

**Children's House Montessori School
Newsletter
September 1, 2011**



Addison Buck proudly holds a home grown watermelon. She purchased the seeds from CHMS Farmer's Market last spring!

Welcome Back

We hope everyone had a restful summer. We are back in full swing as we complete the first week of our new school year. A very special thank you to our parents and students who worked so hard last Saturday helping us clean up the grounds, painting, and moving and repairing our playground equipment. So much was accomplished in one very hot morning!

Additional Work Day This Saturday at 8AM

There are some work day jobs that still need to be done: planting the bed in the front of the church (site plan requirement), finish putting pine bark mulch in the toddler garden, building new benches in the garden as well as shelves in the greenhouse, and weeding the garden beds. If you were not able help last Saturday and would like to help this week it would be much appreciated.

Parent Nights

Parents have attended information meetings with our primary and lower elementary staff. The Upper Elementary and Middle School parent meetings are this evening at 7:00 pm.

Parent Handbooks

Parent Handbooks and Snack schedules were/are being distributed during the Parent Meetings. If you were not able to attend, please see your child's teacher for the handbook and weekly snack schedule as well as suggested snack items.

Pizza Lunch on Fridays Returns

Pizza for lunch on Fridays returns! Beginning **Friday, September 2** children will have the option to purchase pizza for their lunch. We will have students taking orders in the hall during arrival time for primary and lower elementary students. Upper Elementary and Middle School

students will place their orders in their classroom. They will have a choice of cheese or pepperoni pizza for \$1.00/slice.

**Family Potluck Picnic
Friday, September 9th 5:30 PM**

We hope you plan to join us for the annual family potluck picnic. This event is always a great time for parents, children and staff to socialize while enjoying great food. Please bring a covered dish large enough to serve 10-12 people. Just so we don't all bring the same dish, if your last name begins with..., please bring ...

A-H	Main Dishes
I-R	Salads/Side Dishes
S-T	Dessert
W-Z	Bread

Information Update

If any of your contact information has changed since registration last spring, please stop by or call the office. It is important that we have current information including home address, home, work and cell phone numbers, email address and any changes for emergency contact information.

Children's House Roster

We will be publishing a roster listing student names, parent names, addresses and home phone numbers. This roster is available to all families of Children's House. If you do not wish to have your information included, please contact the office by **Tuesday, September 6.**

Emergency School Closure

Keeping in mind we are still in the midst of Hurricane Season, we want our parents to know Children's House will cancel classes if Volusia County Schools have made the decision to close for a date. Since the county decision is announced on our local news, this will be an efficient way for our families to know our school's decision.

Outside Protection

Please make it part of your daily routine to send your child to school with mosquito repellent and sunscreen applied. This will make their outdoor time more enjoyable.

Field Trips

If you plan to drive for any of our fields trips throughout the year, please stop by the office. We will need to make a copy of your driver's license and insurance card. For those of you that provided the information last year, we ask that you do so again for the new year. Thank you.

Book Club Order Forms

Book club orders forms were sent home this week. The books available are from Scholastic Publishing Company and are usually of high quality and a good value. To place an order, please complete the order form, include it in an envelope with your payment and submit it to our office. **Make checks payable to Scholastic Books.** If you are ordering on more than one form, please write separate checks. Books usually arrive within two weeks of the orders being placed and are put in your child's classroom. If you prefer to pick them up, please put **your** name on the form and we will keep them in the office. September orders should be in the office by the end of day **Wednesday, September 7.**

Box Tops For Education

If you've been collecting box tops during the summer, please drop them in the box on the hall table. The program pays cash to the school twice a year, so please continue to save them.

Don't forget we also receive Office Depot credit for recycling printer cartridges. A box for cartridges is also located on the hall table.

After School Classes

Registration forms for our after school art and music classes will be available on the hall table beginning **Friday morning, September 2**. These programs will begin the week of September 12. There is an enrollment limit on the classes so be sure to pick up your form early. Due to the popularity of these classes, a student's place in the class will be secured when the form and payment have been submitted to the office.

