

THE TREEPOST



NEWS & NOTES FROM COUNTRY MONTESSORI SCHOOL | FALL 2015

OPEN HOUSE for the Community

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 • 9.30 - 11.30 am

Why Montessori? We are inviting families who may be looking to invest in their children's education to come and discover the difference between Montessori and Traditional education! We want to let the community know what our parents love about our school.



PICTURE YOUR CHILD HERE

LEARNING • THRIVING • GROWING • INDEPENDENT • HAPPY

OPEN HOUSE - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 • 9:30-11:30 AM

YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE STARTS HERE ...

- Low student-teacher ratio
- Early social development
- Multi-age classrooms
- A close-knit, nurturing environment
- Happy, thriving students

Ages 2.5 - 11 yrs



A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR CHILD

At Country Montessori School, children learn and progress at their own pace with hands-on educational materials, and one-on-one lessons with teachers who know and understand YOUR child. Our classrooms are places of wonder where a love of learning grows early. Come and see for yourself!



Tell your neighbors, friends and colleagues to mark their calendars!

CALENDAR ITEMS

MONTESSORI JOURNEY

Friday, October 2 • 6:15 - 7.30 pm
Saturday, October 3 • 8.30 - 10.30 am

COFFEE TIME WITH THE HEAD OF SCHOOL, MS. ADELA CORRALES

Friday, October 9 • 9.00 - 10.00 am

RENWEB TUTORIAL

Friday, October 16 • 9.00 am - 12 pm

ENRICHMENT EDUCATION NIGHT

Tuesday, October 20 • 6.00 - 8.00 pm

PTC FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 24 • 3.00 - 5.00 pm

Parent Teacher Committee

The Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) is in full swing with three meetings already under their belt and much of the organizing of the PTC activities underway. The Classroom Ambassadors have done a great job of organizing the beginning of the year classroom meet & greets and each one was voted a great success. The next PTC sponsored event is the Fall Festival where the whole family can come and enjoy carnival games, a haunted house and the children can show off their Halloween costumes. This year we will have Barons selling ice cream floats with all the proceeds being donated to CMS, kettle corn and The Organic Food Truck will be selling food for adults and kids. Get your costumes ready!

In November, we will be having our annual Walk-a-THON where we hope to raise \$30,000. The money raised will go directly into the landscaping of the Secret Garden, new play houses and additional shade structures. So we hope to see you all there to cheer on your child.

Keep checking your emails as you will get monthly reminders for PTC meetings and opportunities for you to volunteer. Remember to record your hours on Renweb so that you will have your required Parent Participation hours by the end of the year.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the PTC at CMS-PTC@countrymontessori.org.

HELLO from The Head of School

What a wonderful six weeks of school this has been. It's so nice to see our new students and families becoming a part of our CMS community. When I walk through the environments I can already see what in Montessori terms is called Normalization occurring. Montessori observed that when children are allowed freedom in an environment suited to their needs, they blossom. After a period of intense concentration, working with materials that fully engage their interest, children appear to be refreshed and contented. Through continued concentrated work of their own choice, children grow in inner discipline and peace. She called this process "normalization" and cited it as "the most important single result of our whole work"

(The Absorbent Mind, 1949).

In Montessori education, the term "normalization" has a specialized meaning. "Normal" does not refer to what is considered to be "typical" or "average" or even "usual." "Normalization" does not refer to a process of being forced to conform. Instead, Maria Montessori used the terms "normal" and "normalization" to describe a unique process she observed in child development.

We have hosted a few events since the first day of school and I was very pleased to see so many in attendance, thank you to all of you and I hope that you have enjoyed them. The teachers and staff always look forward to presenting their curriculum and sharing their passion with you.

ENRICHING CURRICULUM

All of our enrichment classes have started with elementary computer instruction starting in October. On Tuesday, October 20 at 6:00 pm our enrichment instructors will be hosting an education night specifically to their curriculum. Please join Ms. Rendon, Mr. Short, Ms. Salas, Ms. Murray and Mr. Rehkopf for an overview of their classes.

AFTER SCHOOL CHOICES

We are very excited about our after school classes that are being offered this year. Legos, drama, chess, baton, youth coding, play ball and yoga have all started, with cooking, dance and sewing starting in October and November.

ACCREDITATION SUCCESS!

Last spring our school became fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western



Coffee Time
with Adela

Friday,
October 9
9:00 am

Association
of Schools
and Colleges.

