



cmh connections

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

- 12 Grand People Day
9:00am-11:00am
- 13 Spring En Provence
6:00pm-10:00pm
- 18 Early Dismissal - 11:30am
- 19 & 22 No School/Conferences
- 29-5/1 IOWA Testing - JRS/SRS

May

- 9 Pioneer Day, 10:00am-2:00pm
- 15-17 6th Level Graduation Trip
- 17 Senior Bonding Trip
(future Senior class members)
End of the Year Picnic &
Art Show, 6:00-8:00pm
- 23 Senior Dance, 7:00-8:30pm
- 27 No School/Memorial Day
- 28 Senior Creek Day
- 29 Junior Field & Water Day
- 30 Junior Creek Day
Pre-Primary Water Day
Senior Graduation & Party
7:00-8:30pm
- 31 Last Day of School
Pre-Primary Ceremony
9:00-10:00am
Junior Ceremony
10:15-11:15am

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

CMH Community,

April Showers bring May Flowers at Children's Meeting House Montessori School.

The child soaking up knowledge all year to fully master a concept through their hard work and perseverance.

The gloomy short days inside are changing over to longer days sprinkled with sunshine outside.

The clutter that has gathered indoors calls to be cleared out for Spring.

The parent that holds the umbrella above their child's head and now trusts that it's okay to let them play in the rain.

The muddy boots that transition to tennis shoes and sandals on the playground.

The shades of brown around campus turning into bright, lush hints of green with specks of color.

The staff that watered the student's soul to help them bloom into their magnificent and unique self.

The sadness felt at the loss of a family not returning move on to efforts to nurture and prepare their children for the next experience.

The tightly shut windows are slowly opening to allow the sounds of children playing and birds singing to fill our hearts.

The layers of clothing that are shed to be replaced by short sleeves and sun-kissed skin.

The doubt we had in ourselves last season is now what makes us stand tall and have confidence in the coming seasons.

I am thrilled with the renewed growth in our 2019-2020 enrollment and in the overall positive feedback from our recent school survey. The hard work and dedication of our Staff and Board are paying off and that feels amazing. The strong partnerships and open communication between home and school will benefit our students for years to come. Happy families spread the word about CMH and we are seeing the fruits of this in our very busy tour schedule. We only have a few spaces left in our Pre Primary Program for next year!

I look forward to spending some time with each of you at the annual spring auction, Spring en Provence on Friday, April 13.

May your Spring be a time of renewal, reflection and growth.

Casey
Casey Reed
CMH Director

For up-to-date information,
follow CMH on



NEWS FROM PP1

This year has sure gone by fast as we approach the end of the school year! Our class has been learning about so many new things over the past several months.

In Geography, we have studied North America, the United States and are currently learning about Ohio. Can your child name our state bird? (Cardinal, in case you didn't know). In Zoology, we have studied all five vertebrate groups and are beginning our study of Insects. We are even going to build an ant tunnel with live ants! Ask your child if they can remember what a vertebrate is and if they can name all five vertebrate groups!

In Science, we have focused on states of matter (solid, liquid and gas), various water and air experiments and are currently focusing on light experiments. Botany has brought us to the study of seeds, roots, fruits and vegetables. We will soon be moving on to the study of flowers.

The children have been very busy in Art, from strip painting to painting a portrait to roller painting to fold painting and lots more. This may be a favorite area for many!

Enjoy Spring and the warm days to come!

Michelle, Kim and Jeanne



NEWS FROM PP2

Happy Spring! In PP2 the children have been busy working and seem to be enjoying the warmer, spring days! We love getting outside for hikes, walks and for extra recess on those nice days. We look forward to meeting with everyone during conference time to celebrate your children and the growth we have seen this year!

This is the time of year where we see such great learning happening as the children have developed more concentration and are excited about the longer process works. Each day you will see children scrubbing tables, scrubbing the floor, painting at the easel, making toast, or doing hand washing. These multi-step works are great for the children to help them develop their concentration, coordination, independence and order, all necessary skills needed for learning.

In our Geography area we have finished our study of the USA and Ohio and will begin exploring the continents of Africa and Australia to wrap up the year. In Zoology the children have recently learned about dinosaurs and birds and have just begun their study of mammals. We will finish up the year learning about the human body. Next up in the Science area is the study of the solar system. This always seems to be a favorite with the children! In Botany we will also study the parts of the flower, learn about different kinds of flowers, and take nature walks to observe the flowers we find here at our school. Thank you for sharing your children with us each day and allowing us to be a part of their growth and learning!