After School Art Classes

Art classes for Kindergarten-2nd grade will be on Mondays 3:15-4:45, beginning **Monday, September 12**. Classes for 3rd-6th grade will be held Wednesdays, 3:15-4:45 and will begin **Wednesday, September 14**. Fees for both classes are \$125 for current CHMS students and \$150 for non-enrolled students. Fee includes the class time as well as supplies.

After School Music Classes

Music classes will begin the week of **September 12**. Sounds of Steel (returning students) will be held Tuesdays from 3:00 – 4:30 pm. Recorder Club (all levels) will be available to students grade 2 and above and will meet on Fridays from 3:00 – 4:15 pm. Fees for both music classes are \$125 for current students and \$150 for non-enrolled students. Fee includes the class time as well as supplies.

Chess Club

Chess Club will remain on Tuesday afternoons. The first meeting of the club will be **Tuesday, September 13**. No registration is required.

Individual Black and White Photos of Students

On **Thursday and Friday, September 29 & 30**, individual black and white photographs will be taken by Katie Kaufman. Photos will be available for purchase at a later date. Siblings have the option of being photographed together, if desired. Please contact the school office if you wish to have your children photographed together.

Aftercare

Any student that remains with us at 3:15 pm will be signed into aftercare. Parents will be billed at the end of each month at the rate of \$4.00/hour.

Reminders for Parents of Primary Children

The children in our primary classes use hard-boiled eggs, oranges and bananas in food preparation work. Parents may sign up at the class room doors to donate these items occasionally.

Primary students need a change of clothes in a plastic zip lock bag to keep on hand in their cubby.

When preparing lunch for your primary child, please try to use containers your child can manage for him/herself. It is not necessary to send a beverage as all children in the class drink water with lunch.

Equipment used in our classrooms is designed to be attractive. Unfortunately, they may be *too* attractive! If your child brings home *little things* of interest, please return them to the teachers.

**Journey Into Discovery
Saturday, November 5**

Our ***Journey Into Discovery*** parent education program will be Saturday, November 5. We will begin promptly at 8 AM. The Journey is recommended for families new to our school to learn about the foundations of Montessori as well as what to expect as your child progresses through each level.

**Faith Lutheran Church Rally Day
Sunday September 11**

Following the 9:30 AM worship service the church will hold special Rally Day activities to begin the new Sunday School year. Families can enjoy hot dogs, a bounce house, petting farm animals and snow cones. A special invitation is extended to our Children's House families.

Interfaith Kitchen – Tuesday, September 13

Each month this church hosts a meal at the First United Methodist Church helping to feed families in need. Families of Children's House will organize and serve the dinner on **Tuesday, September 13**. We will need volunteers to help prepare and serve from about 5 – 7 PM that evening. If you cannot participate but would like to help we will need some large #10 cans of green beans, some large bags of salad and some 9x13 sheet cakes. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Dora Mallett.

Friends of Montessori

Thank You To Our Families Who Participated In Clean-Up Day !!

We are so thankful to all of the families who lent a hand at the annual Clean-Up Day! Despite hurricanes and the ongoing construction, we made huge strides toward having our outdoor areas neat and ready for the enjoyment of our children. Our community and families were so supportive! They created a warm, comfortable family environment that empowered the children and encouraged their participation. A great deal was accomplished on such a HOT muggy day!

Thank you again to the Beautification Projects Committee for supporting the event, and to our families who worked so hard!

There are a few remaining projects to complete, so if you missed out, you have another chance to lend a hand this Saturday, September 3rd at 8am at CHMS!

Welcome To Our New Families!

The Friends of Montessori would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to all of our new families. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please feel free to ask any member of the FOM Board. Their names and pictures are posted on the FOM bulletin board outside of the front office.

Also, save the date for the **New Parent Breakfast, Saturday, September 17th at 9:30 am at CHMS**. It is a great opportunity to chat with your child's teachers and meet other new families!

FOM Board Meeting

The next Friends of Montessori board meeting is Thursday, September 15th at 6:30 pm at CHMS. All families are members and are welcome to attend. It is a great way to find out

exactly how the board supports the school, give your input, and become aware of opportunities to help.