

# THE TREEPOST



NEWS & NOTES FROM COUNTRY MONTESSORI SCHOOL | WINTER 2016

## Thanksgiving Feast



Our CMS family, just like all families, starts preparing for Thanksgiving some time in advance. Parents prepared four turkeys and cooked tater tots. The children started preparations the week of the Feast. This year the Owls made **corn bread muffins**, the Eagles made **pumpkin bars**, and the Early Childhood classes peeled and cored the apples for homemade **applesauce**. Children also created table décor for all the buffet tables.

On Feast Day, several traditions have evolved over the years. Children from Elementary classrooms who were previously in an Early Childhood class go back to their original class. Siblings sit together in a classroom. The teachers and staff serve the children from a buffet table and before eating, Upper Elementary children say words of thanks. It truly is a coming together of the CMS family to celebrate Thanksgiving.

The Halloween Carnival, the Walk-a-thon and Thanksgiving Feast bring the school community together to create, have fun and celebrate the joy of belonging.



## CALENDAR ITEMS

### DECEMBER

- 16 Pajama Day
- 19-30 Winter Break

### JANUARY

- 2 Winter Break
- 3 School resumes
- 16 No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 25 Prospective Kindergarten & Elementary Parent Night



**Like us on Facebook!**



*The Treepost* is sent to families four times a year. For weekly updates, photos, and timely reminders, like us on Facebook!

Our Facebook page is also a great way to share CMS with friends and family and prospective families.

# HELLO from The Head of School

It is hard to believe that we are almost half-way through the 2016-17 school year. The students are all settled into their daily routines and I am always amazed to see the progress at this point in the school year when I am visiting in the different classrooms. I am in awe when walking through the elementary levels and observe the curriculum that they are studying. In the Early Childhood environments, you can tell by the materials being used that we are half-way through the school year. It is also lovely to see the friendships that have developed and the sense of community in the various classroom environments.

"There is a great sense of community within the Montessori classroom, where children of differing ages work together in an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competitiveness. There is respect for the environment and for the individuals within it, which comes through experience of freedom within the community," Dr. Maria Montessori wrote.

The school hosted two **education nights**. The math and cultural one highlighted those areas of the curriculum that are unique to Montessori. It consisted of theory and manipulative materials. Our enrichment classes, music, Spanish, art, physical education and technology, were also presented by our instructors. Mr. Short, the music instructor, opened the presentation with a sing along while he played on his guitar. Language night, held on December 8th was an interactive event where the extensive language materials were laid out for parents to explore and use as their children do. Thank you to those of you who attended these nights. I hope you enjoyed them. The staff truly enjoys sharing what they love. In January, for parents of second year students in the EC program, current Kindergarten and third grade, we will be hosting Prospective Kindergarten and Elementary nights.

"During the Montessori kindergarten year, critical learning skills that lay the groundwork for later academic work and social/emotional development deepen. These skills are carefully nurtured during the first two years of the Early Childhood cycle. They include: concentration, self-discipline, a sense of order, persistence in completing a task, and creative self-expression. The Montessori Early Childhood environment also fosters a thirst for knowledge that continues to bloom in the kindergarten year, preparing children to be eager, self-motivated learners in elementary school and beyond".  
~The American Montessori Society.

"A child who has completed a Montessori elementary program will have developed competence in social, emotional, physical, and cognitive areas. By experiencing firsthand, the value of working cooperatively in a community of trust, the student will have a strong sense of her place in the world, including respect and responsibility for self, community, and the environment, and an understanding of the importance of creating a personal code of morals. She will have set the foundation for a lifelong love of learning, knowing that one may use both concrete information and one's own imagination to explore the world. Through working with a wide array of stimulating learning materials as well as real-world experiences, the student will have honed the multidimensional skills necessary for succeeding in the 21st century, including critical thinking, the ability to communicate and work collaboratively, and the ability to think creatively across disciplines."  
~The American Montessori Society.

