

# THE TREEPOST



NEWS & NOTES FROM COUNTRY MONTESSORI SCHOOL | SUMMER 2017

## Celebrating...



## ART & SCIENCE

On June 1st, we held our first annual kindergarten art show! Each student displayed several of their best pieces of artwork. The pieces, presented by a different Early Childhood teacher, were inspired by famous artists from around the world, including Claude Monet, Ansel Adams, and Paul Klee, to name a few. This event was a wonderful opportunity to view, appreciate, and admire artwork from each student. We are so proud of our little artists and are excited to continue this tradition for years to come!

Forty students from 3rd, 4th and 5th grades presented their Science Fair projects to 18 professional scientists and engineers from the local area. The judges previewed the presentation boards, interviewed the students, then collaborated to award ranks. The students were required to use the scientific method to answer a scientific question. The project is mandatory for the students and helps develop critical skills, including time management, reading comprehension, mathematical, writing and confidence in public speaking.

## CALENDAR ITEMS

### JUNE

- 8 Kindergarten & 5th grade graduation
- 9 Last day of school  
Half Day children leave at 12:30 pm -  
No Childcare

- 19 First Day of Summer Camp

### AUGUST

- 4 Last day of Summer Camp
- 21 First Day of 2017-18 School Year



[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

How quickly the 2016-17 school year went by, it is hard to believe it's the last week of school. We celebrate the wonderful school year that we have had and we are saying goodbye to our graduates and families that will be moving on to new school experiences. This Thursday will be our graduation ceremonies for our Kindergarten and 5th Level students.

## Wishing our grads well

Graduation is an exciting event for the graduates. They work hard on preparing personal speeches and practicing what to expect. For years they are the observers at graduation preparation and now it is finally their turn and they are ready! This is a special time for our students, parents and staff. Although it is a bitter sweet time as we are saying goodbye. We wish all our students the best in their new schools and a very special CONGRATULATIONS to our 5th Level Graduates! They are a remarkable group of students, many who have been with CMS since they were 3 years old! We will miss all of them very much. We encourage all graduates to keep in touch and become part of the CMS alumni network.

## Celebrating our successes

CMS has quite a bit to celebrate this year! The Spring Fling was amazing and enjoyed by the students, staff and families. Our outside environment improvements and enhancements are enjoyed by all our students and staff. Being selected to be on the American Montessori Society tour of schools was a very exciting experience for us. Our very well equipped and large classrooms were given much approval from AMS as was our lovely grounds and outdoor learning environments. Our enrollment was almost at full capacity of 163 students, which is very exciting for the school.

## Looking forward

We are all looking forward to implementing some new technology and engineering into our elementary levels next year and preparing for our WASC visit in March of 2018. Community building will be another area we are excited to enhance and foster.

I want to thank everyone who volunteered their time this school year, your efforts and dedication are valued and very much appreciated. I wish everyone a wonderful and safe summer!!



Ms. Adela Corrales,  
Head of School, CMS

## CONGRATULATIONS, Kindergarten & 5th Level Graduates!



## THANK YOU, CMS Board of Directors!



# PTC NEWS

## WWF Change for Change

In February of this year, CMS started a fundraising initiative to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund. This money will assist the WWF in its animal conservation efforts. The students were all very excited to learn more about the WWF over the past few months, and did a fantastic job collecting change from their parents, neighbors and even their own piggy banks. We could not be more proud of their engagement and enthusiasm in this initiative. Thanks to them, CMS collected a grand total of \$2,173.41!



CMS students gathered for a picture to honor their monumental fundraising achievement, and all received special panda goodie bags as a token of appreciation for their commitment to this important cause.

## Beach Cleanup

On May 13, CMS hosted the first cleanup at our adopted beach site, Fletcher Cove in Solana Beach. A total of 29 families and over 60 people were in attendance to enjoy the fresh air, mingle, and pick up a lot of trash littering the beach. Afterwards, many children enjoyed playing on the playground.

Our next clean-up is scheduled for July 8, with a fun gathering/picnic afterwards.

## Year-end Wrapup

Another successful year has come and gone and it's all thanks to the dedication and selflessness of the amazing PTC Committee and wonderful CMS families. With every event that we've held, we hope that has left you feeling more informed, inspired and connected. But above all, we hope that they have left you with long-lasting memories that will always bring a smile to your face.



