

# THE TREEPOST



NEWS & NOTES FROM COUNTRY MONTESSORI SCHOOL | WINTER 2015

## Excitement, fun, laps and laughter

**Annual Walk-a-thon raises funds and spirits at CMS**



Warm sunshine met the students as they arrived at school

for the annual Walk-a-thon fundraiser on November 19th. Each student received a T-shirt with the new CMS logo and a card for their laps to be recorded. At 10 a.m., the Bumble Bees, Dragonflies and Lady Bugs arrived on the playground, excited and ready. The students got off to a fast start cheered on by parents and staff gathered at the starting line with banners and cameras. Very quickly the first laps

were being recorded. The few seconds to stop for their check mark were just too long for some who wanted to be off again. As time went on, from 5 minutes to 10 minutes to 15 minutes, the children's pace slowed and a few began to walk but most were still running when time was called. After a little water spray and class photo, the younger students returned to classrooms for water and oranges.

At 11 a.m., the Eagles and Owls were ready for their turn. The track for them was quite a bit longer than the Primary students, but the Elementary students showed the same speed and enthusiasm. They ran for 20 minutes as a large group of parents showed their enthusiastic support.

This event generates so much fun and excitement each year, as well as funds for the school to acquire more shade structures, playground structures, and a serene garden. Congratulations to everyone!



Many children ran more than 20 laps at the annual CMS Walk-a-thon this year. What a wonderful fun way to help the school achieve its fundraising goal.

## CALENDAR ITEMS

### PAJAMA DAY

Friday, December 18th

### WINTER BREAK BEGINS

Monday, December 21st

### SCHOOL RESUMES

Monday, January 4th

### PROSPECTIVE KINDERGARTEN & ELEMENTARY NIGHT

Tuesday, January 12th

### MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY - NO SCHOOL/NO CHILD CARE

Monday, January 18th



## 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 2015-16 school year. The students are all settled into their daily routines. 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. When observing in the Primary environments, you can tell by the materials that are being used that we are half way through the school year.

## “SENSITIVE PERIODS” LEARNING

At this point, many of the students display what in Montessori education is called “Sensitive Periods.” Sensitive periods are those periods in the child’s life when a certain ability manifests itself strongly. During these periods the child has an especially strong sensitivity towards a particular piece of knowledge or skill. It is a period of time in which the child concentrates mainly on one aspect of his environment and excludes everything else. It is a time of intense concentration and mental activity on developing a particular skill at that particular time, age / phase in growth. The sensitivity lasts for a certain period and does not reoccur.

Dr. Maria Montessori said, “These (sensitive periods) are like a beam that lights interiorly or a battery that furnishes energy.” The sensitive periods furnish energy to explore specific areas of the environment and to master certain skills. Montessori explains: “It is this sensibility which enables a child to come into

contact with the external world in a particularly intense manner. At such a time everything is easy; all is life and enthusiasm. Every effort marks an increase in power.”

## SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL EVENTS

The school hosted several **education nights**. The intention of these evenings was to give our parents an overview of the Montessori curriculum as well as the opportunity to experience the materials as their children do. I hope that you enjoyed these events; the staff truly enjoys sharing what they love.

Thank you for those of you who joined me for **Coffee Time**, I really enjoyed the simplicity and candidness of our conversation. It was also nice to have you meet each other; I will be hosting one again in the spring time. The Fall Festival was a huge success and thank you to the PTC for all of your hard work on it, it was enjoyed by many. The **Annual Walk-a-thon** was so much fun! I loved watching the children support their school by walking and running laps through the school yard. Their faces shined 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 nice 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.

## ENHANCED COMPUTER LAB

The elementary students have been thrilled with their new computers in the lab and look forward to going to class once a week with Ms. Rendon. Wendy Rader, the sister of our very own Dr. Kathy Rader, an Owl’s teacher, very generously donated Microsoft software for all new computers. The school showed its appreciation by sending her thank you cards written by the students. In addition, Microsoft is matching the

donation. If your company provides corporate matches please keep CMS in mind, we would greatly appreciate it.

