



Chaffee County Montessori School

Monthly Newsletter

Issue 1, Volume 3

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"If education is always to be conceived along the same antiquated lines of a mere transmission of knowledge, there is little to be hoped from it in the bettering of man's future." **Dr. Maria Montessori**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Toddler Tea 3:30-4:30pm	5	6
7	8	9 Hospitality Mtg. 5:30pm	10 Small Hands orders Due!	11 B&G Mtg. 5:30pm	12	13
14	15	16 Open House	17	18 Thanks-giving Feast 11:30am	19 P4P (see p.6!)	20
21	22 No School	23	24	25	26	27 Board Mtg. 2-3:30
28	29	30				

NOVEMBER

Sunday, October 31, 3:30-5pm: Fall Festival – Fall FUNdraiser event. Haunted house, games and chili and pizza dinner. Fun for everyone. Bring all your friends!

Thursday, November 4, 3:30-4:30pm: Toddler Parent Tea – Ms. Stephanie, Ms. Maura and Ms. Claudia would like to invite you to an informational tea. As members of our newest program, we want to welcome you and make sure you have an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the Montessori program here at CCMS. We'll provide childcare for your little ones so you can enjoy an hour of adult conversation.

Tuesday, November 9, 5:30pm: Hospitality Committee First Meeting –The purpose of the hospitality committee is to be hospitable! Our goals are to provide refreshments when needed, a friendly contact for new families and outgoing people to welcome potential students and their parents at informational events. We are an "as-needed" committee. Our first meeting will plan for an open house / information meeting for prospective parents and new CCMS parents taking place on Tuesday, Nov. 16. We hope you'll join us and take part in reaching out to our entire community. For information, please contact Kim Bouldin at 539-7135.

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Peaceful Parenting *Ms. Claudia*

Think back to the moment you first learned that a baby would be sharing your life...What were your thoughts as you planned for his or her arrival? Of what experiences did you dream?

Did you think longingly of sleepless nights, tested patience or high-pitched defiance? If your child is older, do you reminisce about the time when your child wouldn't walk happily by your side, refused to get dressed and out the door on your time schedule or poked at her dinner then demanded dessert?

The tough times are an inevitable part of our lives with children. As in any relationship, there will be challenging moments balanced by pure joy. Without the ups and downs, life would be lackluster at best. But how we, the adults in our children's lives, handle the challenging moments, makes a world of difference in their present state of happiness and in their readiness for learning and growth into capable adults.

When parents come to me asking for help or advice, I keep a few things in mind. First, there must be dignity in discipline. Dr. Jane Nelson has become internationally known for positive discipline, providing tools to families for raising healthy, self-reliant individuals while respecting the widely differing needs of each family member. Her thoughts on helping your child maintain her dignity includes allowing for mistakes. Dr. Nelson speaks of having the courage to be imperfect...and to admit to it to your child. While this doesn't excuse harsh language that comes too often or corporal punishment, the apology and admission of a mistake that follows your angry outburst goes a long way in showing your child that it's okay to make mistakes. The unspoken message is one of acceptance and love, even when the child has broken a dish, hit her friend or written on the walls. Perhaps even more important, you are demonstrating that improved behavior can be practiced and learned...even when you're an adult.

A second concept that never leaves my thoughts is to make sure I am helping children develop the belief that they are capable. This means taking more time-sometimes a lot more time-to allow them to do it themselves with minimal help from me. The young child's pride in being able to put on her shoes or coat by herself turns into a belief that she is capable. This is the foundation of true self esteem, which in turn is the foundation of cooperation and peacemaking.

Preparing to raise a healthy, self-reliant individual is a huge task. The celebrations before the baby's birth help us to focus on the transition into parenthood, but do little to support the ongoing, day-in-day-out learning necessary to keep up with our changing child. The work of Maria Montessori, Mortimer Adler, and so many others in early childhood care is rooted in maintaining a deep respect for the wisdom within the child and treating that child with humility, so that we are poised and ready to learn from his inner knowing. Each moment we spend with a child is an opportunity for deepening a precious relationship, one in which peaceful interactions are the norm as we continue to listen and learn.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Gabi Adler: 1st
 Jasper Lau: 13th
 Hannah McCoy: 24th
 Chloe Harvey: 29th

If you have questions about how each class celebrates birthdays, please talk to your child's teacher.