Country Montessori School's 2016-17 PTC Committee celebrate another successful year

## PTC Activities

The PTC is an organic organization that is always seeking ways to make things better for following years and enrich the lives of all "CMSians". Our activities include:

- Classroom Ambassadors
- Ice cream Social
- Halloween Carnival
- Walk a thon
- Auction and Dinner
- Outreach events
- Staff Appreciation

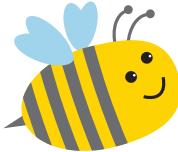
If you have ever had the slightest interest in what the PTC or how to get involved we strongly encourage you to attend the meetings, ask the officers questions, or email [CMS\\_PTC@countrymontessori.org](mailto:CMS_PTC@countrymontessori.org). Any and all help makes a world of difference.

Have a great summer and we will see you in the new school year!

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

# BUMBLEBEES

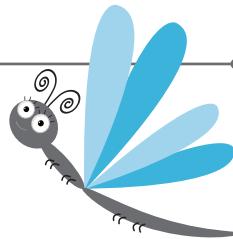
EARLY CHILDHOOD | AGES 2.5 - 6



We are so proud of our Bumblebees for caring so much about the South China Tiger. We raised so much money for them that we won the Panda twice! We are hoping he gets to stay in our classroom FOR-EVER! Overall the Bumblebee children have worked very hard this year. In our prepared learning environment, where everything is "just right" our children are striving to develop their unique human potentials. Through their environment we have focused on Movement, Language, Order, Refinement of the Senses, Grace and Courtesy, Writing, Reading, Spatial Relationships and Mathematics. Throughout their three years they will strive to

master these skills and hopefully with their continued education in the elementary classrooms. We want to congratulate our Kindergarten graduating class. They have just begun to prepare their graduating speeches. We wish them all the best as they continue their education, and we will miss them in our classroom

Montessori at Home... • Have a small rug that your child can roll out to put activities on. This will give them a defined play area. • Have child's activities at their eye level so they can easily access and put them away independently • Involve your child in daily household chores. This will help them learn how to care for their environment as well as give them a sense of responsibility.



# DRAGONFLIES

EARLY CHILDHOOD | AGES 2.5 - 6

Over the past month we have had more opportunities to work together as a community. One of our students started painted lady butterflies and gave them to the classroom as a gift prior to leaving for an extended trip. The children enjoyed watching the butterflies emerge from their chrysalis. The day they all hatched, we created a special morning line for the children to be outdoors and release them. It was a fabulous extension from discussing insects.

Thank you to our parents and family members who worked to take photos, create and beautify our garden, bring flowers, snacks, brought in or assisted with crafts, did laundry, handle our groceries, sew new aprons and drive on field trips. We want to send a big thank you to Mrs. Fung and Mrs. Binaei for being the room ambassadors to make sure the classroom needs were always met.

We are impressed with the compassion our students shared regarding the WWF change for the zaola. Also the dragonfly

students appreciated the opportunity to have the giant panda visit the room.

Thank you for coming to our first Kindergarten Art Show. Mrs. Owen had the delight of presenting Kadinsky, while Mrs. Beck focused on Ansel Adams. As a project that started in the beginning of the year with the full day students, they loved showing their art to their friends in the room. We hope you enjoyed this special event with your child.

We appreciate you allowing us to be part of your child's life. We have had a wonderful year together. Remember years from now when they are taller than us, we are still going to be interested in their accomplishments and journeys.

Please continue to work with your students this summer: reading, setting the table, folding laundry, sorting, counting anything they see and practicing grace and courtesy. These activities are easy and are life long skills.

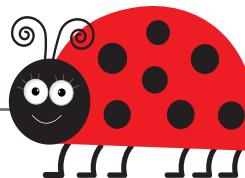
# LADYBUGS

EARLY CHILDHOOD | AGES 2.5 - 6

As the school year comes to an end, Karin and Jenny would like to thank you for all you have done to make our year memorable. Beginning with our ambassador, Marea Ortiz, who coordinated our classroom wish list, and as the year progressed continued to assist us with whatever we needed. And to all the parents who helped the classroom or school in one way or another, we appreciate all you do. You make it possible for our focus to be on the children, and ensuring that we continue to have one of the best Montessori programs.

This is always an interesting time of year, with worries of whether each child has progressed the way we hoped. Then, we take the time to observe, and how wonderful it is to see that those worries are unnecessary. Each child has experienced improvement and growth in many areas; academic, motor skills, social development, and more than anything confidence and self-esteem. It is always difficult to say goodbye to those children that have been in our program for 3 or 4 years, yet we are reassured by knowing they have established a firm foundation for future learning. We will also sadly say goodbye to a few children who are leaving us before completing the 3 year cycle, and wish them the best at their new schools.