Andrea, Megan and Anne



NEWS FROM PP3

It is spring and the PP3 children and teachers are ready to soak up every bit of sunshine. In one of my favorite books *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv reflects on his childhood when he writes: "The woods were my Ritalin. Nature calmed me, focused me, and yet excited my senses."

We are so fortunate at CMH to be able to share our beautiful campus with the children every day, and we know that nature education is most children's weekly highlight. As Louv compares his childhood memories with what many children experience nowadays, he writes: "No child can truly know or value the outdoors if the natural world remains under glass, seen only through lenses, screens, or computer monitors."

The same is true for the Montessori classroom. The children are allowed to work with real materials. They have knives, tongs, hammers, sanding paper, china, glass, paint, and even a toaster at their disposal. Just like Louv, Montessori was convinced that children between the ages of three and six need real life experiences to understand the world around them. The hallway that leads to our classroom was continuously dirty from all the mud we were dragging inside after recess. So, we made "sweeping the hallway" a work in PP3. A child sized broom and with it a little necklace are hanging right by our door. If a child wants to sweep, he or she needs to make sure that the necklace is available. If necklace and broom are there, the children can take both and independently walk into the hall. The gross motor movement along with the heavy work of sweeping is great exercise and for those who need it a perfect sensory break. When the sweeping is finished, a little broom and dustpan are waiting in the hall to collect the dirt. This relatively simple activity shows how works in the Montessori classroom are set up with a direct and indirect preparation in mind. Sweeping the hall directly prepares for handling brooms of different sizes. The indirect preparation is more complex: waiting your turn, establishing brain connections, following a logical sequence, deciding when the hall is clean, and practicing being comfortable out of the classroom by oneself. These real life experiences inside our classroom and outside on our campus enrich the children's lives daily.

Thank you for sharing your children with us! And please don't hesitate to ask if you would like to know more about the direct and indirect aims of the works in our classroom—you'd be surprised!

Birte, Theresa and Lisa



NEWS FROM JUNIORS

It has been a busy last few months since Winter Break. The children very quickly got back in the groove of things and were happy to see their friends again.

In January, we had a refreshing outdoor field trip to the Cincinnati Nature Center. The students were able to participate in and see all of the steps of maple sugaring. We all also learned how the Native Americans and early settlers of this area completed this process. Even though it was a brisk day, all of the children walked away with a taste of real maple syrup and an appreciation for the process.

January also held our annual "Date with Dad" and "What's to Love about Juniors". For "Date with Dad," dads (or any special person in the child's life) were able to come in for an hour to work with their student and enjoy a muffin and juice. This year, thanks to our wonderful intern, Anne Tobe, we held a 'day in the life' of our junior students for our "What's to Love about Juniors." Parents were able to participate in lessons and find the work on their work plans.

In February, we took a field trip to the Cincinnati Art Museum. The students were able to see different types of art from all over the world. The docent highlighted art on display that featured geometry. We were also able to see an actual mummy and sarcophagus from Egypt. This helped to spark interest in our study of Africa.

In the next few months, we have several dates that you need to note. We will be completing our study of Africa with a culminating research project the students will be doing at home. Projects will be presented in the classroom, the week of April 22nd. Grand People Day will be held in the classroom on Friday, April 12. Muffins with Mom will take place on Monday, May 13. Moms (or any special person in the child's life) will have a chance to work with their student in the classroom and enjoy a muffin and juice. We can't wait to see you at these upcoming events.



Nicki, Todd and Jessica

NEWS FROM SENIORS

It was great to see everyone well rested and excited to get back to work after Spring Break. We were hoping the temperature on our new weather station would have reminded us a bit more of spring. Our new weather station is the fourth level's latest activity in our studies of meteorology. We are beginning to make daily weather reports.

Once again we were so impressed with the Science Fair Projects and the effort the children put into their work. Their presentations were outstanding. Your kids rocked it! Thank you for your support.

We have begun preparing for our student-led conferences. We always enjoy this opportunity to sit with each child one on one and discuss their progress. We love to celebrate the enormous growth and maturity that has taken place over the course of the year. This last conference is always bittersweet as we prepare for our 6th levels to leave us. Justus Buse, Craig Dwyer, Wyatt Glassmeyer, Matthew Hanna and Austin Tran, it has been an honor and a pleasure to be your teachers. We are looking forward to our graduate trip to Gatlinburg with all of you.