We have also been accepted into the American Montessori Society Accreditation program. We are very excited and proud of this and have started our self-study process. Part of this process is growing and implementing a new technology curriculum which we are developing in collaboration with ThoughtSTEM, a computer science education company. We are pleased to announce that we have purchased twelve new HP Envy Recline computers for the lab that will be installed by the end of the month.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

Communication is a priority and the staff and I welcome it. Please remember that I have an open door policy and feel free to contact me should you want to talk.



Ms. Adela Corrales,
Head of School, CMS

ELEMENTARY Education Night



33 parents attended the Elementary Education night.

During Elementary Education night, instructors described to parents a "normal day" and explained the curriculum for reading, math, cultural studies and science. Involving students in peace studies is an important class every week. In Upper elementary, this also includes a community meeting. Parents in that class had the opportunity to experience a community meeting and shared anonymous input that students had written. It was emphasized that Montessori materials, such as Fraction boxes, Albanesi cards and YMCs play as important a role in elementary as in primary although there is more written work and reading. Teachers answered questions about homework and what students can do if they have finished their assignments. It was explained that the individual nature of the Montessori curriculum allows the child to develop at their own pace and go beyond their grade level work if they are ready.

MAP Testing: Measures of Academic Progress

If you were to have passed the computer room, in the Ladybug building, in the first couple of weeks of September you would have seen our Elementary students in levels 1 through 5 engaged on the computers. They were taking the MAP tests which is just one of the many ways in which students are assessed during the year. This assessment is like all

others in our school in which the goal is to assess the child's growth. First level students take tests in reading and mathematics. Second level through fifth level take tests in reading, language usage and mathematics. The results are used by the teachers to help each child as an individual learner to continue their individual development which is the Montessori way!

Ms Parker, CMS Reading Specialist, reported that testing has gone smoothly since we have experienced very few absences with nearly 100% attendance. The staff looks forward to sharing the information gained through the MAP assessments with elementary parents in early October.

PRIMARY Education Night

At Primary Education Night, the evening started with Ms. West demonstrating a silent lesson on the 22 steps of "Table Scrubbing." The staff emphasized the role of the materials in developing the fine motor skills required to hold a pencil. In another session they saw the use of the materials to build the understanding of math. The evening ended with a Q & A. Parents were excited to understand the activities which their child was describing to them at home and staff were able to explain how parents could support their child's new found independence on activities such as pouring water and milk.

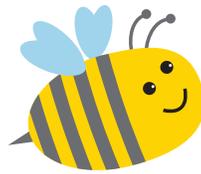


28 parents attended the Primary Education Night and were in rapt attention while the Primary teachers explained the use of the Montessori materials in Practical Life and Sensorial Life building towards reading and writing.

(...EXCERPTS FROM CLASSROOM NEWSLETTERS...)

BUMBLEBEES

PRIMARY | AGES 2.5 - 6



The school year is off to a buzzing start! The children are getting reacquainted with the work, their friends and the teachers. Our new friends in the hive are settling into their new environment. They are enjoying making new friends and receiving lessons from their teachers. We have been amazed at how our new friends have transitioned into the daily routine, thanks to the guidance, patience and mentoring of our elders in the classroom.

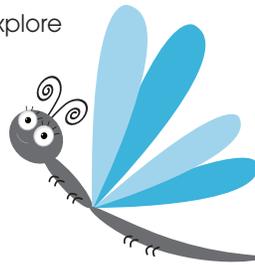
All children have started their enrichment classes and are enjoying them. In afternoon circle time we have been

focusing on art, cooking, ecology, virtues and peace education. The virtue your child has learned for the month of September was cleanliness. Cleanliness has fit perfectly in with our ecology line. We have been going out to the playgrounds to do community clean-up. Currently the children are learning about the 3 R's, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Please practice the virtue of cleanliness at home and we encourage you to recycle with your child. Our virtues for the month of October will be courtesy and gentleness.

DRAGONFLIES

PRIMARY | AGES 2.5 - 6

We have had a wonderful start to the first 7 weeks of school. We spent this month and last month learning about grace and courtesy, 5 senses, living non-living, autumn, plants and animals. Our interactive lines also focused on learning the rules and expectations in the classroom. There is an assortment of corresponding work available for the children to practice and reinforce the information. It is delightful to watch them invite a friend and explore these materials. The fun continues next month learning about North America, fish, trees and leaves.



During the afternoons, we have been cooking, doing directed drawing, and exploring with science. It is great to see the enthusiasm and excitement in the children when they are doing these activities. We hope you have seen some of the recipes go home with the children. They love to cook, and eat their creations.