## NEW MARKETING PUSH

This year the school has launched a new marketing approach led by our Director of Admissions and Enrollment, Sheila Walker. She has been doing a great job at getting our name out into the community, enhancing our web site, updating our logo and making our presence known through various advertisements and social media, primarily Facebook. Sheila posts weekly on Facebook, sharing what our students, school, and faculty are doing as well as features all events that are new to CMS. If you haven’t already visited our Facebook please do. **We encourage all of our families to LIKE our Facebook page and to share with friends and family.** Our Facebook page will keep the community informed in between our quarterly newsletters.

## COMMUNICATION IS KEY

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 of our families input. We appreciate your participation in 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. There will be a school-wide survey coming out in January. We look forward to receiving your feedback and it will be useful for the Board of Directors at their annual strategic planning meeting.

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The school will be closed for two weeks during the holiday break. There will be four days of child care if we have enough interest. **If you are interested in child care during break, please fill out the Childcare 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.



Ms. Adela Corrales,  
Head of School, CMS

# Enrichment Night

Parents received valuable insights into our Enrichment classes during Enrichment Night in October. CMS Enrichment teachers shared videos, slides and displays of materials highlighting their passion for their subjects which enrich the basic Montessori curriculum.



At Enrichment Night, Ms. Salas (above) shares her Primary Spanish curriculum and Mr. Short (below) discusses music enrichment lessons with parents.



## MUSIC

**Primary**  
40 min/wk

**Lower Elementary**  
50 min/wk

**Upper Elementary**  
60 min/wk

**Mr. Short** strives to make music fun, let students experience different kinds of music, and encourages them to appreciate music. Students learn the basics of rhythm with games and fun instruments like boom whackers. They also learn about composers, history of music,

orchestra instruments, and world music. The music curriculum culminates with the Annual Spring Fling at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts.

## PRIMARY SPANISH

**Year 1 & Year 2**  
20 min/twice a wk

**Kindergarten**  
30 min/twice a wk

**Ms. Salas** believes that learning a second language young can open doors in the mind that can open doors in life. In her classes, she focuses on basic words such as days of the week, greetings, weather, and monthly topics such as colors, numbers, actions and clothing. Kindergarten students work on conversation one day of the week and writing the other day.

## ELEMENTARY SPANISH

**Year 1 & Year 2**  
60 min/wk

**Ms. Murray** introduces Spanish grammar in Lower Elementary. While she does not use total immersion, classes are highly interactive. The student pen pal program starts in 3rd level (SIPPP). In Upper Elementary, students learn more vocabulary and grammar. By the end of the 5th level, students are able to write and perform a puppet show.

## TECHNOLOGY

**1st - 3rd**  
30 min/wk

**4th - 5th**  
45 min/wk

**Ms. Rendon** is using the 12 new HP Envy computers recently installed in the computer lab to enhance students' technology experience. Students learn keyboarding and use of the mouse with the Dance Mat Typing software. The 3rd and 5th levels take speed typing assessments five times a year; 4th levels create a PowerPoint presentation for a new restaurant; and 5th levels create a website for Colonial Times.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**K**  
30 min/3x a wk

**1st - 5th**  
45 min/twice a wk

**Ms. Rendon** starts with very basic body movements and space, such as finding balance, with Kindergartners. This continues with jump roping, hula hoops and games. K and 1st learn about health and nutrition, while 2nd through 5th level learn square dancing. Apart from fitness and fun games, students learn the basic rules and strategies of many popular sports. The all-encompassing PE program is supplemented with monthly and bimonthly fitness testing for 1st through 5th level.

## ART

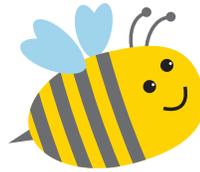
**1st - 5th**  
50 min/wk

**Mr. Rehkopf** emphasizes that there are no right or wrong answers in art. This approach encourages students to be creative and not afraid to try new things. Students create their own color wheels and express themselves in the style of their choosing. The progression in art classes introduces the use of mixed media which might include combining indoor and outdoor materials to create a new image. The study of artists such as Salvador Dali and Pablo Picasso adds to their understanding of the creation of art and how they can create and express themselves as individuals.