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Wednesday, November 10 by 3:30pm: Orders Due for Small Hands – It's that time of year again...with Halloween almost behind us, we start thinking about the gifts we'll put under the tree for our children. *For Small Hands* is a catalog of toys and games designed to help your child learn while doing. Montessori Services, the company that produces this fine catalog, has collaborated with schools to help families raise money for their school, while making it easy to find special and inexpensive gifts right from home. For every dollar you spend on your child's gifts, CCMS receives a percentage credit toward materials purchases for our school. Last year, you helped provide nearly \$200.00 worth of new materials for our programs.

Are you looking for a special gift for your child's classroom? Check out the "Gift Tags" hanging on the posters inside the door to your child's classroom. Your teachers have chosen a few items from the *For Small Hands* catalog in a wide range of prices that would enhance the activities they are providing for your child. Questions? Call Jen Orr at 221-1992.

Thursday, November 11, 5:30pm: Building and Grounds Committee First Meeting – Do you want to improve the appearance of CCMS, make an amazing outdoor learning environment for your child or plan a state-of-the-art building that guarantees your child a state-of-the-art education? The B&G committee needs you, your ideas and your energy to make these projects happen. Please join us! For information contact Jen Orr at 221-1992.

Thursday, November 18, 11:30am: Thanksgiving Feast! – The Fourth Annual CCMS Thanksgiving Feast will take at the Foreign Legion Hall located at 10 and H Street. This ALL FAMILY potluck has become a truly heartfelt event in which we take time to give thanks for our CCMS community and share a meal filled with wonderful dishes prepared by our families and our children at school. We will have sign-ups for food and support to create our feast. Stay tuned for details and more information. Questions or suggestions? Contact Claudia at 539-4887 or drop them in the Question Box.

November 22-26: Thanksgiving Break – School is closed.

Saturday, November 27, 2-3:30pm: Meet with the CCMS Board – This is an exciting and growing time for CCMS! The CCMS Board will meet during the Thanksgiving Break to discuss upcoming needs and strategic planning to help us set goals and get them accomplished. We would like to hear your thoughts, goals, and priorities as we work together to grow our school. We will hold an information-gathering meeting for all our families while our board president, Rebecca Adelman is in Salida for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Please plan to come for light refreshments, meet Rebecca and share your ideas!



Toddler News *Ms. Stephanie*

My all-time favorite month has been progressing with much activity and growth in the toddler room! We've been learning about fall and have been working on a myriad of autumn-themed projects. We baked different types of squash (from our garden) and compared the flavors, often using other items from our garden (like tomatoes, basil, and dill) to add to the taste-sensations. We explored different colors and textures of leaves and sang songs about the changing of the seasons. We made leaf and pumpkin art, and even made our very own miniature jack-o-lanterns. It's been a busy month full of changes both inside the classroom and outdoors!

As Halloween approaches, bear in mind that this holiday shouldn't be a scary one for your youngsters. Halloween can be a frightening and confusing ritual for very young children unless parents and guardians work to make themes and experiences light and fun! Keep costumes (for children and adults) age-appropriate and friendly in nature. Children can become easily overwhelmed by dragging from house after house while trick-or-treating. 2-5 houses is plenty of excitement for your young toddlers and also helps keep the candy amounts low so you don't have to be the "Sweets Police." Be sure to stop by CCMS on Halloween from 3:30 to 5pm for a FUN Pre-Trick-or-Treat Dinner and community get-together!

What's next for your toddlers? We'll be learning about bodies! What can our bodies do? What are our bodies made of? What are our senses and how do we use them? These are just a few of the exciting questions we'll be investigating in the coming weeks! Stay tuned!

EGGS FOR SALE

...most days

*\$3.00 a dozen (Extra Large/Jumbo)
\$2.50 a dozen (Medium)*



We also gladly collect egg cartons.

Where in the World is Ms. Claudia...Again?