LADYBUGS

PRIMARY | AGES 2.5 - 6

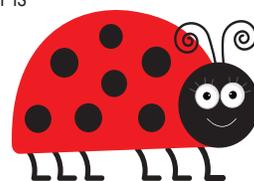
MORNING LINE TIMES We have been learning about manners, feelings, family and friends, 5 senses, autumn, what is living and nonliving, the differences between plants and animals, and the continents of the world. Looking ahead to the month of October we will be studying trees and leaves, fish and North America. We learn about these different subjects during the morning linetime, with activities such as singing, movement, books, finger plays and discussion. During this time we also talk about the calendar and weather.

SHARING DAY Every Tuesday is sharing day. This gives your child the opportunity to bring something they love and talk

about it with the other children. It also gives them public speaking practice. For the youngest child, that may be just holding up their item for the other children to see, and by the time they are older it is our goal that they be comfortable and confident as they give more details and answer questions about what they have brought. Ideas for sharing day are books, a souvenir from a trip, a special shell they found on the beach, a Lego creation, a favorite toy, or an item related to our monthly themes. Please encourage your child to choose something that is meaningful to them the night before so Tuesday

morning it is ready to go. It is also helpful to bring the item in a bag for easier carrying.

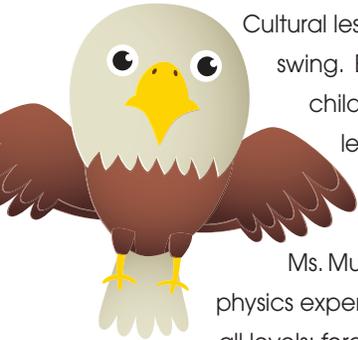
AFTERNOON LINETIMES Yoga, peace education, famous artists, cooking and art are planned for our afternoon linetimes this year. Get ready to hear all about these exciting activities from your child.



(...EXCERPTS FROM CLASSROOM NEWSLETTERS...)

EAGLES

LOWER ELEMENTARY | AGES 6 - 9



Cultural lessons are in full swing. Each week your child has special lessons in science, history and geography. Ms. Munoz has begun physics experiments with all levels; forces of nature and states of matter. Ms. Odenwalder is involved with the first levels doing various history lessons; calendar, time, their own personal history.

We will be sending some "homework" related to their personal history in the coming weeks – look for it in the briefcase. The second levels are occupied with lessons on the basic fundamental needs of man, specifically food clothing and shelter. The third levels are doing a variety of activities; which involve the basic idea of a "Clock of

Eras"; and have started studying the Time Line of Life, specifically the Precambrian Period. They are also in full swing with island building using the materials and working with grids to develop their mapping skills. Ms. Anderson is helping all levels with geography. The first levels are reviewing the basic land and water forms which, of course include, the biggest landforms, the continents. They have been busy making their own booklets. The second levels are studying intermediate landforms like mesa, spit, lagoon etc. They have enjoyed working in pairs to identify some of these land and water forms in Africa. The third levels are taking their research in conjunction with the study of landforms seriously. They are a great example of Montessori at its best. Their studies have led from one thing to the other. e.g. From what is the largest lake to the longest river in the

world. They really take pleasure in looking up information and sharing it with one another.

Every Wednesday we spend time on Peace Education and Character Development. We read stories, role play and play games. We also spend time at the end of each day during our community meeting to discuss attributes of peace we would like to try harder to focus on for the following day/ week/month. Each month the theme we will be discussing will be posted on Renweb, so please check often. The children have received lessons on patience, caring, respect, peacefulness, cleanliness, gentleness, consideration and self-discipline. We are practicing our school code of ethics of Kindness and Compassion when we study these human values.

OWLS

UPPER ELEMENTARY | AGES 9 - 11

GLOBAL PEACE The children in the Owls classroom have been deciding how to help the world and make it a better place. We all sat down and had a vote on what we can do to help. Some of the topics we discussed were deforestation, saving the elephants and rhinos, stopping hunger, and helping poor children. We brainstormed many ideas of how to raise this money; bake sales, yard sales, collecting cans and jars and "restaurant of the month." We are all very excited to help the world. ~ By Aisling and Avery

GEOMETRY Geometry is important for your kid's future. At CMS the upper elementary students are learning new interesting topics in geometry. In fifth grade geometry the students started by learning the meaning of congruency and drew examples in their geometry books that they are given at the beginning of the school year. Then about two weeks later we used shapes to show equivalency and similarity. A week after that we used tangrams which is a Chinese puzzle game. In fourth level the students are learning regular polygons like triangles, pentagons, quadrilaterals, heptagons,

nonagons, and decagons. Approximately a week later they studied irregular polygons and create Regular Ville (Which is drawing faces on polygons to create characters in Flat Land.) The next week they learned different types of triangles such as isosceles, equilateral, and scalene triangles. Then they learn about points, rays, lines, and line segments. In conclusion, we are glad to be in this school and having fun with geometric shapes.



