



SPRING 2018  
VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3



# cmh connections

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### April

- 14 Maple Sugaring Event & Pancake Breakfast  
9:30am-11:30am
- 16-20 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 20 No School

### May

- 16-18 6th Level Graduation Trip
- 18 Senior Bonding Trip  
(future Senior class members)  
End of the Year Picnic & Art Show, 6:00-8:00pm
- 24 Senior Dance  
7:00-8:30pm
- 28 No School/Memorial Day
- 29 Senior Creek Day
- 30 Junior Creek Day
- 31 Junior Field & Water Day  
Pre-Primary Water Day  
Senior Graduation & Party  
7:00-8:30pm

### June

- 1 Last Day of School  
Pre-Primary Ceremony  
9:00-10:00am  
Junior Ceremony  
10:15-11:15am

For up-to-date information,  
follow CMH on



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear CMH Families,

Spring is supposed to be here, but just like everything in life the weather isn't always predictable or cooperative. All we can do each day is give it our very best; and, if things don't go as planned, we must adapt and stretch ourselves to overcome the newest challenge that presents itself. Though it is sometimes overlooked, the grace with which we model these moments to our children at home and in school is fundamental in shaping the next generation. The flowers around campus have certainly felt impacted by the chilly Spring, but are resilient like the children and will bloom in their time. We may have to wait until later this season or next season, but they will bloom.

***"The child, making use of all that he finds around him, shapes himself for the future."***

- Maria Montessori

The children at CMH are provided beautiful indoor and outdoor learning environments, along with trained, experienced and devoted Montessori teachers to allow them to develop at a pace of their own during the most important years of their lives. These are the shared values of our community. We are so excited about the future campus projects that have been made possible by the funds that were raised by the friends, staff and families this year through participation in the Annual Fund, Turkey Trot and Auction Paddle Raise.

Happy Spring!

*Casey*

Casey Reed  
CMH Director



## NEWS FROM PP1

Happy Spring! Oh, how we wish our Ohio weather would cooperate! It is truly hard to believe that we only have a few months of this school year left—it is a cliché to say, “It’s gone by so fast!”, but it is quite true. Our class has been busy learning new skills and concepts each day and we can see how engaged and joyful the children are as they work.

As the year has progressed, we have introduced many new activities that focus on developing Grace and Courtesy, building Practical Life skills, and exploring the nature all around us. We have also been building Mindfulness Practices using easy, simple meditations, practicing yoga poses, and building body awareness with our “Morning Moves” dances—if you’ve not heard of this yet, ask your child to show you “*Everybody Walk the Dinosaur*” or “*Shake your Groove Thing*.” It truly is amazing how these action songs lead to greater focus, concentration, and stamina!

In our Geography area, we have nearly finished our study of the USA and Ohio and will soon be exploring the continents of Asia and Australia. In Zoology, we learned about Dinosaurs and Reptiles, and will finish the year with a focus on Amphibians and Birds. In Botany, we are finishing our study of fruits and vegetables and will soon learn about flowers, with a focus on naming different flowers, learning about the parts of a flower, and what flowers need to grow. In Physical Science, we have experimented with properties of weight, water, and light. In the Sensorial area, we have focused on refining our sense of hearing by matching bells. We have also increased visual discrimination skills by making patterns with the Pink Cubes and Brown Prisms and have learned to recognize shapes around us by using the Geometric Solids.

Michelle, Kim and Jeanne



## NEWS FROM PP2

Happy Spring! The children have been busy working in PP2, and it’s hard to believe there are only 2 months of school left! We are looking forward to meeting with everyone during conference time to celebrate your children and the growth we have seen this year. We always enjoy this special time with each parent.

Some exciting news in PP2 is the arrival of our new hamster, named Pumpkin. Over Spring Break Andrea and her son picked out a new hamster for the classroom after our beloved Mickey passed away a few weeks ago. Pumpkin is an active one and loves to run on her wheel and climb up her water bottle!

