



CHMS Newsletter

Fall 2018



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

We are so glad to see all of our CHMS friends again!! We had a great turnout for summer camp and enjoyed a wide variety of crafts, cooking activities, and games. Whatever had you busy for July and August, we hope you enjoyed some time together with family and friends! Thank you to all the families who attended our Ice-Cream Social last week! We enjoyed getting to know some of our new families and hope everyone had fun.

This is the first of four, seasonal school newsletters that you will receive this year to keep you informed about upcoming activities. Cinthia will also send email reminders prior to an event to make sure everyone knows all the details, but for now, put these dates in your calendar and keep this newsletter handy as we head into fall. Please don't hesitate to call with any questions, and, of course, keep an eye on the bulletin board for sign-ups. We are excited about starting another fun-filled and learning-packed year! We are a busy school community and we are ready to run!

CALENDAR

- Aug 30:** Back to School Night 5:30—6:30
- Aug 31:** Parent Coffee Upstairs 8:00—10:00
- Sep 3:** Labor Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
- Sep 21:** PIZZA LUNCH
- Sep 28:** Specials Start
- Sep 28:** Staff Meeting - SCHOOL CLOSING 1:00
- Sep 29:** Family Pot-Luck Picnic at Temporary Road Park 4:00—6:00

- Oct 8:** Columbus Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
- Oct 12:** PIZZA LUNCH
- Oct 17:** Parent Ed - "The Language of the Virtues" 5:30—6:30
(Babysitting and dinner provided \$10/child)
- Oct 26:** Fall Festival and Pizza Lunch 10:00—12:30 // Staff Meeting SCHOOL CLOSING at 1:00

- Nov 5-6:** Parent / Teacher Conferences for All Students SCHOOL CLOSED
- Nov 8:** Parent Night—Guest Speakers: Montessori for Elementary School and Beyond 5:30 - 6:30
(Babysitting and dinner provided \$10/child)
- Nov 9:** PIZZA LUNCH
- Nov 20:** Thanksgiving Pot-Luck 11:30 // Staff Meeting SCHOOL CLOSING at 1:00
- Nov 21—23:** Thanksgiving Break SCHOOL CLOSED



CHILD ACTIVITIES



Time to learn about:

September: Land/Air/Water, Biomes, Living/Non-Living, Early Art, Primary Colors

October: Directions, Vertebrate/Invertebrate, Claude Monet, Secondary Colors

November: North America, The Five Vertebrates, Mary Cassatt, Warm Colors

Specials and Sharing: We will be doing Specials on Fridays starting September 28, but are moving our Sharing day (Show and Tell) to THURSDAYS this year. Look for an email from Cinthia regarding Sharing starting next week and please see the our Specials Calendar for more information about this weekly rotation of activities. We are including Gardening in our Specials rotation this year and have expanded our “nature hikes” to include a variety of “Nature Activities,” hence the name change. We are excited to offer the children a variety of outdoor activities during this portion of their Specials rotation.

Picture Day: Fall photos will be scheduled in the coming weeks. Photos are not mandatory, but it is a nice way to remember your child at Children’s House. We will provide more information when plans are finalized. Stay tuned!

Pizza Days: Back by popular demand! One Friday a month has been set aside for pizza day with the first one coming on Sept 21. Watch for more information and how to sign up and be sure to put those dates in your calendar so that you can take a break from packing lunch for a day!

Thanksgiving Food Drive: We will be participating in a food drive for Cornerstones, a local nonprofit organization that promotes self-sufficiency by providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. In past years we have supported 4 families through our food donations and we are grateful for the opportunity to help serve the community again. You will see more information about this program at the end of October / early November as we prepare to collect the necessary food items to fill the boxes for local families in need.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Family Pot-Luck Picnic: The Family Pot-Luck Picnic is coming up on Saturday, September 29 from 4:00 to 6:00pm. We have reserved the picnic pavilion at Temporary Road park and hope you will join us for an evening of games and food. The sign up sheet will be going up soon. It might look a little familiar to those of you who have attended our family camping trips in the past. The camping trip provides so much opportunity to connect as a community and get to know one another, but it happens at the end of the year! The picnic is a chance, in the beginning of the year, for parents to kick back and chat, kids to play, and everyone to have a fun, laid-back evening. We look forward to seeing you there!