~ By Evan B. and Evan L.

ANNUAL MEETING & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Around 150 parents enjoyed a warm Saturday afternoon at the Ice Cream Social followed by the Annual Meeting of the School. The children played and ran around with their friends before heading to the Ladybugs classroom for the Mad Science presentation.



WELCOME AND RECAP

CMS Board President Brandon Black opened the meeting by introducing Adela Corrales, Head of School. Adela gave a recap of the accomplishments from the previous year, including **WASC accreditation, new turf** outside the Elementary building, **new computers** in the lab, and a **new line up of after school classes**. She also introduced staff in new positions: Jenny Bernitz, Chique Allen and Dawn Bohn.

NEW MARKETING & RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

Sheila Walker spoke about the need to market the school in order to reach full student capacity of 165. Efforts include **increasing name recognition** through print and digital media, and a branding

strategy which encompasses a **new logo, tagline, and brochure**.

An **Open House event will be held on Saturday, October 10**. Parents were

encouraged to refer people to the school and to write reviews for Google,

Yelp and Facebook. The three year Primary program was highlighted and parents were encouraged to keep their children in the program through Kindergarten.

Adela spoke again about the opportunities available to the students which highlighted the Core Values of Honesty and Integrity, Life-Long Learners, and Hard Work and Commitment as the base of the teaching in

all classes in the school. She also highlighted events where parents can learn more about the Montessori Curriculum.

A WORD FROM PTC

Nadia Salas, Parent Teacher Committee President, introduced the PTC Board and Room Ambassadors. She read the PTC mission and discussed PTC's role in organizing social events and the two fundraisers of the year. This year, the **Walk-a-Thon will raise funds to landscape a peace garden**, and **add additional playground materials and shade structures**.

IMPORTANCE OF FUNDRAISING

Brandon Black explained the need for Fundraising. While tuition only covers the school's operating expenses, fundraising provides for improvements of the campus.

ROLE OF THE BOARD

- Fiduciary – monitors financials, sets tuition and makes investments in the campus
- Creates a strategic road map
- Provides guidance to the Head of School
- Evaluates and manages risk

3 KEY BOARD INITIATIVES FOR 2015-16

- **ENROLLMENT** – build a pipeline that would achieve 165 students in 2016-17
- **ENGAGEMENT** – more events and opportunities to connect parents. Finding new Board members from the community.
- **MEASUREMENT** – implementing a benchmark process and review and measure what is being taught.

3 DESIRED RESPONSES FROM THE COMMUNITY

- If you have an idea, own it, and put it into practice.
- Volunteer wherever you can.
- New Board members are needed to represent the diversity in the community and in particular from the Primary parents who are committed to the school.

If you are interested in a Board position, please talk to Adela Corrales.

For the deck of the Annual Meeting presentation, go to the Password Protected area of www.countrymontessori.org.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

September 16 was a red letter day for the school as over 100 grandparents arrived to visit CMS classrooms with their grandchildren. There was quite a crowd of grandparents waiting at 3 p.m. waiting with anticipation to be taken to their classrooms. Families with more than one child in the school were very careful to share their time around each child.



GRANDPARENTS COMMENTS:

“I love it and I think it is so informative for me.”

“We are going to absorb everything we see.”

“I can see what my grandchild is learning at kindergarten and I know he is doing arithmetic and we do spelling in the car.”

“I just love watching my grandson.”

“We love coming to Grandparents Day. We have not missed a year since she started in Primary and now she is in 1st level.”

Discipline as Guidance

By P. Donohue Shortridge

Your child wants to do what is right, even at the youngest age. First of all, she wants to because she loves you and wants to be just like you. She also has a powerful inner drive to adapt to the world around her, the world of your home, and to do so she needs to know what the rules for life are. She looks to you to show her.

As parents, if you can keep that in mind, you can create an approach to discipline that is positive, less stressful on everyone and it will assist your child in developing into a competent, civilized, compassionate and joyful person.

So, what are some strategies that you might employ?

First of all, model the correct behavior for your child. For example, if you do not want your child to leave the

*If you do not want your child to yell,
then don't yell.*

dinner table in the middle of the meal, then don't you leave the table to take a call or to check an e-mail. If you do not want your child to yell, then don't yell.

Here's another tip; your child is so much more competent than we can even imagine. Even the youngest children can do chores around the house. In fact, so much of the trouble we have with our children at home stems from our children not feeling useful.

