



# MONTESSORI MATTERS



Community Montessori School

Week of October 8, 2009

## REMEMBER:

**NO SCHOOL FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup>—MONTESSORI GUIDES PROFESSIONAL DAY  
ALL DAY/DROP-IN PROGRAM AVAILABLE IN THE GYM FOR EXTENDED DAY THRU 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

Dear Parents:

Community Montessori School is proud to be certified by Association Montessori Internationale. This is the association that trains our teachers. I think it is important that parents be informed of the standards AMI sets for our program. Please call me if you have any questions. Mrs. Ashby

**There will be one AMI trained teacher at the appropriate age level in each class. Assistants, if present, are non-teaching aides.**

*“The instruction of the teacher consists then merely in a hint, a touch—enough to give a start to the child. The rest develops of itself...It is well known that the adult, with his continual surveillance, his uninterrupted admonishment and his arbitrary commands, disturbs and impedes the child’s development...and for the child, but one thing remains: the intense desire to free himself as soon as possible from everything and everyone.”*

**There shall be a complete set of materials from an AMI authorized manufacturer, according to AMI training, in each classroom.**

*“Overabundance debilitates and retards progress...When there is only one specimen of each object, and if a piece is in use when another child wants it, the latter—if he is normalized—will wait for it to be released. And since this happens every hour of the day for years, the idea of respecting others, and of waiting one’s turn, becomes an habitual part of life which always grows more mature. Society does not rest on personal wishes, but on a combination of activities which have to be harmonized.”*

**Classes are made up of children representing a three-year age range.**

- **Primary: 3 – 6 years**
- **Elementary: 6-9; 9-12; 12-15 years**

*“Our schools are alive...To understand what the older ones are doing fills the little ones with enthusiasm. The older ones are happy to be able to teach what they know. There are no inferiority complexes, but everyone achieves a healthy normality through the mutual exchange of spiritual energy.”*

**Classes include a well-balanced division of ages as well as an appropriate number of children to ensure social development.**

*“The child thus is possessed of marvelous directives that come to him from within and from this social environment created for him. This has been proved over and over again. Thirty or forty children work together in beautiful, attractive surroundings created especially for them.”*

**Classes are scheduled five days per week with substantial uninterrupted work periods provided each day.**

*“Rest or inaction is foreign to the child’s nature...when proper conditions are given, and body and mind are exercised, the child grows joyously and harmoniously...work thus becomes the sine qua non of growth, development, efficiency and happiness.”*

*All quotes above are taken from works by Dr. Maria Montessori*

\*\*\*\*\***REMINDER FOR ALL STUDENTS:**

**ARRIVAL IS 8:15 AM – 8:35 AM\*\*\*\*\***

**Just a reminder:** If you are arriving early for the Primary Level 11:35 am dismissal and you want to exit your car to watch the playground, *please remember to turn off your engines*. We want to eliminate as much pollution as possible while the students are outside. Thank you.

Just a few thoughts gathered on idling engines:

\*an idling engine delivers zero miles to the gallon

\*shutting off the engine helps you benefit from both fuel savings and improved air quality

\*excessive idling can be hard on your engine because it isn't working at peak operating temperature— fuel doesn't undergo complete combustion, leaving spark plugs dirty & contaminating engine oil

check [www.airwatchnorthwest.org/wa/NO\\_IDLE/Anti\\_Idle\\_Factsheet\\_long.html](http://www.airwatchnorthwest.org/wa/NO_IDLE/Anti_Idle_Factsheet_long.html)

**OCTOBER CMS 2009-2010 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**October**

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 9  | Friday  | NO SCHOOL – Guides Professional Day<br>All Day/Drop-In Program Available in the gym   |
| 15 | Thursday  | Primary Level Parents Study Group<br>Ext. Day Physical Ed. Discussion with Mr. Hickner 6:15 pm<br>Regular Study Group begins at 7:00 pm |
| 20 | Tuesday   | School Picture Day  |
| 21 | <b>Wednesday CMS Board of Director's Meeting - 7:30 pm at CMS</b><br><b>PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE FOR MEETING!</b><br><b>Board will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month this year</b> |   |
| 22 | Thursday  | Lower & Upper Elementary Parent Study Group 6:30 pm   |

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SCHOOL PICTURE DAY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**KROGER CARDS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE CMS OFFICE**

Once again, for your convenience, Kroger gift cards are available in the office. Kroger cards are sold in \$5.00 denominations. This is not an official fundraiser, but it is a great way to earn money for the school without costing anyone any money. CMS receives 5% of total money spent. We know not everyone shops at Kroger, but if you do shop there, we appreciate your use of the gift card which helps out the school and we all benefit. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the CMS office.