The **Halloween Carnival** was a huge success - thank you to Kelley Swaine, Sean Gailey, all of the volunteers and the PTC for their hard work. It was enjoyed by

many. The Annual Walk-a-thon was memorable. I loved watching the children support their school by walking and running laps through the school yard. Their faces shone with enthusiasm and excitement. A special thank you to the spectators, supporters, donors, staff and participants for making the event a success.

I hope that you all had a rewarding experience at our first **parent/teacher conferences** of the school year. I know that the teachers were looking forward to sharing your children's progress. The next one will be held in early March.

Parent involvement and making connections within our CMS community is very important to our students, staff and the school as a whole. Communication is a priority for us and we value all the input from our families. We appreciate the participation in completing the **surveys** that have been sent out, as this is a wonderful way for us to know how we are doing and we can better serve our families.

The school will be closed for two weeks during the **holiday break**. There will be childcare should we have enough interest. If you are interested please fill out the child care forms and submit them to Melissa, as we staff accordingly.

I hope that all of you have a wonderful holiday season with your families and loved ones.

Fondly,  
Adela



Ms. Adela Corrales,  
Head of School, CMS

# PTC NEWS

## Walk-a-thon

The recent Walk-a-Thon (WAT), the first of our two annual fundraisers, was a success. It was wonderful to see all the children taking so much pride in raising money for their school with every lap they completed. Many thanks to event sponsors – **Jinx, ASML CYMER, Reef Point Real Estate and Swim Care Pool Services** – for the T-shirts. We also want to thank the entire CMS Community (students, parents, siblings and extended family members) for your support and presence during this event. YOU make these events successful and, most important, full of wonderful memories.



**We are well on our way to reaching our \$30,000 goal, but we still need help.** If your company has a corporate matching program, it is not too late to get that extra sponsorship.

## Annual Auction: April 22

We have some exciting news about our second fundraising event - our annual auction set for Saturday, April 22nd. This year, we are revamping and changing the auction to make it more of a community event and fun for all who attend. Because CMS is a beloved place that feels like home, the event will be held on site this year! CMS is not only the best school, it is a place where our children find comfort, create everlasting memories and build friendships. We are also planning on having food that will satisfy all taste buds. As in years past, there will be onsite childcare and entertainment. So, please mark your calendars for April 22nd and spend some time here at CMS where we can all come together, eat some food, enjoy each other's company and best of all bid the night away!

More information will be coming out soon!

## Halloween Carnival

On October 29, laughter filled the air at Country Montessori School at the annual Halloween Carnival. Ghosts, goblins, princesses, and pirates were a plenty as the children, teachers, and parents arrived in their Halloween costumes. There was something for everyone this year including carnival games, face painting and tattoos, crafts, food, a cake walk, and a jumpy. The Ladybugs classroom was transformed into a spooky haunted house and those brave enough to enter were transfixed by spiders, zombies, and all things creepy.

Thanks to all the parents who volunteered, ran games, or provided treats for the cake walk (one of the favorite activities) and made this year's event a success. Thank you to the PTC, Kelley Swaine who chaired the event, Sean Gailey who oversaw the haunted house, and the Owls classroom for providing face painting and tattoos. A very special thank you to Barons who provided ice cream floats and donated 100% of their profit back to Country Montessori School!

This was a fantastic opportunity for the community to come together and was a huge success.



{...EXCERPTS FROM CLASSROOM NEWSLETTERS...}

# BUMBLEBEES

PRIMARY | AGES 2.5 - 6



Although December is a short school month there is a lot going on in the classroom. Along with continuous hard work on their daily activities, the children are working on their very special holiday gift. The project is hands on and will take a few days to complete. The children are excited to see and give you their completed present. Afternoon circle times have focused on drawing, ecology, virtues, sign language, art and sequencing. We will be practicing the virtues of Responsibility, Helpfulness and an emphasis on Truthfulness.