Fall Festival: Join us on Friday, October 26 from 10:00 to 12:30 for a morning of crafts and activities followed by a pizza lunch on the playground. We’ll enjoy some fun fall crafts, games, and a snack, and then head outside to play. Younger siblings who are able to participate are also invited to join in the fun. School will close at 1:00pm that day so that the teachers can have a staff meeting.

Family Camping Trip: It’s never too early to start planning the best activity of the year! As we move

into fall, be on the lookout for information about the Family Camping Trip in May. This year, parents will play a much larger role in the planning and implementation of the crafts and activities. We'll need a core group of dedicated parents to pull off our favorite family activity! Will you be among them?

Thanksgiving: Our annual Thanksgiving Pot-Luck will be on Tuesday, November 20. Lunch is expected to last from 11:30 to 12:30. School will close at 1:00 for a staff meeting. We will post a sign-up sheet for traditional Thanksgiving fare in the weeks prior. School will be closed from Wednesday, November 21 through Friday, November 23, for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

PARENT ACTIVITIES

Parent Coffee: Join us upstairs in the Sanctuary from 8:00—10:00 on Friday, August 31. Stop in after you drop off your child, grab a cup of joe, and meet some new faces.

Parent Education (Sep): Back to School Night will take place on Thursday, August 30, from 5:30—6:30. You'll learn about how your child spends his or her day and have a chance to sign up for volunteer opportunities and ask your questions.

Parent Education (Oct): Our next Parent Night of the year will be held on Wednesday, October 17, from 5:30—6:30. For almost ten years now we have used a program called The Virtues Project in our classrooms. We have shared this with our families over the years, specifically the Virtues cards that we use daily. This program has changed the way we speak to the children and we are excited to share it with you again!

Parent Education (Nov): Our last Parent Night of the fall will be on Thursday, November 8 from 5:30 to 6:30pm. We will have special guests from a local Montessori elementary school, Berthold Academy. Join us to learn why Montessori education doesn't have to end in kindergarten!

Babysitting for Parent Education Events: Babysitting will be available for Parent Nights for \$10 per child. This fee will go directly to the staff who have agreed to spend their time with the children so that parents can feel more comfortable about attending. Children and adults will be offered pizza for dinner and the children will watch a movie while the parents attend the meeting.

Progress Reports and Parent/Teacher Conferences: We send out progress reports periodically during the school year. The first will go out at the end of October. Progress reports are a way to gauge your child's development in different social, emotional, and behavioral areas. We hope that they will be helpful and provide a little insight into how your child spends his or her day at school. On Monday, November 5 and Tuesday, November 6 we will have Parent/Teacher Conferences for the parents of all the children. This is a chance for us to sit together and discuss your child's progress thus far. School will be closed for those two days to accommodate the many conferences that need to take place.

Ways to Volunteer: Each month we will post a sign-up sheet listing the many opportunities coming up in the weeks ahead for parents to step up and volunteer their time. We have seen firsthand the impact that volunteering has on both the parents and the children and we want to continue to offer these opportunities to you. Volunteering is one of the best ways to get to know the children and teachers in your child's classroom. The children enjoy seeing parents helping out at school and the teachers really appreciate the extra hands. Each month might be a little different, but keep checking the sign-up sheet board, because there's sure to be something for everyone.

FROM THE OFFICE

Parking Reminders: Safety first! Please be sure to monitor your child's activity in the parking lot. Maintain low speed at all times, and never leave a child unattended in a vehicle. DO NOT park in the reserved parking spaces, the handicapped spaces, on the yellow curb, or any other "do not park" designated areas for ANY AMOUNT OF TIME. Our parking spaces are the first bank of spaces on the left as you enter the driveway and any space past the two sections designated for church personnel. Please respect the posted parking signs and help us maintain goodwill between our school and the church. Thank you!

Footwear Reminder: Closed shoes are the safest option for playing on our playground. Children should refrain from wearing loose shoes, sandals that will allow mulch inside, or shoes that provide little or no traction. Crocs and flip flops are not allowed.



Cubby Bags and Backpacks: Your child's "cubby bag" - the school branded tote bag you should have already received - should be used to transport your child's work and lunch bag each day to and from school. Backpacks, which you provide, can stay at school during the week, but should go home on Fridays, and should contain a complete change of clothes for your child.