Ms. Claudia

As your Head of School, my role is one that involves a lot of learning. In past years, I've attended conferences designed to teach me the ins-and-outs of grant writing and fund raising for non-profits, those intended explicitly for the expansion and development of our school's Montessori philosophy and methods, and a few that were intended to hone my skills as a school leader.

Last spring, I was chosen for a new learning endeavor, the Buell Early Childhood Leadership Program. It is an honor to be a Buell fellow for with that recognition of my leadership potential comes an opportunity to increase my learning and understanding, along with a cohort of twenty-three amazing individuals from across the state of Colorado, of the skills required to effect growth and change on a local and state level. When I am away from CCMS, roughly once a month for a two-day workshop and class session, I am privileged to grapple with the challenge of learning effective strategies for

growing not only a small learning community, but also how to interface with public and private entities whose dedication to children is supported with enthusiasm, research and funding opportunities.

One might ask how CCMS and our families directly benefit from my involvement with this program. While there are likely many benefits that would be difficult to quantify such as networking and inspiration, there are equally many that have direct application here at CCMS. To date, I've learned processes for managing the wide variety of issues and concerns that come in a school community. I've learned systems for professional development for our staff that will continue to grow our teachers, and I've begun to focus on a project that will help bring early childhood programs in Salida together in support of the learning of our children. I'm learning which organizations support early childhood education by funding programs, organizational expenses and tuition assistance programs. In short, the skills being developed will deepen our successful offering of quality education for your children.

Our primary teachers will attend a workshop to help them teach your children healthy eating habits. Our toddler teachers have been invited to visit and observe at an established Montessori Early Head Start program in Denver. Both of these opportunities have come as a result of connections made at the BECLP.

On a fiscal note, being part of the Buell program has deepened our relationship with one of our primary funders, the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation. Last year, the THBF gifted us with \$10,000.00, money that was ear-marked to support the three- and four-year-old children and families who requested tuition assistance. This year, we have asked for additional funding to support our Toddler program. Further, it is because of the

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quality of our programming and my participation in the Chaffee County Early Childhood Council that we were chosen to be an Early Head Start expansion site and to receive the funding support that came along with that selection.

On October 1st, I visited Carbondale Montessori School and a teacher-in-training. I met with their assistant principal and discussed the issues and development strategies their school used in deciding to become a charter school. The teacher has plans to come visit our program and then to begin a pen-pal program between our students that we hope will result in some collaboration across the mountains.

This past weekend, I attended the West Coast Regional Conference of the American Montessori Society. I met, listened to and talked with nationally recognized leaders in both Montessori and general education. Did you know that the National Association for the Education of Young Children now includes children ages birth to 8 in its definition of early childhood? This is a monumental change in direction that will put emphasis on transforming ALL schools in our country to use best practices based on long-term research. Montessori educators, whose 100-year-old philosophy and methods have always bridged these ages together, has a new opportunity to lead through our model of nurturing the social-emotional needs alongside the academic capabilities of the children in this age group. I came back from this conference with renewed enthusiasm for our work here in Salida, but also with ideas and information that will help our school continue to be a model of exceptional education for your children.

In each of these aspects of my time away from CCMS, I bring back to our program ideas, opportunities and continually growing energy for the work we are doing, not only in Salida and Chaffee County, but for the education that is touching the lives of children everywhere, children who will use their holistic Montessori education to make a difference in the future of our world.

Primary News *Ms. Nancy*

Many thanks to all of you parents who support us and CCMS by spending your time with the newsletter, PTSA, helping with school lunches, cleaning, photo-taking, fund raising, and sending your children to school prepared and eager to learn.

Speaking of prepared, the cold weather IS upon us. We will still be spending at least two hours in the outdoors throughout the day, so make sure your children have mittens, hats, boots, long pants and warm coats. A good part of this time will be spent in structured physical activity. With that in mind, please send your child to school with shoes that they can run and hop in safely.

