



SPRING 2021  
VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3



# cmh connections

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### April

26 Spring Conference Week

### May

- 3-5 Iowa Testing Week (3rd-6th Levels)
- 10 Visit Days for Rising Juniors & Seniors
- 11-13 6th Level Graduation Trip
- 13 Senior Class Bonding Trip
- 27 Last Day PrePrimary Students  
PrePrimary Ceremonies
- 27 6th Grade Graduation  
7:00-8:00pm
- 28 Last Day Elementary Students  
Junior Class Ceremonies

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

CMH Community,

Spring is in the air, yet snow is falling from the sky so we continue to be flexible and don't allow the unexpected to stop us from our mission. We are grateful that we have had a solid school year and been able to come together in person as well as provide our CMH@Home remote option to our families. When there are national concerns of how to address the significant learning loss and social-emotional trauma of students, it sometimes feels as if we are in our own little world at CMH with thriving students, empowered teachers and supportive families. There were several families that took a "red shirt year" from CMH due to the unknowns of the pandemic, and have now re-enrolled for the 2021-22 school year, so we are eager to welcome them back to the nest. Enrollment for next year continues to grow and we are almost at our intended capacity at all levels.

The Annual School Survey yielded an overwhelmingly positive, appreciative and future-oriented response. Families are ready to safely mingle and enjoy outdoor opportunities to come together to reunite with old friends and meet new ones. We will be making a diligent effort to provide the time and space for our families to gather on our campus to meet this need. There will be a return of some of our traditions that we felt would be a special surprise for the students such as: 3rd level lock-in, 6th grade graduation trip, Senior class bonding day, and end-of-the-year ceremonies and celebrations. The students were indeed thrilled and excited to get to experience the special events that they have looked forward to and heard about for some time. There has also been a significant increase of interest and desire to expand our school to add a 7th and 8th grade program, so we have put out a call to action to join our Jr. High committee to assist in this area.

The demand for a renewed focus in the areas of development and advancement has offered CMH the opportunity to create a new role and hire Jessica Anderson as our Development Director. Jess is not a new face to CMH as she has been around since 2012 as an engaged parent and served as our PACT President for many years. With her skill set and positive energy, she is perfect for this new position. Feel free to email her at [anderson@cmhschool.com](mailto:anderson@cmhschool.com) if you have any interest in joining the Jr. High or 50th Anniversary committees or would like to congratulate her on this exciting new adventure.

Enjoy this Spring season, as we all patiently await the unique experience of the Periodical Cicadas.

Casey Reed  
CMH Director



For up-to-date information, follow CMH on



## NEWS FROM PRE-PRIMARY

It is hard to believe that there are only a couple of weeks left in what has surely been a memorable school year. We are thankful for everyone's cooperation and amazed by the children's resilience. We are glad that everyone is still happy and healthy and are looking forward to more beautiful spring weather to come, so we can continue to enjoy our awesome CMH campus.

So many things are different this year and our children had to adjust to so many changes that it feels good to share the healing powers of nature with all of them. Richard Louv writes in his book, *Last Child in the Woods*, "Nature ... serves as a blank slate upon which a child draws and reinterprets the culture's fantasies. Nature inspires creativity in a child by demanding visualization and the full use of the senses. Given a chance, a child will bring the confusion of the world to the woods, wash it in the creek, turn it over to see what lives on the unseen side of that confusion." I have a feeling that this is especially true right now.

It is great to see the children enjoy the beauty of nature and recharge their batteries as they explore, play, and discover outside. We are eating outside whenever the weather allows and are moving works outside. Children can practice yoga, paint at the easel, scrub a table or sweep the sidewalk outside. Finding ways to give children even more time in nature than we normally do at CMH has been a wonderful experience for us and something that we will continue when this is all over and we are back to normal.

Montessori said it best when she wrote: "Let the children be free; encourage them; let them run outside when it is raining; let them remove their shoes when they find a puddle of water; and, when the grass of the meadows is damp with dew, let them run on it and trample it with their bare feet; let them rest peacefully when a tree invites them to sleep beneath its shade; let them shout and laugh when the sun wakes them in the morning..."