### **PRIMARY LEVEL – Franklin, Hughes, Somsel:**

**Franklin:** We continue to have a wonderful year. Our extended day had a nice trip to the Woods at The Arboretum. The weather was wonderful.

**Hughes:** We are busy and settling into the days. The extended days have 2 goings out coming up: The Shell Grotto at the Headley Whitney Museum and Reed Valley Orchard.

**Somsel:** Autumn has arrived—the extended days went to Botanica and chose small pumpkins for our class. We will bake them and then have fun experimenting with various pumpkin recipes.

### **LOWER ELEMENTARY – Cencia & Gray:**

Mrs. Gray's class is still exploring the amazing timeline of life and researching fossils and learning about the geology in our area. We are also working on Fall poems and beginning to make decisions about Halloween Biographies. Please send in your child's choice on paper with your signature. If you have questions about it, please call. We're trying to compile a list of healthy, nut-free lunch ideas for parents in our classroom, as we have had several requests...please send in your ideas so we can work on this together. Hope your long week-end is awesome!!

Mrs. Cencia's class is enjoying their beautiful lunch time complete with table cloths, poetry, and music and a focus on proper etiquette. They too are starting on their Halloween Biographies. Remember to send in your child's choice on paper with your signature. If you have questions, please call.

### **UPPER ELEMENTARY - O'Loughlin & Simpson:**

The 5<sup>th</sup> year students took an amazing trip to the Falls of the Ohio as an extension of their invertebrate studies. We saw an incredible selection of fossils from the Silurian and Devonian Periods. The 4<sup>th</sup> years are wrapping up their Kentucky studies and looking forward to their trip to Fort Harrodsburg. The 6<sup>th</sup> years have been reflecting on what they learned in Birmingham and what their contribution to our world (class and school) will be.

### **TIME TO SPOTLIGHT OUR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM:**

**Afterschool Phone Number is 333-0020!!**

***\*\*\*Many new parents ask us in the office, what is the Afterschool Program—how does it work?***

This is a drop-in program for extended day through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Some children come every afternoon, others only for specific classes, and sometimes children come spur of the moment. Any time is fine. You may call the CMS office during the day if you need your child to use the program that day and you hadn't planned on it. At the end of the day, the office will let your child know of the change in plans. (Please remember to turn the Contact Information Form in the first time your child attends Afterschool!!) We have 3 staff members working at Afterschool each day and the class instructor. Mr. Hickner is also present every day. At 3:10 p.m. every afternoon, a staff member goes to each of the extended day classrooms to pick up the children who are going to Afterschool that day. After they have settled in, Mrs. Owens or Mrs. Hagihara start to call the elementary classes back to the gym one class at a time. As the students enter Jock's Gym, they put up their lunch boxes, jackets, etc. and head into the larger of the rooms and sign their name on the attendance sheet. After a short time of socializing and "chilling out" students enjoy snack about 3:45 p.m. (We do not serve any peanut/tree nut foods following the school policy)



**PARENT ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1) **Help!! Can anyone transport my daughter, Mia (4 year old in Mr. Franklin’s class) from CMS at the 11:35 a.m. dismissal to her daycare center Our House at the Pinnacle on Saron Drive Monday thru Thursday?** Please call Cara Cinnamond at 859-619-7961. Thank you!