Lunch Utensils: If you are missing lunch utensils, please ask Cinthia for replacements.

Records Check: If anything changed over the summer that needs to be updated in your child's folder, please do it ASAP. This could include phone numbers, addresses, insurance information, or emergency contacts.

Scholastic Orders: Be sure to check out the table in front of the office when you see the Scholastic Books flyers go out! Scholastic has fantastic bargains with high quality books available to purchase at low prices. There will be instructions on how to place your order through the school's account. We receive credit from each purchase, which we use to buy books and other supplies. The majority of the books in the school's library have come from Scholastic!

Lip Balm: If you want your child to keep a tube of lip balm at school that he or she may use on their own during the colder months, please send one in, labeled, to your child's teachers. There is a small basket in each classroom where we keep lip balm so that it is visible and can be easily monitored by the teachers. Lip balm should NEVER be kept in a child's cubby or backpack. You do not need to fill out a medication form to keep lip balm in the classroom.

Halloween Costumes: Our school policy on Halloween costumes is that, although they are fun for trick or treating and neighborhood parades, they do not belong at school. We ask that you please DO NOT send your child to school in his or her costume. Our Fall Festival on Friday, October 26, serves as a substitute to a traditional Halloween party. Thank you for your cooperation.

Referrals Welcome: If you recommend our school to a friend or colleague that leads to the registration of their child, for either this school year or next, we will give you a \$100 Visa gift card! That could be a fun evening out for your family, on us! If you do recommend us to a new family, be sure to tell them to mention your name to us or tell us yourself! We have a few spaces remaining for this year that we'd like to fill, so please keep us in mind when talking with friends, family, or neighbors who might still be looking for a great program for their child.

Ticks on the Playground: Ticks are a reality when you "live in the woods" as we do here. The best defense against them is diligence in checking your child each night. Deer ticks, which carry Lyme

disease, are very tiny. Please be sure to spray your child with insect repellent before coming to school. You may also send in a hat to wear on the playground.

School Security: The main entrance for the school is the side door with the ramp. Please use this as your primary entrance AND exit from school and refrain from entering the church lobby. You can also leave school via the playground gate, but be sure to close the gate behind you. Please do NOT allow people you don't know to enter the building. We know that it seems rude not to hold the door open, but you can direct prospective parents coming for a tour, delivery people, and anyone else to the front entrance of the church where they can ring the doorbell and speak to someone in the office first.

Montessori Catalog: Each year one of the Montessori catalogs we use on a regular basis called Montessori Services has a program for parents to order from the catalog prior to the holidays. Many families have found this a great way to "Montessorize" their lives with some of the concepts we use here and have even shared the catalog with grandparents and other family members. While we do receive credit for your purchases, which gives us money to spend on materials for the classrooms, this is not why we offer the program to you. Rather, we think the link we can create between how we do things here at school and how you do things at home is invaluable. This is an excellent resource for unique toys, games, and books. Be sure to take a look! If you do decide to order from the For Small Hands catalog, please place the order directly from the catalog. We have already printed the school's customer number on the order form. Have fun finding some great gifts to make your home a Montessori Home!

HANDY INFORMATION FOR YOU TO KNOW:



School Phone Number: 703-481-6678

School Fax Number: 703-689-9926

School's Tax ID Number: 65-1169584

The Sunrise Room Teachers (the larger classroom)

Keturah Collins: Owner and Director of CHMS and Lead Montessori Teacher

Zohra Shoab: Montessori Teacher

Marierose Hoang: Montessori Teacher

The Sunset Room Teachers (the smaller classroom)

Helena Crick: Assistant Director and Lead Montessori Teacher

Asma Usmani: Montessori Intern

Music Teacher: Karen Disney

Spanish Teacher: Arlene Vargas

Office Manager: Cinthia Drake

Tuition Rates	
Part Day Preschool	\$ 800
Part Day Preschool with lunch	\$ 900
School day Preschool	\$1120
Full Day Preschool	\$1290
School Day Pre-K or Kindergarten	\$1180
Full Day Pre-K or Kindergarten	\$1400
Schedule changes	\$10 an hour
Late fee (after 5:30)	\$1 a minute

