



February 3, 2012

From the Desk of Deborah Bricker ~

January is the time we present to parents the programs their children are moving to in the coming year. We had wonderful presentations over the past few weeks from our primary teachers to discuss the extended-day of the primary and from Kay Baker to discuss the elementary; we ended the month with two morning open houses in our elementary classes. We are proud of our Montessori work and our Montessori programs at CMS. This month Jen Cerny has written an overview of the work of the older primary child for those of you who were not able to join us at this presentation.

Please call Effie Dawson in Admissions if you have questions about any program.

Thanks to Jen for her thoughts; enjoy!

Deborah

Primary Extended-Day at CMS ~ Jen Cerny

At last month's primary parent meeting we spoke about the work of an extended-day child. It was wonderful to focus on the depth of learning that happens for our 5- and 6-year-olds during these incredibly important 'culmination years'. It is during this time that the children are able to use all of the broad foundation they have established during the earlier years to refine and develop their knowledge. They draw from their Practical Life work, which helped them to build concentration, develop logic through following an increasingly complicated process, and refine their fine motor skills. They draw from their Sensorial work, which allowed them to see relationships and make classifications, leading to a more ordered thought process, and a broad knowledge of their physical world. They are using their beginning math skills to progress from simple counting into more academic math work. Finally, they are using their basic language work with recognizing sounds and letters, establishing vocabulary, and developing the hand through Metal Insets to move forward into reading, writing, and beyond.

We had a great night showcasing some of the higher mathematical work like addition, subtraction, multiplication and division with 4 digits; our introduction to squaring and cubing work (the chains); and fractions. We also showed how our materials which support learning math facts (combinations of 0-9 such as $9+8=17$, $5\times 8=40$, etc.) are so much more engaging than the rote memorization often used in traditional settings. We discussed the child's individualized work in language including reading, personal expression through expanded story writing, making booklets, collaborative research projects, identifying parts of speech, and sentence analysis.

Along with the academic growth that is evident in these final years of Primary, there is also significant growth in the child's character and maturity. The older children reach a point where they know the extent of their abilities and knowledge, recognizing the many areas of the classroom where they have

reached a level of mastery. This mastery allows them the opportunity to then teach younger children who are still learning, which increases their sense of responsibility, confidence, and leadership skills, and shows them how important they are to our community. The younger children look up to their elder peers, who set the best example of what is expected in the classroom society, as well as providing examples of what can be achieved with time and hard work.

We could have talked for another hour, I'm sure, because the Montessori environment is so rich and diverse! When you think about the standard curriculum in traditional kindergarten and first grade programs, there is really no comparison to the Montessori extended-day program. Thank you to all the families who joined us, and if you missed it, be sure to plan ahead for next time!

Additional Parent Meeting: 6th Year at CMS ~ We would like to announce another parent meeting to discuss the 6th year at CMS. Please join us on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 6:30pm in Kathy Sage's room.

From the Office ~

Inclement Weather Policy

If Anne Arundel County schools close because of snow or other weather conditions, we will automatically close. Parents should listen to the radio or TV on mornings when school openings are questionable due to weather conditions. On any day that Anne Arundel County Public Schools are open late, CMS will open at 9:30am, not 7:00am. This means that the buildings will not be open until 9:30am and that there will be no Before-School Care. If AA County schools remain closed and CMS is able to open on subsequent days, we will make every effort to do so. Families will be notified via email and the school's answering machine, and our website will reflect the day's status.

2012 Summer Program at CMS

We are happy to announce planning is underway for this year's Summer Program at CMS. Echo Salisbury will be returning this year to direct this exciting program and is busy with ideas for this summer. Please watch for more details in the coming weeks!

From the Admissions Office ~

2012-13 Enrollment & Financial Aid Information ~ This is the time of year we encourage our current families to think about enrollment for their younger children. We provide priority placement for siblings of our students, so it is a good time to submit an application for the 2012-2013 school year. If you have a younger child you are interested in enrolling, please contact Effie in the Admissions office by email, admissions@chesapeake-montessori.com, or phone, 410.757.4740, and she will provide you with an application and answer any other questions you may have.

CMS uses School and Students Services (SSS), a division of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), to collect and analyze information for financial aid purposes. Financial aid packets are available in the admissions office; please call or email to request a packet, or stop in to pick one up. You can also find application information online at www.sss.nais.org. The CMS code for SSS is 2358.

Incentives Update ~

Thank you again to all who participated in the Barnes and Noble BookFair. Barnes and Noble has delivered books that parents purchased from teachers' Wish Lists, but some did not note who purchased them. If you purchased a book for CMS at the fair, please let us know so we can properly thank you and include your name in the bookplate.

Thank you to all who are recycling computer print and toner cartridges. We will continue this popular program, which helps the environment and our school. Please drop off cartridges at the front office.

Montessori in the News ~

Please be sure to visit the CMS website, www.chesapeake-montessori.com, for links to recent articles regarding Montessori education. Enjoy!

Coffee Klatches

Our second Coffee Klatch of the school year will be Friday, February 24 after drop-off.

Coffee Klatches are hosted by Deborah Bricker and are a relaxed and casual way to get to know other CMS parents. We will begin with a topic, but the discussion can go anywhere!

For the next discussion we will be reading *The Self-Esteem Trap* by Polly Young-Eisendrath.

All are welcome!

Please drop off your child as usual and join us in the elementary kitchen.
Please RSVP to the office so that we make enough coffee!

Many thanks to the McCubbin Family, winners of Mrs. Schrank's auction project, "The Earth Laughs in Flowers", for lending the beautiful artwork to display in the CMS library!





February 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Coffee Klatch	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Class Photos	9 Parent Meeting 6:30pm	10	11 Jump Rope For Heart
12	13	14	15 PTO Meeting 7pm	16	17	18
19	20 CMS Closed for President's Day	21	22	23	24 Coffee Klatch	25
26	27	28	29			

Important Dates to Remember

- Wednesday, February 8 ~ Class Photos
- Thursday, February 9 ~ Parent Meeting: 6th Year ~ 6:30pm
- Saturday, February 11 ~ Jump Rope For Heart ~ 2 to 4pm
- Wednesday, February 15 ~ PTO Meeting ~ 7pm ~ Limited childcare available:
contact office for details
- Monday, February 20 ~ CMS **Closed** for President's Day
- Friday, February 24 ~ Coffee Klatch ~ Elementary Kitchen after Drop-Off
- Wednesday, February 29 ~ Come-To-School Events ~ 3:45 to 4:45pm or 6:30 to 7:30pm