(...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. This project is very hands on and will take several days to complete. The children are excited to see and give you their completed present. Afternoon circle times have focused on drawing, ecology, virtues, art and cooking. 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 time

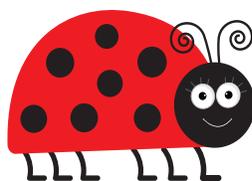
and role play activities that reinforce the virtue of Truthfulness. We want our children to understand the positive that comes out of telling the truth. As well as being able to recognize the good feeling they have inside when they tell the truth versus the negative feelings they have inside when they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

# LADYBUGS

PRIMARY | AGES 2.5 - 6

With the end of the calendar year rapidly approaching, it is tempting to become frantic and frazzled. Each day we attempt to place those temptations aside and 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. These are such wonderful things to see and celebrate.

**UNITS OF STUDY** In November we studied Amphibians and learned about the first Thanksgiving.



Your child will receive a book of all their beautiful drawings at the end of the year.

During the month of December we will be discussing and studying:

- Europe • Winter • Reptiles • Holidays

Looking forward to January our units of study will be:

- Asia • Antarctica • Birds • Planets

**AFTERNOON LINE TIMES** The children have been enjoying yoga on Mondays. They would probably love to show you their favorite pose. On Wednesday and Thursday we have been learning about famous artists (Monet, Van Gogh and Picasso so far). Unique art projects have gone along with that. On Fridays we do a special art approach called MonArt, which is a directed drawing activity.

# DRAGONFLIES

PRIMARY | AGES 2.5 - 6

We have had another great month working together as a community. Each day is filled with warm smiles and continued growth and independence as friendships blossom. On occasion the children have special outdoor circle time lessons. Our interactive lines are progressing from the study of fish to the amphibian as well as North America and Europe. Grace and courtesy continues as a topic throughout discussions. It is delightful to watch our students invite a friend and explore an assortment of corresponding work to reinforce new information.

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 a lot of smiles and photos to share with the Ladybugs. We encourage you to post the memories with everyone on our CMS Treering account. What better way to document the time! This way you can start working on your personal pages for your Dragonfly's yearbook. If you have any questions about how it works, please make sure you let us know. We are happy to assist.

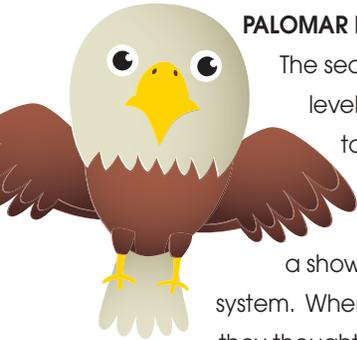
Every Tuesday is sharing day. This is a great time for your student to bring their favorite item and share a few thoughts. It would be helpful to have their favorite page of their books pre-marked. They are welcome to bring anything they love!



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

# EAGLES

LOWER ELEMENTARY | AGES 6 - 9



## PALOMAR PLANETARIUM

The second and third level students went to the Palomar Planetarium and watched a show on the solar system. When asked what they thought about the field trip or what their favorite part was, their responses included:

**Zayd:** "it was aaaaaaaawsome!"

**Sophie:** "it was realistic, we learned about the planets and the stars"

**Peter:** "it was like a movie theater where we learned about the stuff in the universe"

**Ava:** "it almost felt like you were moving inside the planetarium"

**Zarah:** "we learned about the dwarf planets"

**Cassia:** "we learned about the different constellations-heroes and monsters"

## CREATIVE WRITING ASSIGNMENT

On a recent creative writing assignment the second levels wrote what they are thankful for:

**Zayd:** "I am thankful for clothes because I don't want to be cold in the winter. Food because I want to be healthy and grow big and strong."