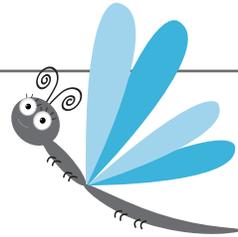
Truthfulness is one of the foundations of our virtues. We have many circle times

and role play activities that reinforce the virtue of Truthfulness. We want our children to understand the positive that comes out of telling the truth. As well as being able to recognize the good feeling they have inside when they tell the truth versus the negative feelings they have inside when they don't. We encourage you to practice these virtues at home and use the names of the virtues so they recognize their meanings. For example, when your child is being truthful let them know you appreciate their truthfulness and why.

We wish you all a safe and peaceful holiday. May the New Year bring your family exciting new adventures!

# DRAGONFLIES

PRIMARY | AGES 2.5 - 6



We have had another great month working together as a community. It is delightful to observe the children as they show empathy for their friends and their environment. As the year ends, the warmth and compassion continues to grow.

We appreciate everyone that helped drive on our first field trip as a class. The pumpkin patch brought memories we will all cherish. There were lots of smiles and photos. We encourage you to share the memories with everyone by posting the images on our CMS TreeRing account. If you have any questions about how it works, please make sure to let us know.

In November, our interactive lines in the morning focused on South America as well Native Americans, weather and amphibians. There is an assortment of corresponding work available for the children to practice and reinforce the information. It is wonderful to watch them invite a friend and explore these materials.

As part of our annual tradition, the Dragonflies participated in creating the homemade applesauce. This delicious treat was served in the classroom and shared with the guests in the Eagles during the Thanksgiving Feast. Our kindergartners visited the Eagles' Elementary class, while the rest of the students hosted siblings and students from the other rooms. A big thank you to all of the parents who helped prepare the food to make the day special. We also want to thank all of the parents who helped with our holiday crafts.

In our effort to assist our community, each month our students go around the school grounds cleaning the outside environment. Fun treasures they love to find are small pieces of sequins from previous projects. When the children get back to the room, we analyze what can be recycled, reused or donated to the trash bin.

We wish a year of peace and health and happiness to you! See you in 2017!

# LADYBUGS

PRIMARY | AGES 2.5 - 6

With the end of the calendar year rapidly approaching, school days are busy and productive. Despite the fast pace of the season, we make time every day to observe our students steadily working away, building their concentration, their social and academic skills, and most of all contributing to our classroom to make it a better place. We are constantly amazed at how quickly they show care and concern by offering to help another child or a teacher, and how adept they are becoming when faced with a problem to solve.

## AFTERNOON LINE TIMES

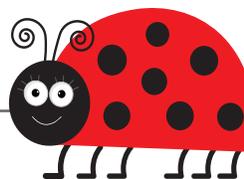
The children have been enjoying yoga on Mondays. They would probably love to show you their favorite pose. On Tuesdays, we do a special art approach called MonArt, which is a directed drawing activity. Your child will receive a book of all their beautiful drawings at the end of the year. On Wednesdays and Thursdays we have been learning about famous artists like Monet and Van Gogh. The children have fun learning songs and hearing stories about the artists, becoming inspired to create their own masterpieces. On Fridays, we read fairy tales and are beginning to learn about virtues.

## MONTESSORI AT HOME

This is a great time of year to give your child some experience in the kitchen. Often families have holiday baking planned, and this presents a perfect opportunity to have your child help with measuring, stirring, and chopping. And of course tasting!

## REMINDERS

Please label those coats and sweaters! We often have duplicates or found items and if they are not labeled it is difficult to determine whom they belong to. This is a great time of year to have your child practice independence by putting on their jacket and taking it off, taking care to keep the sleeves on the outside.



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

# EAGLES

LOWER ELEMENTARY | AGES 6 - 9



The students enjoyed making and delivering pumpkin bars to the classrooms as part of our Thanksgiving Feast contribution. They also enjoyed eating with the older and younger students.