This time of year many of the works the children are doing are building on the skills they have developed so far this year. The children are exploring with more extensions from the Sensorial area, being introduced to more multi-step activities in Practical Life, and are being introduced to more painting works in Art. In Geography we are studying Ohio, and the children will be introduced to the continents of Asia and Antarctica. Also, the children have enjoyed exploring with the various measurement works in the math area, measuring things around the classroom such as tables, books, and various works. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting end to our school year with some special in-house programs and field trips coming up! Thank you for sharing your children with us each day

Andrea, Megan and Anne



## NEWS FROM PP3

Another year flows through the seasons of learning and growth in PP3. This is the time of year where we really dig into learning in all aspects. Children practice works such as scrubbing the floor and tables and painting at the easel all of which have many steps to remember and accomplish. These works and many others help the children develop memory, concentration, order, and independence. In the sensorial area, the works have also expanded. There are works that heighten their ability to see, hear, touch, and smell fine differences. They are encouraged to organize colors from light to dark and learn the names of new shapes such as hexagon, trapezoid and ovoid. A favorite for many is to take multiple materials and create a new design. All of these works develop and enhance the skills that are needed for learning.

Each child uses their skills and knowledge to add to their math and language abilities as well. Some learn to count 1-10 while others are adding four-digit numbers. Some are learning the sounds of letters while others write and read new words. The children are also introduced to new concepts in science such as magnetism and properties of air, light and water. They learn through hands-on activities and experiments. In geography they are exposed to the seven continents learning where we live—North America, USA, Ohio, and are presently learning about Europe in a most delicious way as we look at pictures and try foods from many countries. It is always fun to be a part their learning and development.

Theresa and Birte



## NEWS FROM JUNIORS

We are finally in the home stretch towards the end of the year. These last few months have been full of excitement as we were leading up to spring break.

We have been able to have Todd in the classroom since January. He has been adding some great content to the classroom, as well. On Thursdays, he has been meeting with each grade level to practice some team building skills and work on STEM. The children really seem to be enjoying it and look forward to whatever fun activities he has in store for them.

In January, Mother's Nature came to the school to teach us about Spiders. This was the same week that we learned about the arthropod. In February, we went to Miami University to see DCDC2 perform their contemporary dancing. We were also able to have Mother's Nature come back and help us learn about creatures under the sea. This helped us to remember some more of the invertebrates that we had learned about. March took us to the Behringer Crawford Museum in Newport, Kentucky. We were able to discover more about transportation through the ages. This went along with our study of the fundamental human needs of man (transportation). This month, our second levels will finally get to go see their play, Mary Poppins, at Taft Theatre. In May, we will be having two field trips. The first one will be to the Newport Aquarium where we will have the culmination to our invertebrate study. The second one will be to Miami University again to see "The Inventive Princess Floralee".

We look forward to partnering with all of our families during our spring conference time and truly hope that you know that we love all of the children in our classrooms! Every day, they make us laugh and we love seeing how far they have come in such little time. We have had a wonderful time with them this year and look forward to all of the fun and exciting activities that are coming up in the next several weeks of school.

Jessica, Nicki and Todd

## NEWS FROM SENIORS

The Seniors impressed us once again with their scientific inquiries at our annual Senior Science Fair. The children presented their projects to each other during the morning and shared with the rest of the classes in the afternoon, as well as their family and friends in the evening.

Many of the grandparents returned for our special Grandparent's Day. The children always enjoy showing off their work, our classroom and our grounds to these very special people.

We have been busy with our triennial class project of maple sugaring. This is always a "sweet" experience for everyone. We tapped the trees in the middle of February and teams of children collect the sap every day. All of the steps of the maple sugaring process have been broken down into presentation stations. Two children are in charge of each booth. They are researching their topics and will be ready to share with you at our culminating event on Saturday, April 14th. Visitors will have the opportunity to visit the children's stations in the Senior classroom, followed by a pancake breakfast in the Multipurpose Room. We look forward to seeing all of you. Please RSVP to the office.

