AS AN ADULT but as a child, i.e. a beginner. Four year olds can set a lovely table while another pours the water. They are capable of clearing the dishes and washing and drying them too. Just don't expect them to do any of this without mistakes, accidents, and difficulties. By watching them you will see what part of the task you have left out. No biggie! Kids LOVE it when a parent says, “Wow! I forgot tell you about that!” and then proceeds to show what was forgotten. This also teaches them that mistakes are part of learning, for adults as well as children. Break a task down into parts. Such as, instead of “go and clean up your room “ (too huge and therefore it just doesn't get done) ”Could you please put your stuffed animals in that container we got for them?” Rather than “Go and clean up your desk”, you might teach how that is done. Make sure there are areas designated for pencils and pens, paper, painting things, etc. Then the child has a VISUAL concept of what a “clean desk” even looks like. Very helpful. Once the child has lots of experience in whatever their tasks are it is fun for them when you enthusiastically say things like: “You are the MASTER of table setting!” And “you are the folder extraordinaire of our family!” Then it is the task that has the focus. When it is you, the parent, who is the focus (exhibiting authority) it doesn't go well. Kids know you are the authority already. What they don't know is the pleasure of a job well done! You can teach this.

Children need expectations to know that they are able to do things. If you do everything for them and expect little, the unspoken message is that they are not important and also not capable of important tasks. My father would tell me to do something and then barge in and do it himself. The message: I was not doing it “right”, not doing it to his satisfaction, and evidently not capable. Did I ever want to do that task again? Guess.

Please e-mail me (address in the office) and let me know of things you would like to hear more about. I want very much to be of service to families and to help parents in any way possible. You all deserve information and lots of support!!