**Sophie:** "I'm thankful for CMS because I am there to learn about stuff."

**Nick:** "I'm thankful for food because some people don't have any."

**Jaden:** "I'm thankful for the Earth because it is the planet that things live on and has air."

**Cassia:** "I'm thankful for love because without it we wouldn't be kind anymore."

**Brynn:** "I'm thankful for friends because they are always there when I need them."

## CULTURAL CLASSES

In history the first levels have finished their timelines of their lives and their family timelines. Thank you to those who emailed information about each year of your child's life. They had a great time filling out their timelines. The second level students just finished studying Ancient Egypt. They learned about Egyptians, wrote their names in hieroglyphics, and played games. The next two months we will be studying Ancient Greece. The third level students continue to work on the timeline of life. We are currently studying the Paleozoic Era. In geography all students are learning about biomes. In science all children are studying astronomy: the solar system and constellations. In botany the second levels are studying types of leaves.



# OWLS

UPPER ELEMENTARY | AGES 9 - 11

The 5th graders went on a field trip to the USS Midway Museum. The USS Midway was once an active boat, but in 1992 it was finally retired. It became a museum in 2004. We interviewed the 5th graders for their opinions. The field trip was fun. Some 5th graders said they liked exploring the USS Midway. The USS Midway was located at the San Diego Bay at that time. They learned about weather and how to measure it using Kestrel weather meters. The most fun part was when they used the Kestrels for taking the temperature, humidity, and wind speed.

The fourth levels went on two Early Man field trips that represent what we are studying. When we went to the Archeological Center, we were so excited we could not wait. When we got there, we rushed in the door. First, in groups of two or three, we had to look for pieces of pottery that had numbers on them. When we found them, we had to write some information. For example, if we found one, we would write what tool is near it. When we were done, we played games. After that we had to pass around objects and name them. Finally, we had to dig for artifacts and fossils.

When we went to the Museum of Man, we took a tour of the museum to look at

the different bones. Then we did a fun activity where we had to measure a skull and find its width and length. From the measurements, we identified the type of skull. Next, we went to the Egyptian section and saw mummies and other cool Egyptian stuff. After that we went to the Egyptian playing section. Then we went inside a cave and saw cave paintings. Finally, when we came back from the Egyptian section, we learned that we shared fifty percent DNA with a banana. After this fun experience we would like to go back.

~Written by 4th grade students

# FALL FESTIVAL

The Fall Festival on October 24th was the perfect opportunity for parents, children and staff to bring out their favorite Halloween costumes. This annual festival, run by the Parent Teacher Committee, was attended by about 200 children, parents and friends.



The many fun booths and games at this year's Fall Festival were provided by My Little Carnival.



A group of CMS teachers joined in the festival fun, dressing as characters from the Disney movie *Inside Out*.

Assistant) and **Rex Hill** (Haunted House coordinator) for their organization and hard work towards making this day a memorable success!

One of the highlights of this year's event was the annual transformation of the Ladybugs classroom into the Haunted House by parent volunteers. Skeletons and scary objects greeted those brave enough to enter up the steps and into the dark.

Barons Food Market kept everyone happy with ice cream floats and generously supported the school given back 100% of the proceeds from their sales to CMS. The Organic Food Truck, a new addition this year, also offered delicious refreshments for attendees to enjoy in the warm Saturday afternoon sun.

The afternoon was a great success with families leaving tired and happy after an afternoon of fun, food and games.

Many thanks to PTC members **Susy Faus** (Social Chair) **Tracy Parsons** (Social Chair

## Parent Teacher Committee

PTC continues to be in full momentum this quarter.

### FALL FESTIVAL

Thank you to everyone who attended the Fall Festival on October 24th. We hope you and your family had an amazing time. It was great seeing all the children, parents and staff in full costume. Barons was gracious enough to donate 100% of the sales from the ice cream floats which totalled \$341 to CMS and the Organic Food Truck donated \$50 to our cause.

### WALK-A-THON

The Primary and Elementary students showed an amazing amount of spirit and pride during each lap of our Walk-a-thon on November 18th. They they were rewarded with an ice cream party the next day which was highly enjoyed by all. **Pledges are due Friday, December 4th.** We will then announce recipients for the highest pledges and the most sponsors.

### AUCTION DINNER

The annual Auction Dinner will be Saturday, May 7th at Maderas and PTC is now in full auction mode! Teams are starting to form to find a variety of great items to go home with the highest bidder. The Auction Dinner is the second and last fundraiser of the school year. Although it is an event where we hope to raise money for the school, it is also a great opportunity to mingle with other CMS families and staff whether you are in the bidding mode or not. More information to come as the date gets closer.