Thank you for sharing your awesome kiddos with us! Here's to many more beautiful spring days in the great outdoors!

PP1 - Michelle and Jeanne

PP2 - Andrea and Anne

PP3 - Birte and Marlis



## NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

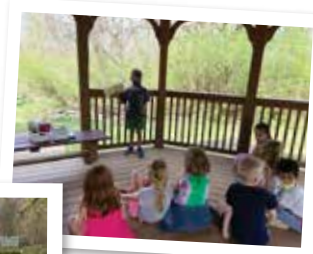
The Kindergarten class is having a great year! We are enjoying the beautiful spring weather and all the new works that are on the shelves. In practical life we have baby washing and shell scrubbing that gets a lot of use. Most of the children really like the multi-step works that allow for movement and the use of soap and water to make bubbles! The children are also exploring with watercolors and new cutting, painting and collage works in the art area. On the science shelves, we are talking about the parts of a seed and will begin studying birds soon. And finally, the geography shelves are filled with all things Ohio so the children can learn about the cool things that represent our state.

This has been such a unique and different year for both CMH and Montessori in general. It has been so wonderful to watch the children rise to the occasion and continue to be the amazing little people they are! Many feel like much has been lost during this time, but it is so important to see what has been gained, especially within a child. These Kindergarteners know they can push through hard things and still find joy and compassion in those moments.

***"The child is both hope and a promise for mankind."***

-Maria Montessori

Megan and Theresa



## NEWS FROM JUNIORS

We are in the home stretch heading towards the end of the year, and these last few months have been full of excitement. It is amazing to think about all that we have done and learned since school started!

In January and February, we were so glad to be able to have some Virtual Field Trips through the North Carolina Aquarium program, Animal Antics. We were able to learn about the Vulture, the Sun Conure, Alligators, and Ocean Dwellers through this amazing program that allowed us to feel as if we were having a Field Trip while staying safely at school. We were also able to enjoy some virtual performances from the Children's Theater these past months—Garfield, The Velveteen Rabbit, and Rapunzel were a great experience; and the children were excited to have these opportunities, similar to what we've been able to do in past years, to spark their imaginations! The last few weeks have also been filled with outdoor activities and making our Junior patio a lovely and relaxing place to take a break, do some work, and enjoy nature. If you have not had a chance to stop by and see all the planting, pruning, and caretaking the children have done, we welcome you to come hang out for a bit!

We have begun our study of South America and the students are working hard on their culminating project. They are excited to be doing research at home and be able to present the information they learn about their country to parents and friends. We are looking forward to seeing each one!

We are also looking forward to meeting with all of our families during our spring conferences in the next weeks 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 are eager to get to all of the fun and exciting activities that are coming up as we celebrate these last weeks of the school year together.

Jr North - Kim and Nicki  
Jr South - Diane and Anne



## NEWS FROM SENIORS

The Senior Classroom is back in full swing after Spring Break. We are busy preparing for our student-led conferences, maple sugaring presentations, and our culminating boiling day where we turn the sap into liquid gold! Students will be researching and presenting all aspects of maple sugaring. We've divided the kids into teams that represent each aspect of the maple sugaring process. They will present their findings to the class. We will enjoy our hard work with a pancake breakfast for the class.

The children enjoyed their special six week art class with Debi. Although it was virtual, everyone enjoyed participating in this new and exciting way of creating. At the end of their experience, each child was given a piece to a puzzle to decorate as they wished. The mystery was solved when they assembled them into a large mandala on the last day.

Students continued their creative streak by doing embroidery of the United States. This was a big finish to learning all of the names, capitals, and nicknames of our 50 states.

The beauty of spring has us enjoying our time outside. The daffodils are in bloom and we are looking forward to lessons outside again. Bonnie starts another round of special art lessons this month, setting up a pottery workshop outside. This will bring us right up to the end of the year. Thank you so much for your support during this ever-changing COVID year. We are so thankful we could be here and still enjoy our time together.