The 3rd level students have had a couple of opportunities to teach the first levels some lessons. Many received a refresher lesson and then were well prepared to present the material to a peer. The 3rd levels had a blast being the teacher and truly helping another child understand a new concept. Many taught introductory lessons with the golden bead material, stamp game and practical life. The

3rd level students gained patience, understanding and confidence. The first level students thoroughly enjoyed their lessons and were successful when then left to work independently.

In Botany, the second level students just created imaginative pictures of animals made completely out of leaves. Before the break the students brought in leaves that were pressed during the break.

The second levels discovered what a million looks like when they received an exciting lesson on hierarchy numbers with a million cube, hundred thousand square, ten thousand bar and thousand cube. Thus, there are a lot of seconds now performing multiplication operations in the ten thousand place value.

The first levels in history are working on their personal time lines. Many older

students walked by and commented that they remembered doing that activity and they still have their time line at home.

In Geography, the first level students have begun working on a fun project - My Place in the World. The second levels demonstrated the song "We All Live Together," for the first levels.

In art class, all children are busily finishing their holiday gifts for parents.

Special thanks to Elena McCann who helped with the Dia de Los Muertos activity and Mondana Heidari who helped with the Thanksgiving crafts. A huge thanks to David Hertzog for doing a complete makeover on our dollhouse.

# OWLS

UPPER ELEMENTARY | AGES 9 -11

## HISTORY

The 4th and 5th levels have been spending a lot of time on history. The 4th levels have been working on a presentation about Early Man. There will be multiple groups, each exhibiting a different species. They will be presenting on December 9. The 5th levels have been working on a presentation about Colonial America. Each student displays a different trade from the English settlements, which will be showcased in January. Doing these presentations is a much more enjoyable way to learn than taking notes.

## FIELD TRIPS

The Owl's classroom went on many exiting field trips in the past two months. When the 4th levels went to the large Early Man Museum, they got to dress up in costumes of Egyptians. It was interesting and they learned a lot about Early Man. It was

especially fun for them to explore the Neanderthal cave. The 5th levels also went on a field trip to the Midway, an old Navy Carrier, and they saw the planes that they used in the war. They spent most of our time studying the weather. They tracked a hurricane by plotting longitude and latitude on a map. They used a kestrel meter, which is something you use to track wind, how humid it is and what the temperature is. Finally, they saw where the captain controls the ship.

## LITERATURE GROUP

Literature group is enjoyed by the 4ths and 5ths. This month the 4th levels are reading Tuck Everlasting, a book about a family of immortals. The 5th levels have been reading the Phantom Tollbooth a book that has tons of idioms. For example, sometimes you can jump to conclusions, if you are rushing, but in

The Phantom Tollbooth there is an island called conclusions and you can literally jump to it. Next month, the 4th levels will be reading The Bridge To Terabithia and the 5th levels will be reading The Witch of Blackbird Pond. It's going to be a fun month.

## OWLS GEOMETRY

The Owls' classroom has learned a great deal about geometry, thanks to our incredible teachers. The 4th levels have been learning about the parts of a circle. They have also been taught about the nets of figures and graphing. Most recently, the 5th levels have been learning about how to measure the circumference of a circle. They have also been learning about congruency, similarities, and equivalency. It's more hands on and we experience more about geometry.