The Primary Class at CCMS has been selected to participate in a nutrition and fitness program funded by the Colorado Health Foundation. The goal of this program is to enhance children's gross motor skill development in an effort to develop confidence in movement and increased physical activity levels. Young children learn best by doing. They need to engage their whole bodies through hands on experiences to fully activate the brain in the learning process. The nutrition part of this program will begin after we return from Winter Break. Program objectives are to encourage the development of a positive attitude toward trying new foods and to instill basic nutritional concepts in the children. You will be receiving a handout in your yellow folder with more specific information regarding both aspects of this program.

We enjoyed our time spent with you during our Parent/Teacher conferences and we thank each of you for your encouragement. We also heard your concerns and suggestions and as a result have made some changes to our program. The Toddlers are now outside for a portion of our first inside work period. This is helping to create more quiet time for concentration. At lunch we are now sitting together at one long table with a teacher at each end. We are more able to help all the children with table manners and to see that all are spending their table time eating. The structured outside playtime will help with your concerns regarding any roughness on the playground.

Michelle has been working with the children on letter and number formation, as well as sound recognition. She has brought to the program many fun games that foster these skills. I will continue to work with your child in the areas of Practical Life, Sensorial and Spanish. It is music to my ears to hear them spontaneously repeat "uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco, seis, siete, ocho, nueve, diez." Muchas gracias por todo.





Elementary News *Mr. Doug*

October is Mystery History month! At CCMS, and in many Montessori schools around the USA, we celebrate Halloween by learning about important people, past and present. We do it because it's fun and it gives our students a way to practice research skills and public speaking. The children are immersed in historical figures this month: they read and listen to stories about people who have made an impact on our lives; they learn about what makes a famous person famous. The students take notes, write reports, and prepare an oral presentation. It all comes together the last class day before Halloween. They dress up as their chosen Mystery History guest and introduce themselves to the class, who then gets to guess who they are. This year's Mystery History will take place on Friday, October 29th at 10:00. All CCMS parents are invited to join us and see who's haunting our classroom this year.

Our goal is to form a partnership with parents in their child's education. Part of that process is the Student-led Conferences we held earlier this month. Thank you to all our parents for making the time to come in and meet with your child. We feel that this is an important aspect of your child's learning because it is helping them to develop ownership of the quality and direction of their education.

For the remainder of the semester, we will be focusing on geographic and cultural studies which will culminate in a Cultural Fair in December. The students will present their learning projects to parents and guests as a trip around the continent complete with passports. Stay tuned for more information about the time and date of the Cultural Fair so you can put it on your calendar as a "Not-to-Be-Missed" Event!

FAQ's for CCMS Families

This new addition to our monthly newsletter will give you a place to get your questions answered. We keep a "Question Box" inside the door that leads to the office and elementary classroom. Please take time to drop your questions there.

How can I make an appointment to observe, have a private talk with a teacher or Ms. Claudia? We have staffed the office Monday through Friday with someone who will answer the phone and direct your request to the right person. Leah Underwood, our Office Assistant, works Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 to 11:30. On Tuesday and Thursday, Marie Nielson, family volunteer, is there during the same hours. Ms. Claudia has office hours daily from 11:15 to 12:30. This is not a time to drop in, but is a good time to reach her by phone. Email also works very well and in a few days, everyone at school will have a CCMS Community Directory filled with phone numbers, emails, and pertinent info for every family.

Where do I go with a problem? That depends on the nature of your problem. For concerns that relate to your child's learning experience, go directly to your child's teachers. They alone are equipped to know and understand just what is going on in their classrooms and will be able to give you direct feedback and work with you to effect changes. For school-wide concerns, go to Ms. Claudia. As our Head of School, it is her job to find solutions, give explanations, and work with you to continually create CCMS to be a Montessori school that supports all the children who attend.

I hear that I am expected to volunteer. Why do I need to do that? Simply put, your volunteering makes our school possible for your child. Tuitions are our primary source of funding. In-kind services provided by parent volunteers improves our programs, supports our teachers, and allows us to cut costs by providing services that the school would otherwise have to pay for. Volunteering helps us offer tuition assistance. Volunteering helps us provide expanded learning opportunities. But most importantly, volunteering gets you involved with your school. The more time and energy you contribute, the more you feel connected, and the more your child sees school as a place of value in the life of your family. We have asked each family to volunteer 20 hours per semester. There are any number of ways you can give those hours, including a dollar exchange for supplies and snacks provided, projects that can be done at home or projects that directly support your child's classroom. You even have the choice to contribute cash in lieu of time at \$250.00 per semester. What you do, is up to you.