If you have any questions please contact PTC at [CMS-PTC@country-montessori.org](mailto:CMS-PTC@country-montessori.org)

# WHY KINDERGARTEN YEAR IN COUNTRY MONTESSORI SCHOOL?

Many parents of four year olds already have a plan worked out for their child's education and are committed to their child spending their Kindergarten year in Country Montessori School. Other parents are exploring their options of moving their child to a traditional Kindergarten in public or private school. The CMS Montessori Primary/Early Childhood program is a three-year program taking children from 3 years old to 6 years old. The following can help parents make the right decision for their child.



## There are many reasons and much written about the benefits of spending the Kindergarten year in the Montessori program:

- Your child is a leader in their class.
- Your child is a mentor to the younger children.
- Your child can teach lessons to other younger children which can reinforce their own learning.
- Your child is moving from concrete to concepts of large numbers and operations.
- Your child can continue to learn at their own pace.
- Your child is beginning geometry and science.
- Your child is studying cultural geography.
- Your child continues to do the lessons and learn with concrete materials rather than workbooks.
- Your child will transition this year from concrete to abstract learning.
- Your child continues to learn how to learn.
- Your child will have spent three years with the same teachers and many of the same students. This develops a great sense of bonding and makes for high degree of self-confidence and independence.
- Your child will be following an individualized curriculum which overlaps with 1st level work,
- Your child will have developed interest and readiness for advanced work when they enter 1st grade.
- Your child continues to learn without the rewards, stars, trophies, prizes and points but rather for the love of learning.

## In Country Montessori School, students gain all of those benefits, PLUS our Kindergartners participate in the following activities:

- **Small Reading groups** with Ms. Parker, Reading specialist. Reading is so important at this stage and the benefit of learning in small groups gives the students a very valuable foundation. Children are learning to read at this stage so that they can read to learn.
- **Journal writing** in class through guided writing
- **Physical Education** in small groups for 30 minutes 3 times a week with Ms. Reardon
- **Kindergarten Spanish** is increased to 30 minutes twice a week. The children write sentences in their journals and translate with Ms. Salas
- **Exposure to technology** for science and cultural geography research

## Still not sure?

Contact us for a private conference to discuss your options.

# Cultivate, encourage, nurture, foster

Our goal at CMS is to foster a love of literacy in all students at all levels. This spark is first ignited in the home at an early age when children are read aloud to by their parents. We continue to nurture this growing interest in the Primary classroom. Students look forward to a new experience in their Kindergarten year when they have the chance to participate in reading groups with our reading teacher, Lynn Parker. Lynn has been teaching reading at CMS for nine years.

## Kindergarten

Kindergarten reading groups act as a supplement to the literacy skills taught within the Primary classroom. Each week kindergartners have the opportunity to join Ms. Parker for thirty minutes in the reading room, located within the Eagles Classroom, to engage in lessons that focus on early literacy skills. These small groups are composed of 4-7 students and take place on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons from 1:30-2:00 p.m. Students attend one group each week.

### Early literacy skills

- Developing
  - One-to-one correspondence
  - Recognition of first 10 sight words (high-frequency words)
- Predictions
- Basic comprehension & connecting/ relating to their own lives
- Title
- Author
- Illustrator

## First and Second Level

As first and second level students progress through the lower elementary program they will meet with Ms. Parker in small guided reading groups between 2-5 times per week. These small groups are composed of 3-7 students with similar literacy instructional needs. With each group lasting 30 minutes, students receive from 1 to 2.5 hours per week of reading instruction that focuses on phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills.