The farewells continue as we wish Jenny all the best with her move to New Hampshire. She has a warmth and ease with the children, and in a short 2 years built a strong rapport with students, parents and staff that will be greatly missed. Jenny brought famous artists to life for the children with engaging and interesting activities, planned and organized our first art exhibit, gave beautiful Montessori lessons, encouraged creativity and exploration, and most importantly was well loved by the children.



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

# EAGLES

LOWER ELEMENTARY | AGES 6 - 9



The Serenity Garden is in bloom and Ms. Odenwalder is taking advantage of it for her lessons. The children could take some of these vegetables and create a beautiful salad. They baked muffins with zucchini and they also steamed and ate them. It was a delight for the children to experience and see how a zucchini could be used in the different cooking methods. They enjoyed participating in the chopping, dicing and peeling of all the other ingredients.

We would like to thank all the parents who helped with our auction, field trips and crafts. This month the children

enjoyed going to the Botanical Gardens, Flower Field and Birch Aquarium. We hope they shared their experience with you.

The Last Day of School will be a half day. Fun activities are planned for the children. We will be providing lunch: beef hotdogs, chips, juice and a snack. If your child will not be eating the lunch provided please pack a lunch for them.

If you are still in need of volunteer hours please let us know we will be glad to assist you in completing your hours. We need help in deep cleaning the classroom. There are some items you could take home and clean and receive your hours. Please let us know if you would like to assist us.

# OWLS

UPPER ELEMENTARY | AGES 9 -11



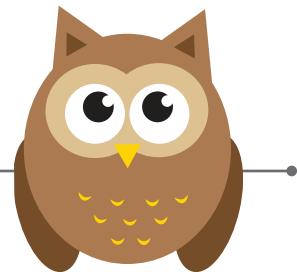
Owls enjoy pre-graduation celebration at Get Air Poway

## Goniometer

Once a year, our teacher, Dr. Rader invites her friend to come and teach us how to measure extensions and flexion. She is a physical therapist, so we can learn from the expert. We get to see how far we can bend our joints and learn how to use a goniometer. We learn the average extensions and flexions that a "normal" person would be able to bend. She helps people that are recovering from injuries to their bones.

## Autobiographies

Autobiographies are very interesting. We interviewed our relatives and wrote pages and pages about them and included a family tree. We also get to write about our pets and pet peeves. Pets are things you like and pet peeves are things that bug or annoy you. The heart map was a fun thing to do. The heart map contained things that we love like family, food. Our favorite part was "Remember Me". This was our favorite because we got to choose our future.



Most people went to great colleges and became rich and famous. All these entries were put into an album and we presented it to our parents and our classmates

## Rocks and Minerals

When we did the unit on Rocks and Minerals we learned a lot. We learned what rocks fluoresce under UV light and what rocks don't. We learned about the Mohs's Hardness Scale. We picked out a mineral and identified it based on its color, cleavage, streak, and hardness. We got to look at salt crystals and find out what would happen if we put salt rocks in brine. We also got to look through a magnifying glass and we looked at all the cracks and bumps on the rock.

## Mock Trials

Our mock trials are very entertaining and a great way to learn about our Judicial system. Everyone gets to play a part in the trials like the defendant or the judge. There are so many parts, there are too many to count. Our trials are just like normal trials, except for two things: we are kids and those on trial are fantasy characters! We do trials like the case of B.B Wolf vs. Curly pig. These trials are extremely rewarding and educational.

# PARENTS + STAFF = CMS

## The Making of Country Montessori School

by Phyllis Walters, Founding Teacher

A local Montessori school was sold in April 1989. The new owner did not want an elementary class, and wanted to bring in a new primary staff. The parents were upset with these changes, and that they occurred so late in the academic year. April was too late to seek admission to other schools. The parents agreed to meet on the Sunday afternoon following this announcement, and invited the soon to be unemployed staff to attend. It was clear from the beginning, all wanted to start a new school.

The first item to consider was a location. One of the fathers said he knew of an unoccupied site that formerly had been a school. He knew the owner and left the meeting with another father to talk to him. In an hour, they returned to say that a reasonable lease was possible. The address was 12642 Monte Vista Road. A school began to sound possible.