2) **Holiday Shopping?** I know that some of you are so organized that you’ve already started your holiday shopping. And some of you have already asked me about winter holiday gifts for the CMS staff this year..... So, I wanted to let you know that we ARE going to do a major gift for the school and staff again this year. I will not be collecting for a while yet, but just wanted to let you know in case you wanted to participate and therefore can forego your personal holiday shopping for the teachers. For those who are new to the school, here is a brief explanation. As a parent group, we collect money and do some major shopping for the school. Instead of giving small individual gifts to each teacher as separate families, we make a large group gift to the school. Last year we bought a substantial TV cart, a DVD player, classroom chalkboards, golf umbrellas for use in the carpool line, and silverware for use in the teachers lounge. Among this year’s wish list items from the staff:

a sturdy outdoor bike rack--- leaf blower---a vertical chair rack---blinds for one classroom.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at 859.266.0099 or jane.bennington@mac.com. Thanks!  
Jane Bennington

3) **Huge kids sale at the Pinnacle Neighborhood Clubhouse!!**

621 Southpoint Drive, Lexington (across from Veterans’ Park baseball fields)

Visit this website for more information: [www.lexkidconnection.net](http://www.lexkidconnection.net)

Anything & everything for kids! Clothing, shoes, toys, games, puzzles, books, electronic games, infant items, bikes, ride-on toys, nursery items, play sets, and more-----90 sellers.

Thursday, October 8: 6:00 pm—8:00 pm

Friday, October 9: 8:00 am—8:00 pm

Saturday, October 10: 8:00 am—1:00 pm (Many items reduced 50% on Saturday)

**Please make the following corrections to your Parent Handbook:**

**New address:**

Matics, Eleanor Somsel

**Heather and Mark Matics**

3051 Kirklevington Dr. #15

Lexington, KY 40517

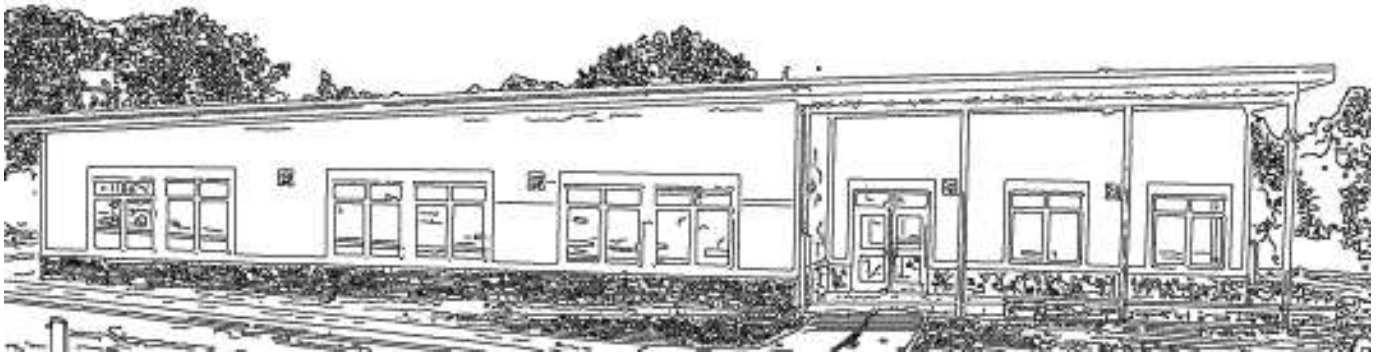
Matics, Franklin Franklin

Williams, Ashton Franklin

Ashley Williams

1229 Litchfield Lane

Lexington, KY 40513



Thank you to all of the families who attended the Open House for the MMSK building on Stone Road on September 27<sup>th</sup>. I am always amazed, when CMS has a celebratory occasion, by the spectrum of our families that are represented. I looked across the Highbridge Hall Community Room that afternoon and could see members of our newest families this year to many of the families that helped build our Crestwood Drive building in 1976. The lifelong commitment and dedication to CMS that our families have is truly wonderful.

If you haven't had an opportunity to see the MMSK building, please take the time to stop by for a visit. The building is a beautiful learning environment for our students. With this phase now complete, we need to move on to the next task, raising \$3 million for the CMS pre-school and elementary portion of the building.

Thank you to the many donors whose gifts made the first phase of our dream possible!