# CREATING A LEGACY

By Brandon Black, former Board President

If you look up the word legacy in the dictionary, you will find one entry that states, "anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor." More than twenty-five years ago, a group of determined teachers, administrators and parents set out to create a school that nurtured kids and gave them the best education possible. Since then, hundreds of families have poured their time, money and experience into the school. Our children are now the beneficiaries of that vision and commitment. Today, we have

the opportunity to add our chapter to this legacy. To accomplish that, we need parents to become leaders in the classroom, the PTC or the Board of Directors. As somebody who has had the privilege to serve on the Board for 6 years, I can tell you that great things happen when a group of dedicated, selfless volunteers work together toward a common goal. In the last 4 years alone, we have finished the construction of the elementary building, added the turf, serenity garden and shade structures around the property, refurbished the

other classrooms and dramatically upgraded the computer lab. We've also recently started to accelerate the pay down of the mortgage on the building! Every year, we lose a few of our most involved community members to graduation. As such, we are always in need of fresh perspectives and never run out of things to do with an extra pair of hands. I encourage you to step into the community with both feet and help us make the legacy come alive for the thousands of students that will enroll in CMS over the next few decades. It will be worth your time.

## MONTESSORI OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

We are on a mission at CMS to build community awareness about the Montessori educational philosophy and the benefits for children who experience a Montessori education, whether it is for Early Childhood or all the way through Elementary and Middle School. Our outreach efforts include:

Showcase tables at various business events and we are also delighted to have been invited to present at some local companies. We have presented at Illumina thanks to Kathy Rogers, mother of Lucas and William, Eagles and Owls. There are four CMS parents employed at Illumina.

We have recently been at Dexcom, thanks to Poonam Hedge, mother of Satvik and Shriya, Eagles and Owls, and Padmini, mother of Raghav and Sharan, Eagles and Owls.

In the new year, we will be presenting at Hewlett Packard thanks to Rebecca Barnett, mother of CJ, Owls.

We are also happy to present at other groups such as Mom's groups. We think Montessori education is too good to keep to ourselves so we want to share it.

Please contact Sheila Walker if you would like us to come to your organization or group.

## CMS ONLINE

### UPDATED WEBSITE

Country Montessori School has recently updated the appearance of the website [www.countrymontessori.org](http://www.countrymontessori.org).

The green, yellow and blue color palette truly reflects the place and mood of our wonderful school. We have blue skies and sun most days of the year. We are fortunate to have the green trees to add nature to our environment and grassy play areas for fun. We have a tab for parents with the calendar, parent handbooks, etc. but most of the website is geared to present our school to prospective parents.

**Renweb** is the place where we hope parents find the forms, newsletters, childcare billing etc. that they need once their child is enrolled.

### FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!



The school is also now on **Instagram** #countrymontessorischool. Follow us and share with your friends and family who may not use Facebook.



# WHAT IS THE AMERICAN MONTESSORI SOCIETY?

The American Montessori Society (AMS) is the foremost advocate for quality Montessori education, an innovative, child-centered approach to learning. AMS sets the high professional standards that inform Montessori education as practiced in AMS-accredited schools and taught in AMS-affiliated teacher education programs. A not-for-profit organization based in New York City, with nearly 13,000 members worldwide, AMS is also a hub of all things Montessori: an information center for its members, the media, and the public; a voice in the public policy arena; and a mobilizing force for the global Montessori community, through support services, research, and professional development events. AMS is a vibrant community of schools, teachers, families, and others determined to make Montessori a strong and positive force in education.

The American Montessori Society's Annual Conference is being held in San Diego on March 9-12. Montessorians from throughout the country including teachers, administrators and board members travel each year to attend the many workshops, tours and networking sessions that these conferences offer. As a full member AMS school, Country Montessori sends its teachers and administrators each year and they bring back valuable information to share with their students as well as staying current with the required ongoing teacher education hours.

With the 2017 conference being in San Diego, CMS has an active role in the conference. On Thursday, March 9th, CMS will be part of the school tours. Six schools were selected from San Diego and Orange County. The CMS school tour which is sold out, includes a physical tour of the school as well as a work shop by long time Montessorian and music teacher, Frank Leto. The school had to meet specific requirements as well as a physical tour and interview to be considered as a tour school. Ms. Corrales is serving on the local AMS conference committee and is co-chairing the work shop monitors where she has assisted in getting 90 Montessori volunteers from local and northern California schools to be monitors. In addition, Ms. Rehkopf and Dr. Rader, our 4th and 5th level teachers, were selected to present a 75-minute work shop on Science. There were many workshop submittals this year, so we are very proud of our Upper Elementary team for being selected to be share their incredible knowledge with fellow Montessorians.