Graduation is a special time for the entire Senior Class. All levels participate in the ceremony as we honor our graduates. After graduation we host a party for the whole Senior Class to celebrate the year altogether. We'll see you on May 30, at 7:00 pm.

Upcoming events that we are looking forward to include, Grandparents' Day, our overnight to COSI and our field trip to Conner Prairie to get a first hand look at Pioneer life. The Seniors are beginning their in depth study of the Pioneers in preparation for our school-wide Pioneer Day event on May 9th.



John and Dana



NATURE NOTES

Mud glorious mud, squishy and squirmy, mud glorious mud, ooey and goey"

—sung to the tune of
"Food Glorious Food"

Maybe your child has come home from CMH singing this song or has brought home bags of wet, splattered clothes after mud-trail exploration. When children are in contact with dirt and mud they reap many benefits! Research shows they receive an immune system boost. Their risk for chronic conditions and stress levels are lowered. As they build their relationship with nature they gain a boost for their brains and increase their critical thinking skills. When teachers, parents, and care-givers display a positive attitude about a child getting "dirty," children then show a sheer sense of joy as they explore the glorious, squishy goo.

During your family time, engage your child in a conversation about their Nature Study at CMH. We've been busy (not just in the mud) and there are many topics to discuss: the Winter Bird Count with a total of 35 species and 502 individual birds seen, Lavender planted and now thriving in the classroom Grow Labs, studying the moon and its phases in the Star Lab, creating pollinator garden packets by decorating envelopes and filling with wildflower seeds that were harvested last season, tending and reseeded the Buffalo Stomp Pollinator garden and other flower beds on our campus.

Enjoy the outdoors!

Veronica
Veronica Brannen
CMH Naturalist

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LETTER FROM THE BOARD

CMH Community,

Happy Spring! I hope you and your families enjoyed spring break vacation. School is back in action, and we are entering the two-month sprint to the finish of another school year. With field trips, field days, water days and end-of-year celebrations ahead, there are numerous opportunities (and needs) for parent volunteers.

Your CMH Board of Trustees recently received the results of the annual surveys completed by parents, teachers and staff. Results were very positive across the board, which confirms what we already know; CMH is an outstanding place for our children! While it feels good to get good grades, the surveys provide the more important role of helping Casey and the Board identify where we can still improve the CMH experience for all stakeholders... kids, parents, teachers and staff. Many of the items identified as opportunities in the 2018 survey were addressed quickly and thoroughly, which was also positively recognized in the 2019 responses. We aim to do the same again this year.

In the last newsletter, I addressed the challenge of a dip in enrollment that matches up with a dip in birth rates during and immediately following the U.S. financial crisis. My request of you was to get the word out to friends, neighbors and co-workers about the value of a CMH education. I'm very pleased to report that with the combination of our internally driven marketing efforts and your word-of-mouth support, we've seen a healthy uptick in new enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year! Thank you...and keep talking about CMH!

In the last few months, we've added two new members to the Board of Trustees, Mark Sancrant and Erica Meyer. For those of us who've served on the Board for 5+ years, it's always refreshing to get new perspectives. On that note, several Board members will soon be entering the final year of their commitments, and we will need new members to replace them over the next year. If you'd like to join the Board, please drop a note to Casey, and she can send the application to you.

Usually this newsletter arrives just following the annual auction event. With the auction being held a bit later this year, I want to take one final opportunity to request your (generous) participation in this important event for the school. This is our largest fundraising event of the year, and it's a lot of fun! I'd much rather spend a fun evening bidding on fabulous prizes than spend multiple afternoons going door-to-door with my kids trying to sell coupon books or popcorn. If you agree, join us at "Spring en Provence" on Saturday, April 13. I hope to see you there.

John Chevalier
CMH Board President



Don't miss out on four weeks of creative camps for 3-12 year olds! Visit cmhschool.com for a brochure and registration form.

Week 1 June 17-21

Under the Deep Blue Sea
(Pre-Primary)

Makers Camp
(Elementary)

Week 2 June 24-28

Just About Anything
(Pre-Primary)

Sports Camp
(Elementary)

Just About Anything
(Elementary)

Week 3 July 15-19

The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Friends
(Pre-Primary)

Drama Camp
(Elementary)

Camp Trailblazer
(Elementary)

Week 4 July 22-26

Critter Camp
(Pre-Primary)

Summer Bucket List Camp
(Elementary)