The younger the child, the less that verbal instruction alone works. Show him how to sweep the floor, giving him the tools that fit his hand. Name the tools as you use them, "This chore is called sweeping the floor; I'm sweeping the floor with the broom, then into the dust pan and now I'm throwing it away in the trash." "Now, it's your turn." Do the task together for the first few times, so that you know that she knows how to do it.

Also, remember that every activity has a beginning, middle and an end. Show your child how to go get the broom and dustpan, use it, and then put it away.

Cooperation and engaging in chores as well as the fun of family life is a sure way to elicit the good will of your

*Busy hands in purposeful activities
calm your child.*

child. And remember that busy hands in purposeful activities calm your child and help her sort out her emotions.

Next: Limits are essential. You set the limits clear, firm and kind.

"In our family, we use our kind words."

"In our family, we always clean up after ourselves."

"In our family, we finish one thing before we do something else."

"In our family, everyone helps with dinner."

"In our family, the parents tell the children when it is time for bed."

Most important of all, if you say you are going to do something, then you must do it, and do it without

*If you say
you are going to do something,
then you must do it.*

anger. Saying, "I'm almost done with my phone call!" then talking for another twenty minutes blows your credibility.

NEW PARENT PERSPECTIVE

The Binaei Family

DRAGONFLIES 2015

My family and I moved to Poway in late April 2015. My husband and I had been looking diligently for an appropriate pre-school for our 2-year-old son at the time. We were both interested in Montessori education however we had not been able to find one that suited our needs.

After some research and conversation with our new neighbors we were introduced to Country Montessori School in Poway. I arranged for a tour and along with a close friend we toured the facility and met up with the school director, Ms. Adela Corrales. From that first visit, I felt confident that we have found a proper fit for our family needs.

The school accepts children as young as 2.5 years old with the appropriate number of hours of education. The teachers appeared to be knowledgeable, experienced, and confident. The children and the staff they looked happy. The fees were more reasonable than many other schools that I had visited. After discussing my experience with my husband, we decided to enroll our son with the school (for Fall 2015).

I must say, we have been pleasantly surprised at the way this school has been caring for our son. I had stayed home since our son was born hence he has been extremely attached to me. He had displayed separation anxiety

at multiple settings and had not been willing to part from his mother even for a short

period of time. He has always been very shy around other children and not willing to take the initiative to join a group of children to play with them. We were very stressed about him starting school and being away from us for a few hours per day. Yet we knew that it was necessary to break this cycle and help him with his development and socialization skills.

The school faculty were pleasant and accommodating which allowed me to take our son multiple times to the facility in order to familiarize him with the environment. At each visit I was advised confidently, by the teachers and the staff that most children enjoy their stay and do not fuss for a long time. Although I wanted to believe them, frankly, I had my own doubts and was very skeptical!!!!

Now that the school year has been under its way for almost a month, we look back and realize how true the staff's remarks were and how much relaxed we are all as a family.

Our son adapted wonderfully to his school environment. He has become confident, more verbal, expressive, and very social! He has learned how to work/play independently and in a group setting as well.

As for his separation anxiety, it has been reduced to a minimal and we do not experience frequent bouts of tantrum due to his improved communication skills. We owe these changes to Country Montessori School's teaching system, to his teachers and the entire school's environment. Our experience further confirms how much a suitable educational setting can influence and nourish young minds and souls. Thank you Country Montessori School for providing such outstanding service to the community! We all look forward to many great years of learning together. We feel very lucky to be a part of this family.

Lisa and Michael

EAGLES 2015

It took us a long time to finally decide the elementary school for our daughter Serena. We only have less than few weeks to apply for the school, take the assessment and complete her enrollment. We just want to say thank you so much for everything that you have done to help us make it to CMS. It only took several hours between we submitted the online application and received a phone call from CMS. Sheila, Adela and the whole CMS staff are amazingly efficient! We are also happy that CMS team was working with us to determine Serena's level before her admission. The individualized assessment is highly appreciated.

So far Serena and us have been part of CMS family for over a month and we are grateful we have been able to find a school that would help us focus on the basics of our child's education. CMS is wonderful and Serena really enjoys going there. CMS is a school where the teacher really cares about the students and the small class size really helps the teacher to know each student and what they need scholastically.

Thank you again for helping our child and welcoming us into your family.

Serena



Jonah Binaei



MISSION STATEMENT

Country Montessori School is committed to maintaining its leadership in Montessori education. Our mission as educators and parents is to foster independent, confident, academically prepared, and socially responsible citizens, who will be lifelong learners and problem solvers. We will grow and evolve to meet the needs of our children, parents and community.



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