John and Dana



# NATURE NOTES

Students have been so busy exploring Nature! In January students spent several weeks with binoculars, field guides, and check lists to complete our annual Winter Bird Count. Every student helped in the search for a total of 474 birds and 35 different species. In the Star Lab, we were able to view the night sky, see how the stars appear to travel around the North Star, and hear about the constellations. The graduating 6th graders had a special party in the Star Lab and made moon cycle cookies. Pre-Primary and Juniors visited the Sugar Bush to see where the Seniors tapped Sugar Maple trees and tasted the sap as it ran into the collecting buckets. We have observed the transformation of our wintry campus as it has turned to spring: the first buds open, tiniest of flowers bloom, birds busy with nesting material, and so many other seasonal happenings.

The Pre-Primary and Junior students will visit the Senior class to learn more about the process of turning Sugar Maple sap into yummy syrup. In the coming weeks we will spend time at the Pond with nets and buckets to explore and survey the life it holds. Students will be turning soil, pulling weeds, planting seeds, and finding what grows in our campus gardens.

*FYI: Your child might come home making some interesting **kerrrrrocks, trillllls, croaks, peep-peep-peeps, and jug-o-rums.** I hope they will be excited to share what these calls are and what animals make them.*

*Veronica*  
Veronica Brannen  
CMH Naturalist



# POND RESTORATION PROJECT

The pond was designed as a living laboratory to enable our students to study all varieties of science and environmental studies and is an important part of CMH's Eco Learning Lab. Over the next few years we will focus our attention on bringing this educational resource back to it's original glory.



## LETTER FROM THE BOARD

CMH Community,

Happy Spring! At least I think it's spring. One thing I've learned from CMH, thanks to John and Dana, is this is great weather for maple syrup harvesting. I'm looking forward to learning about the syrup making process (again) from our Seniors students.

I'm happy to report that CMH has remained in a very stable financial situation over the past few years. I give credit to Casey for her leadership in this area, along with our bookkeeper, Noelle Heath. In fact, the whole staff has done an excellent job of making sure the investments we're making in our facilities and classroom materials are done responsibly.

Related, I'm also happy to report that we have been able to reach our minimum goal of a cash reserve that is roughly 25% of our annual projected operating expenses. We'd like to increase this reserve a bit more, but our progress has allowed us to begin planning for larger capital projects (e.g. roof repairs, HVAC repairs/replacement, building and grounds beautification, etc.).

For those of you who participated in the annual auction, you'll know that one major project we are undertaking is the reclamation of the pond. We had a very good response to our paddle-raise donations at the auction, which should enable us to fund the initial costs of the project. There were several questions at the auction regarding the vision for the project and the process...and many offers to help with the physical labor that will be required. The ultimate scope of the project will depend greatly on how much funding is available.

We will likely have to approach this project in bite-sized chunks, starting with dredging silt and fixing the leaks. We've already started the process of getting bids for this first stage of the work. After that, the main goal will be to return the pond to a state where it will again be an educational resource for our children. Beyond this, if funds allow, we'll do our best to make the pond as attractive a space as possible for all of us to spend time while we are on campus. Throughout, we will do our very best ensure the work is accomplished in a manner consistent with our respect and appreciation for nature, and I'm sure Veronica will be an important and active consultant along the way.

I'll close with a word of thanks to all the people who participated in the planning and execution of the auction, "A Woodland Gathering." The theme and decorations reflected one of the things we love most about CMH. I also thank all the families who generously contributed at the auction and via the Annual Fund campaign. These donations are what allow us to continue reinvesting in the school for the benefit of our children.

I hope to see you around campus as we sprint to the finish of another great school year.

John Chevalier  
CMH Board President



Don't miss out on four weeks of creative camps for 3-12 year olds! Visit [cmhschool.com](http://cmhschool.com) for a brochure and registration form.

### Week 1 June 18-22

Calling All Astronauts  
(Pre-Primary)

Creek Trekkers  
(Elementary)

### Week 2 June 25-29

Down on the Farm  
(Pre-Primary)

Sports Camp  
(Elementary)

STEM  
(Elementary)

### Week 3 July 16-20

Pirates and Princesses  
(Pre-Primary)

Anything Goes  
(Elementary)

### Week 4 July 23-27

Go a Little Wild  
(Pre-Primary)

Drama Camp: Masks on Stage  
(Elementary)

Confident Cooking with Kids  
(Elementary)