- Small groups with 3-7 students
- Phonics workbooks
- Books appropriately leveled
- Emergent readers
  - Meet each day for guided reading group
  - Receive hand selected books to take home weekly
  - Sight words each week in sets of 10
  - Decoding strategies
- Bring the book to life

## Third Level

Furthermore, third level students have the unique opportunity to participate in their very own Literature Groups which meet for thirty minutes on Mondays and Fridays with Ms. Parker. With the goal of learning how to effectively engage in a small group discussion that centers around a specific text, literature groups allow third level students to read, analyze, and discuss their own ideas about a book. Each week students are given chapter(s) to read as well as a reading response journal assignment to help them formulate and clarify their ideas. Third level students work on strategies to: read with clear fluency, acquire vocabulary, and demonstrate an understanding

of the text. The overall objective of this group is to foster a reader's fluency, ability to comprehend, and confidence when speaking aloud.

- Two 30 minute groups (total of one hour)
- A book club for third graders
- Assignments given on Mondays and completed as homework, due on Fridays, Discussion on Fridays
  - Comprehension
  - Engage in discussion
    - Inferring
    - Summary
    - Questioning
    - Opinion & Evaluation

## Additional Programs

### Assessment – NWEA Measures of Academic Progress

- Implemented the system
- Oversee the assessment system for the Fall and Spring testing seasons
  - Fall (August-September)
  - Spring (April-May)

### Assessment – DIBELS Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills

- 1-3 Fall, Winter
- Report for parents
- Benchmarks, regularly monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills

### Youth Leadership – Toastmasters for Kids



# PARENTS' PERSPECTIVE

## THE JOURNEY

**Beth Zaletski** | LADYBUGS & OWLS 2015

Although we have had children in Montessori School for the past seven years, this fall was the first time we had been invited to take the Montessori Journey. When we saw it come up in communications from CMS, I was intrigued.

The Journey is a unique opportunity for parents to view the Montessori environment from the perspective of their child. On day one, parents are given a brief overview of the goal of the program, and on day two, teachers offer parents an opportunity to discuss their experience.

At this year's journey, we were greeted in the Bumblebee classroom where Ms. Corrales gave an overview and asked us to remain silent going forward. Ms. West demonstrated a table washing lesson, and then invited us to explore the classroom, complete some of the lessons that were laid out for the program, and make note of our impressions as we did. When time was up, we moved on to the Eagles classroom, then to the Owls classroom.

As the parent of a child completing his own Montessori journey, the experience was unexpectedly moving for me. Entering the Bumblebees classroom, surveying the sandpaper letters, the pouring work, the dressing frames, the polishing work... I found myself choking back tears. To look back on that work, which our daughter is just beginning, and to remember our son doing the same things, was a bittersweet reminder that time certainly does fly.

Once I shifted my focus to the tasks at hand, I was reminded of the thoughtful and thorough technique Maria Montessori created with such intelligence and precision. I made it a point to do math work in each classroom, and the Montessori Method reveals itself quickly and naturally that way. The materials correlate in ways that are both visual and tactile, and those correlations remain constant through each level. In fact, one notices the same aspect as it relates to all subjects of study in a Montessori classroom.

If you haven't yet participate in the Montessori Journey, I highly recommend that you make it a priority next year.



## THE TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY TO ELEMENTARY

**Amy Gailey** | EAGLES 2015

"It's a big change."

During our four years in primary, we had heard many parents describe the transition to first grade in this way. But this year, our daughter became an Eagle, and we got to experience that change firsthand.

So what does first grade look like?

I think most parents would agree that the biggest change from primary to elementary is the addition of homework. Finding an extra 30-45 minutes in our day for homework was hard at first, but we've discovered that math facts can be done

in the car, she can read to us at bedtime and spelling pages really only take a few minutes on most days.

Another big change is the inclusion of tests as measurements of academic progress. This is new to the kids so expect to see some low "scores" at first. Don't panic! It's important to take a step back and realize that progress is truly the name of the game.

We've learned some tricks along the way. I've found that doing spelling drills with each week's spelling words yields better

results than just doing the workbook alone, and I've watched my daughter's "scores" improve dramatically already. The monthly math tests continue to get better and better as well.

Overall, my daughter loves first grade and has transitioned smoothly. I, myself, am thrilled to see exactly how strong of an academic institution CMS is proving to be. So yes, all of the parents that went before us were right - it's a big change. However, for our family, the change is as welcome as it is big.

# 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.

**Ages 2.5 - 11**

**Call for a tour! 858.673.1756**  
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