CMS is very excited and pleased to be actively involved and able to contribute to such an important event in the Montessori community. The school will be closed on Friday, March 10th so that all CMS staff can attend Fridays workshops. All lead teachers and administration will participate in the full three-day conference.

## The Process of Normalization in a Montessori Environment

From *Maria Montessori: Her Life and Work*  
E. M. Standing, Pages 175-179

In Montessori education, the term "normalization" has a specialized meaning. "Normal" does not refer to what is "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.

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).

### CHARACTERISTICS OF A NORMALIZED CHILD

- Love of order
- Love of work
- Profound spontaneous concentration
- Attachment to reality
- Love of silence and working alone
- Sublimation of possessive instinct
- Power to act from real choice
- Obedience
- Independence and initiative
- Spontaneous self-discipline

Montessori believed that these are the truly "normal" characteristics of childhood, which emerge when children's developmental needs are met.

# PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE

## The Montessori Journey

by ARPITA GUPTA

Mom of Navika Ghai, Dragonflies

One of the greatest challenges that I faced as a new Montessori parent was that I did not attend a Montessori school as a child – and, without that direct experience, it was difficult for me to really understand what goes on at school and what my child learns in a Montessori classroom.

The two day Montessori journey that I attended at Country Montessori School helped me ease many of my doubts and fears and to gain an insight into our child's day at school. The materials she works with, how she does it and why she does what she does. It also made me realize that Montessori is not just about getting the end result but also about the process to reach that result. It teaches you to work by yourself, with your peers and with your teachers while respecting your own space and that of others.

This journey helped my husband and I reaffirm our decision of giving our daughter the opportunity to blossom in a Montessori environment and be prepared not just for school but for life.

# SURVEY RESULTS

We often ask parents for feedback on events to help us with our future planning process. Because your comments are valuable, we encourage you to participate in future surveys!

## First 30 days at the school

Results of our survey of all new families who started in August:

**21 out of 31 families answered**

**80% said their child was happy with the experience**

**90% said they were very happy with the Admissions and Enrollment experience**

**79% said they found the orientation very helpful and information was useful**

**90% were already familiar with using Renweb**

Now that families have grown more familiar with the school, we imagine their answers to these questions would rate even higher if they were to take the survey again.

## Ice Cream Social and Annual Meeting

We surveyed all CMS families and received the following results:

**52 families replied**

**14 did not attend due to other commitments**

**52% met and talked with someone they did not know**

**83% said the meeting was very informative and they learned new information about the school**

**83% said they were happy and did not have other topics they wished to be covered**

We hope in future more families will take the opportunity to make connections with new families. We will consider many of the suggestions when we plan for next year.

# ALUMNI NEWS



Julie Yue, parent of four CMS alumni, recently visited the school and updated us on her children.

- **Janis Yue** graduated from USC in Neuroscience in May 2016 and is applying for a place in clinical psychology next year.
- **Albert Yue** will graduate from USC with a major in Computer Science Games in May 2017.
- **Joanne Yue** is majoring in Environmental Science at UC Santa Barbara.
- **Ariel Yue** is a freshman at UC Berkeley majoring in Applied Math.

Julie told Adela Corrales, Head of School, that the foundation they received at CMS set them up for success

# MEET THE TEACHERS

## MANDY ODENWALDER

### LOWER ELEMENTARY

#### Where did you live as a child?

I grew up in Rancho Penasquitos. My parents still live in my childhood home and it's less than two miles away from my current home.

#### How many years have you been teaching at CMS?

I have been working at CMS since August of 2000 and have been teaching since 2006.