Equally important to the staff were the founding principles. The staff insisted that the school would be non-profit, that it would be funded to become an excellent school, not merely a good one, and that it would follow the Montessori Philosophy without question. The parents agreed with these principles and then agreed as to each family's one-time contribution for the expenses of the

start-up. (No GoFundMe in those days.) A school began to sound even more possible.

With this foundation, I commenced to determine how these class rooms could come together and was about to become overwhelmed trying to match high standards with a fixed budget. Then I received a call from a mother saying her mother would make the lunchtime placemats. "What color yarn should she buy?" I blurted out, "red, yellow, blue and green." I hung up and said to myself, "We will have handmade placemats, so I guess the rest of this will fall into place."

Plans were taking shape. The lease began on July 1. Within minutes of seeing the building, we knew it was not up to code. The City of Poway helped us understand our problems. These included taking out sliding glass doors to be replaced with regular doors and windows, building ramps, enlarging doorways, knocking out walls, and building another bathroom for the elementary classroom, and then there was an old empty swimming pool to contend with.

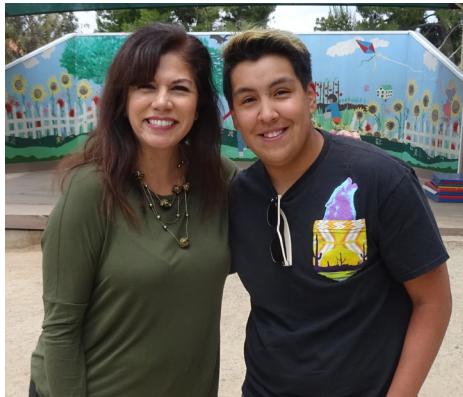
There was no money for contractors. Every family contributed more in time, money and materials. For the next six

weeks, all of everyone's spare time was spent working on the school. One father was in the construction business. He and a couple of other fathers taught willing amateurs new skills. Friendships were formed. No one knew plumbing. Then a friend of a friend of a friend came in and said he had heard we needed a plumber. He said he believed in helping the community, and did the bathroom. (Can the Angels be plumbers?) The old pool became a much-loved sandbox. The City gave us a prompt inspection, and we were on our way.

One afternoon in August one of the parents, from a well-known local family stopped by. She asked the elementary teacher and me what we needed the most. We both said elementary child size tables. She said, "Order them and send me the bill, and when you get ready to stock the kitchen, give me a list." So, we had the grandmother make placemats and everything else fell into place.

We opened in September 1989, up to code, with a full staff, and with full enrollment. Later that fall we were evaluated by the American Montessori Society and found to meet their standards. We were for real! It was the team of parents and staff that made Country Montessori School possible.

## ALUMNI NEWS



Former CMS student A. J. Thayer stopped by school recently while in town visiting extended family in San Diego. This was his first trip back to San Diego having moved to Pennsylvania over 15 years ago, so A.J. decided to walk down memory lane by seeing his old school.

He was amazed to see all of the changes to the campus. He met with Adela Corrales, Vicki Rehkopf and Wendy West who have all been at CMS for over 20 years. Vicki and A.J. shared memories of classes in the bungalow located where the soccer field is today. They also reminisced about the animals the school kept in the area that is now the gardens. He remembered feeding the goats, cleaning their pen, and collecting eggs from the hens.

A.J. has gone on to work with animal rescue at Camp Papillion Animal Shelter and he attributes his love of animals to the time he spent at CMS. He also said that CMS and the Montessori education he received gave him the tools and coping skills required to handle many different situations and know that it is okay to learn differently and to be different.

# SPRINGFLING REVIEW & RAVES



"As always, an amazing show! The kids were so happy, proud and excited to be on stage today. They worked incredibly hard for this and it was a pleasure watching the show. My hat is off to their creative music teacher Mr. Short and all involved in helping to get this show together."

~ Kerstin Kirchsteiger

"This was our first Spring Fling and we literally had goose bumps watching these precious littles on the stage. The confidence and joy they exuberated was a result of weeks of hard work and dedication put in by all the kids, Mr. Short and the entire CMS staff. Kudos and cheers to many more."

~ Arpita Gupta

"Thank you to Mr. Short and the staff of CMS for all the hard work that went behind such as adorable and amazing show put on by all the kids."

~ Alifya Kitabi

"Such an amazing event. Thank you Mr. Short and all who made this day so fun and special."

~ Marla Goodman

# AUCTION FUNDRAISER WRAP-UP

by Shannon Miller-Rice

Thank you to all the Early Childhood and Elementary families who attended this year's annual fundraising auction event and helped make it a big success.

