

# Chesapeake Montessori School

## OCTOBER 2008

### *From the Desk of Deborah Bricker*

I returned to Annapolis on Sunday from a trip to Cleveland for a NAMTA (North American Montessori Teachers' Association) board meeting. While I was there I had the pleasure of visiting the new Montessori High School which has just opened on University Circle/Case Western Reserve University area of Cleveland. I can't wait to tell you more about this exciting new school in future communications.

One area of strong emphasis for this wonderful school is its relationships with the community in which it is located, creating a strong sense of place and of belonging. I thought about this on the plane ride home. This connection to place begins with the youngest in our schools as they take care of each other in preparing and sharing of snack. It continues to be supported throughout that child's growth in our school community in new and different ways all the way through the Upper Elementary when community extends beyond our school walls. Children in Montessori schools always have the opportunity to share themselves with their community and learn very naturally and easily the concept of giving.

This thought was confirmed and strengthened upon my return to the office on Monday morning. My day started with messages from our Development Committee, our PTO, and a parent with ideas about service projects. We are all dependent upon each other for support, for comfort, for vitality, and for fellowship. We, as adults, are aware of our interdependence upon one another and our responsibility to share our gifts. Our school is grateful for the support and contribution made by all of the families of Chesapeake Montessori School. Our children are blessed to see the giving community in which they are growing up.

We are including in this newsletter a message from the Development Committee of the board and from our PTO. Without your help, through the efforts of these groups, our school could not have become – and stay—the enriched, vibrant, and warm community it is. The example of partnership, stewardship, and involvement that you are sharing with your child is an important gift. As Margaret Mead wrote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Please join us to recognize the work we have done as a community to enrich the lives of the children of CMS when we celebrate the groundbreaking of our new building on Saturday, October 18, 2008 from 4:00-6:00 pm.

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## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Deborah's comments center around the idea of dependency on one another, on fellowship and on partnership. This is not only important to support in the growth of our children but it is also at the heart of what the Development Committee sets out to accomplish; a sense of partnership between the community and the school, for the benefit of our children by supporting the betterment of the school.

In the upcoming months, you will see more information coming out from the Development Committee regarding the annual fund-raising event. We have coined the event "Winter Escape" as it takes place in February and provides all of us the opportunity to "escape" from our daily lives for an evening of fun, all in the interest of supporting the school.

This upcoming weekend, there is another event being hosted by the Development Committee of the Board of Trustees. We look forward to enjoying a few hours of building on our strong sense of community, as we come together and celebrate the ground breaking for the new building project that started back in the heat of August. This adult only event is being held at the school and is from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. on Saturday. If you would like to join in the celebration we would be delighted to see you there.

## PARENT NEWS:

Please join the Primary staff on Thursday, October 16, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. as they share classroom activities with you. We will follow the child's experience through the math materials for multiplication that evening. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our Upper Elementary meeting for October 16, 2008 will be rescheduled. Enjoy an evening of stories about Sheridan Mountain with your child at home that evening.

On October 22nd, we invite you to join us to discuss the move from primary to elementary with teachers from both programs. All parents are welcome, but this evening will be especially informative for parents of five and six year old children. Please RSVP to the office if you will be attending. Childcare for 15 children will be available on that evening. Sign up by contracting Judy in the office.

During the last weeks of October, CMS will be hosting primary and elementary observers from the Washington Montessori Institute. This is an important part of the training process, and we are very happy to support these students during their time with us.

Please be advised that our after school program is full.

### HALLOWEEN:

The primary children will be celebrating the season with a trip to the pumpkin patch on Wednesday, October 29th.

On Friday, October 31st, Elementary classes will be dressing for the occasion as a character from history. Details to follow from the classrooms.



## JUST 2 HOURS!

Dear Parents:

If we can get every parent in the Chesapeake Montessori School's community to commit just 2 Hours to helping out, we can do amazing things for our kids and our school.

*Will you please take the 2 Hour Involvement Pledge?*

We've started using a program called 2 Hour Power that emphasizes that all help, any help makes a huge difference for schools. The research is so clear—kids at schools with a broad base of involved parents perform markedly better on all kinds of key school measures.

As you'll see from the enclosed interest Survey & Pledge Form, we'd love to help you get involved in any way that works for your schedule and interests. What would you like to do? When would you like to do it? We'd like to work with you to make sure all parents can pitch in. Involvement is for everyone.

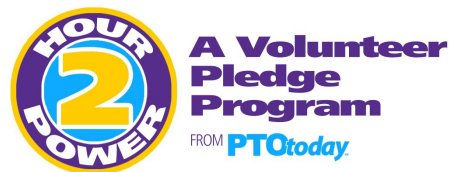
**We'd love your 2 Hours, and—Really! We promise! - there's no obligation beyond helping out in this small, but important way.** If you'd like to do more—great, but we know that's not a fit for everyone.

Participating in our 2 Hour Power program is easy. Simply complete the enclosed Interest Survey & Pledge Form and have your child return it to school in an envelope marked "Lori Smith". We'll then be in touch with opportunities that fit your interests and availability.

Together, we can make a huge difference at our school! As always, please feel free to call or email if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks in advance,

Kim Wendkos  
PTO President  
410-320-7885  
Wendkos@comcast.net



## CALENDAR

Thu., October 16	6:30 pm: Primary Parent Education Evening – Topic to be announced No Childcare this evening 7:00 pm: Upper Elementary Education Evening – To be rescheduled
Fri., October 17	<b>NAMTA CONFERENCE:</b> School Closed
Tues., October 21	7:00 pm: Board Meeting
Wed., October 22	7:00 pm: <b>Parent Education Evening—Childcare Available</b>
Mon., October 27	School Photos
Wed., October 29	Primary Green Meadows Trip
Fri., October 31	Halloween Celebration in Elementary
Fri., November 7	<b>Staff-Work Day:</b> School Closed
Sun., November 9	2:00—4:00 pm: <b>OPEN HOUSE</b> for Prospective Parents

## CMS WEBSITE

**Chesapeake Montessori School** has a secure Web page where the newsletters are posted. In order to enter the secure Web page, each CMS parent will need a user name and password. If you would like access to the secure Web page, please fill out the form at the end of the newsletter and return it to the office as soon as possible. If you have already given us your username and password, they still work.

**Please return the completed form to the office as soon as possible.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

User Name (in order to enter the secure site): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must be a minimum of 6 characters; not case sensitive)

Password (in order to enter the secure site): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must be a minimum of 6 characters with at least 2 numbers; not case sensitive)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date