#### What did you do before you came to CMS?

I was in high school. After graduating, I began working mostly in childcare part time while I went to college at CSUSM full time. I got my CA teaching credential and chose to continue working at CMS instead of public school. I then completed the AMS elementary credential.

#### What do you enjoy about teaching Lower Elementary?

I love watching the light bulb turn on for each student throughout the year. I love seeing how much growth a student acquires throughout the year both physically and mentally. It's fun taking pictures of the students during their work times at the beginning of the year and seeing so much change at the end of the year.

#### What is a favorite memory from your childhood?

I was a Montessori child for my early childhood years. I remember my school having sheep and seeing them get sheared in the spring/early summer was pretty cool. My mom also worked in the office while I went to school there and would often walk around and wave to me or watch as I played. I enjoy taking a peek at my children on the playground as well.

**What are your interests?** I enjoy gardening, simple sewing, making projects, going for walks, camping and spending time with my children. I have gotten quite good at building with Legos, duplos and Geotraks.

#### What is the most important thing you would like parents to know about Montessori education?

I believe it! If I didn't believe it, I wouldn't work here and I wouldn't send my kids here. Seeing past students who come back, it's clear CMS prepared them for advanced classes, made them better public speakers, and prepared them for success in life. As far as I'm concerned, a CMS education is the only way to go.



## CSILLA OWEN

### DRAGONFLIES

#### Where did you live as a child?

I grew up in a picturesque town in Transylvania, Romania.

#### How many years have you been teaching at CMS?

This is my first year with Country Montessori School. A very exciting year!

#### What did you do before you came to CMS?

I worked as a teacher at another Montessori School in Rancho Bernardo. Sadly the school closed and I was very fortunate to have found CMS.

#### What do you enjoy about teaching Early Childhood?

As M. Montessori said "The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind." I strongly believe that children are the ones who are holding the keys for a peaceful future. They come into the world like a burning fire and our duty is to make sure we don't extinguish the great fire that is burning within. They can be anything and everything. We are here to make sure that we can provide an environment that doesn't stifle but rather supports the unfolding process of their development and growth.

#### What is your favorite time of year at CMS? Why?

Being my first year with CMS I look forward to all events that brings us together as a community.

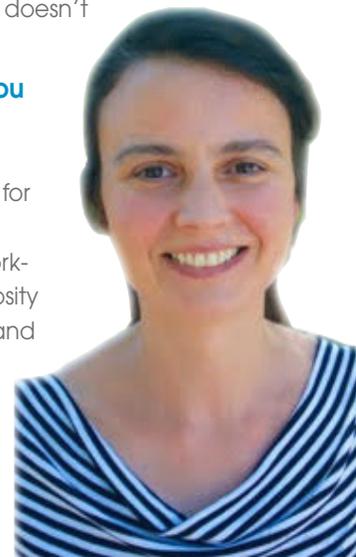
#### What is a favorite memory from your childhood?

One memory that I will always cherish was the day I took my father's bicycle and learned to ride it. It was difficult to put my feet on the pedals and I was not able to reach the seat, but the thrilling feeling of being able to keep it moving was great. I fell multiple times but I wanted so badly to ride the bicycle that I never gave up and kept on trying.

**What are your interests?** I enjoy everything that has do to with art. I enjoy visiting art museums or people's backyards who are artists even though their work doesn't hang in a museum or gallery.

#### What is the most important thing you would like parents to know about Montessori education?

Montessori education is an education for life. Children have the opportunity to experience the joy of learning and working with materials that ignite their curiosity and further aids exploration, learning and social-emotional-cognitive development. It offers a strong foundation for children to go out in the world and fulfill their potential.



# 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.

Picture your child here...



Call for a tour!

**Ages 2.5 - 11**

**858.673.1756**

**COUNTRYMONTESSORI.ORG**  
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