The event took place on a beautiful, warm, sunny Saturday afternoon on the beautiful CMS Elementary lawn. The event brought a number of new faces, in addition to outgoing families. In fact, attendance was one of the highest in years, which speaks to our achievements in growing the CMS community. This year, we also saw an increase in the number of extended family members who joined us and it was heartwarming to see how welcoming our CMS community really is.

Another big change from previous years was the bidding process. Attendees were able to place and monitor their bids with the ease and convenience of their smart phones, receiving text messages when they were outbid and or when they won

their item. This allowed for a very smoother process and positive experience.

Speaking of next year, (you didn't think I was going to bring that up, did you?), it's already time to start planning! Please consider volunteering to help with our fundraising efforts. It gives you a chance to give back to the school, and also get to know some incredible people in the CMS family. We need your help, so please keep an eye out for all volunteer requests.

Lastly, I am so very grateful for the opportunity to serve as the PTC Fundraising Chair this year. The committee members who volunteered their time along with CMS faculty, whom I got to know during this year's event planning, made the time spent so enjoyable. There is truly something to say about having accomplished something so memorable and selfless, and have the chance to get to know fabulous new people along the way... that's the icing on the cake!



# MEET THE TEACHER & FOND FAREWELLS

## VICKI REHKOPF

### UPPER ELEMENTARY

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

I was born in San Diego. My father was in the Navy, therefore, I also lived in Maryland, Virginia, and Hawaii.

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

26 years, I was involved 27 years because Joshua came here for a year before I started teaching here.

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

After college and Montessori training, I taught primary Montessori for 7 years in San Diego Schools. One of them was MCDC, where I worked with Phyllis Walters, the matriarch of CMS. When my boys were toddlers, I had a small licensed daycare in my home for 5 years set up like a Montessori classroom.

#### **What do you enjoy about teaching Upper Elementary?**

I love that I am constantly learning along with the children. Whether I am researching in order to "teach" them or they are reporting back to the teachers or each other, I always discover something new. Watching them work collaboratively is inspiring. I'm moved by the direct impact they can make on our community. I'm especially touched by their contributions to the well being of the elderly when they visit Sunshine Care.

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

I don't have one, but if I had to choose, around October because the children are settled in, eager to learn. There is so much enthusiasm for learning. Later in the year, I love hearing the children have good healthy debates. This year, I heard amazing debates related to The Constitution and civil rights.

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

Large family gatherings; playing with my cousins, and listening to stories from my aunts, uncles, and grandparents.

#### **What are your interests?** Walking along the beach, hiking, bike riding, volunteering through my church, traveling, watching the History and Discovery channels.

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

It's tried and true because it is still working 113 years after Dr. Montessori started her first school. Having taught all levels, I see how each level builds upon and is just as important as the one before it, laying a firm foundation not only for Middle school, but for life.



## SALLY HALL

Sally Hall, our beloved Bookkeeper, is retiring after 10 years with CMS. Sally will truly be missed by all staff members. She has seen CMS through many changes and growth, and her work and dedication to CMS will forever be cherished. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

## JENNY BERNITZ

Jenny is re-locating to the East Coast this month. CMS was very fortunate to have had Jenny for the past two years as a Ladybug teacher. Her passion for Montessori education and teaching is truly going to be missed by all. She touched the lives of her students and was an incredible addition to our staff. We wish Jenny all the best!

## CSILLA OWEN

Csilla moved to Massachusetts in May and is missed by her students and colleagues. She was a wonderful addition to the school and brought so much to the Dragonfly classroom in the short time she was with us. We wish Csilla all the best in her next chapter.

## FAMILY NOTES

CMS Staff and Teachers,

We would like to thank you for another year of joyful learning, gentle guiding and sincere caring. We thoroughly enjoy being a part of such an amazing community.

Thank you for providing this for both the kids and the families.

With love and gratitude,

The Beutz Family



# SUMMER CAMPS **ARE HERE!**

**JUNE 19 - AUG 4**

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**HALF DAY**  
**8:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**FULL DAY**  
**8:30 am - 2:30 pm**

Summer fun is around the corner! CMS offers 7 weeks of summer camps adventures with a different theme each week. Camp descriptions and registration materials are available on our website: [www.countrymontessori.org](http://www.countrymontessori.org)

**CRICKET SUMMER CAMPS 2017**  
2.5 years - Kindergarten

**KOOKABURRA SUMMER CAMPS 2017**  
1st - Incoming 5th Grade



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