How do I do know what kinds of volunteer jobs are available? Kym Mellsoy is our Parent Volunteer Coordinator. She assigns parent Volunteer Jobs each month, based on the jobs you requested when you filled out your Parent Volunteer Request form. If you didn't get a form, contact Kym. For example, you won't be asked to provide snack, a job that involves shopping and spending your cash in exchange for hours, unless you said you'd like to be a snack shopper. You can also request to be a classroom volunteer. Call the office, let Leah or Marie know you'd like to volunteer and the time you are available. One of our staff members will get back to you with suggestions of things you can do.

Who keeps track of my hours if I'm supposed to do 20 hours each semester? Simply put, you do. Kym has set up a Google Group where each family tracks their hours throughout the semester. You can enter hours for attendance at committee meetings or parent education meetings, reading with children, cleaning up the yard or
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Please direct your suggestions about the newsletter to Megan Juba at meganjuba@yahoo.com or 539-9242. Thank you!

Thank you

to these people who are giving of their time and talents to make CCMS a wonderful place to grow and learn!

Marie Nielson for working with Leah and Claudia to get the directory printed.

Skye Ridley at Pakmail for her donation of the paper and supplies to print the newsletter! Please thank her personally by dropping in the next time you need copies or packaging.

Leah Underwood for all her help with the budget as we prepared both a grant application and grant report with the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation.

Rebecca Adelman who has gifted our programs with more materials, climbers, and necessities for an authentic Montessori program.

Lorri Lau for working on developing our reading program.

Wendy Trafford McKenna for getting our staff trained on Medication administration and getting the medical files in order...whew!

Kym Mellsop for coordinating our parents in their volunteer jobs and helping out in the classroom

Hayden Mellsop for putting in the toddler fence.

Kelly Hall for building the hooks in the primary class.

Andrea Hall, Marie Nielson and Leslie Cliff for the spectacular and healthy lunches you provide every day!

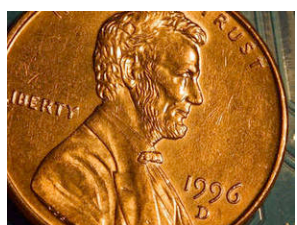
The Joslin, Shawl, and Brown families for keeping our classrooms clean.

The Fundraising Committee for the Halloween Festival about to take place this weekend!

If I've forgotten anyone, please forgive me. We appreciate all you do!

Pennies for Peace

The elementary children have been collecting Pennies for Peace every year since our school began. This year, they will make jars and place them throughout Salida on Friday, November 19th. That day, we'll walk downtown and ask merchants if we may leave our jars on their countertops to collect Pennies for Peace. P4P is a project of the Central Asia Institute. The money collected is used to build schools and provide materials for children, especially young girls, in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Over the years, we have collected close to \$2000.00 to help this noble cause. You can read more about the project and the Central Asia Institute at <http://www.penniesforpeace.org/>. Watch for our jars in your favorite merchants' stores and drop in a few pennies whenever you shop!



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playground, making materials, or providing supplies.

Speaking of committees, I heard that it is a requirement to be on a committee. That's correct! We ask every family to be involved in at least one of our four primary committees: Hospitality, Building and Grounds, Fundraising and Special Events, or Communications. These committees meet once a month or as needed...but the committees need YOU: your good ideas, your connections in Salida and your energy. The committees are the ways we get things accomplished at CCMS, so your help makes it happen!

How can I get my question answered in next month's FAQ's? Drop your question in the Question Box in the Elementary Entrance or send an email to: claudia@chaffeemontessori.com. If your question is a FAQ, we'll answer it here. If not, we'll call or write you back with an answer. Chances are, if you have a question, someone else has it too! There are no bad questions...only confusing results when the question hasn't been asked and answered!