Lisa, Dana  
and John



# THEY'RE BAAACK!

- Cicada nymphs have lived underground for 17 years to emerge for 2 weeks to become adults, mate, and die.
- Cicadas do not bite or sting but males can create drumming sounds reaching over 100 decibels when trying to attract a mate.
- Female Cicadas lay eggs on tree branches that can cause "flagging" which is a lite pruning that can actually help trees re-grow fuller.
- Cicadas are edible—high protein, gluten free, and said to taste like shrimp.



Reach out to Veronica at [brannen@cmhschool](mailto:brannen@cmhschool) for more information or questions about Cicadas.



## LETTER FROM THE BOARD

CMH Community,

I hope that this spring was a welcomed time for you and your family. Spring is often considered a time for renewal, growth and expansion, and this spring should be no different. The Board of Trustees is embracing these three aspects of Spring as we plan for not only the remainder of this school year but also for future years.

Renewal is often an instance of resuming activity after a disruption. This is first and foremost on our minds right now. We continue to monitor Covid data from many resources as well as guidelines that are evolving. I'm hopeful that the 2021/2022 school year will look more "normal" for the school, students, and staff. As a tight knit community, it will be great for us to get back to in-person activities and events.

Each year, we ask our parents, teachers, and staff to provide us feedback through an annual survey. Your participation in these surveys provides the Board with invaluable insights into how we are doing. I am pleased to share that this year's feedback was very positive in all categories. I would encourage you to not only share your feedback with us, but also to share it with prospective families as well. As I reflect on ways we can grow CMH, I can't help but think about the impact it makes when our community tells others about their CMH experience.

Expansion is always a fun topic. For a school such as ours, expansion can mean a number of things. Our property, our building, our playground, and the students we serve are all important areas of consideration. However to enable us to explore these areas, our Board also needs to expand. We have a number of long-term Board members that are coming to the end of their commitments, and we are actively seeking new members. If you have an interest and would like to be considered for the Board, please reach out to Chris Castleman at [cpcastleman@yahoo.com](mailto:cpcastleman@yahoo.com). Further, we have new committees forming and can use some volunteer help with those. First, we have a committee exploring the expansion of our school to include junior high school. We also have a committee to help us prepare for our 50th anniversary! If you have an interest in our committees, please send an email to [anderson@cmhschool.com](mailto:anderson@cmhschool.com) to let us know.

I think this Spring is particularly important for all of us. 2020 was a hard year. As we are all enjoying the personal renewal, growth, and expansion the Spring offers, rest assured that the Board is doing the same for our school.

Mark Sancrant  
CMH Board President

## NATURE NOTES

We began live and in-person Nature Studies in January and connected our senses to the wonders of the CMH outdoors with so many discoveries! Students counted over 406 birds of 36 species during our week-long Annual Winter Bird Count. When the snows came we tracked Gray Squirrel, Cottontail Rabbit, Coyote, Red Fox, Great Blue Heron, and more. Searching for animal homes led us to 7 Ground Hog Dens on hillsides and numerous Pileated Woodpecker holes in tree snags that all provide shelter for other wildlife as well. We tasted sap running straight from the Sugar Maples where our Seniors tapped trees to cook down the sap into syrup. Hearing the first calls of Spring Peepers and Chorus frogs in our ponds and vernal pools announced that Winter was on its way out.

As we explore on through April & May, Spring will provide many opportunities to be wowed during our Nature Study. Students will investigate the amazing spectacle of the Periodical Cicada that has spent 17 years underground as a nymph to join us above ground as an adult for only a few short weeks. With nets and hand-lenses we will scoop the water of our ponds, creeks, and vernal pools to survey the life found there. We will record activity at our Blue Bird nest boxes and hope to see some egg clutches of our native birds. Caring for our gardens, removing invasive weeds, and mulching tree plantings, will give us first-hand observations of growing blooms, fruit, and foliage.

Veronica Brannen  
CMH Naturalist