



# CHMS Newsletter

## Spring 2019



Spring will soon be here, we hope! It has been a crazy “wintery mix” kind of winter, but crocuses and daffodils are already starting to come up in the gardens so we know Spring is coming! We are looking forward to getting outside without our coats and playing on our natural playground! Spring also brings lot of community activities at school, so hang on for a busy few months!!!

### CALENDAR



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| March 5   | Irish Dancers  |
| March 8   | Pizza Friday   |
| March 12  | Parent Education Night 5:30—6:30   |
| March 22  | AMS Conference (School Closed)   |
| April 5   | Parent/Teacher Conferences All Students (School Closed)                                |
| April 9   | Parent Education Night (5:30—6:30)   |
| April 9   | Spring Picture Day   |
| April 12  | Pizza Friday   |
| Apr 15—19 | Spring Break (School Closed)   |
| Apr 26    | Spring Celebration and Pizza Lunch / Staff Meeting (School Closes at 1:00)             |
| May 10    | Pizza Friday   |
| May 17    | Staff Meeting (School Closes 1:00)   |
| May 21    | Kindergarten Field Trip Charlotte’s Web  |
| May 21    | Mandatory Camping Meeting 6:30—8:00  |
| May 24—26 | Family Camping Trip (School Closes 1:00)   |
| May 27    | Memorial Day (School Closed)   |
| May 29    | Kindergarten field Trip National Gallery of Art<br>KayDee Puppets for younger children |
| June 4    | Kindergarten Art Show  |
| June 12   | End of the Year Picnic 11:00—12:30   |



## CHILD ACTIVITIES

### Time to learn about:

March: Africa, mammals, neutral colors, Horace Pippin,

April: Africa, seeds / flowers / bulbs, tints and shades, Pablo Picasso

May: USA / Virginia, seeds / flowers / bulbs, rainbow colors, Georgia O'Keeffe

June: USA / Virginia, patriotic colors



**Kindergarten Special Events:** Please note the following dates for the upcoming kindergarten field trips and special events:

- ◆ Tuesday, May 21st, 9:00am. Charlotte's Web Field Trip at The Center for the Arts at George Mason University.
- ◆ Wednesday, May 29th, 8:45am. National Gallery of Art Field Trip.
- ◆ Tuesday, June 4th, 3:00pm. Kindergarten Art Show and Reception



Kindergarten Parents, please watch your email for information about how you can join us and the timeline for each field trip.

**KayDee Puppets:** While the kindergarteners are at the National Gallery of Art field trip on May 29th, the rest of the school will be enjoying a puppet show. This year's show is a double feature: Nursery Rhyme and Rhythm and Red Hen's Wacky Week. The show will begin at 11:00 and we will go straight into lunch afterwards. You may bring younger siblings (parents please stay with them) to enjoy the show.

**Specials:** Specials continue this spring with music, Spanish, and nature activities. We are excited to be able to get back outside and will be incorporating gardening activities in our outdoor plans. These include clearing out old leaves, loosening soil, and feeding the birds and squirrels. We will be asking families to donate plants as we get closer to the time they are needed and we offer you the opportunity to come in and plant your flowers with your child. More information will be posted when we get closer to the date in mid May.



**Irish Dancers:** On March 5th, at 11:00am, we are bringing the Boyle School of Irish Dancing in for a show! The children will be shown some traditional Irish dances, and will also have a chance to try it out themselves. And for a special treat, Cinthia's son, Sean, will be joining us to demonstrate his expertise. He attended Boyle from Kindergarten through his senior year in high school!!

**Picture Day:** April 9th will be our Spring Picture Day with Citrus Street. Please be at school by 8:45 so picture taking can begin at 9:00.

**Kindergarten Art Show and Music Performance:** June 4th from 3:00 to 4:30 will be a special day for the kindergartners. Selected works from each of the children will be on display up in the Sanctuary and they will also showcase their musical talents with a short performance for their parents. They will prepare hors d'oeuvres and learn appropriate manners for a proper reception. This is a very special opportunity to share in your child's success; we hope you will be there. We ask that you please make other arrangements for siblings for these activities as we feel that the kindergartners deserve your undivided attention.



**Art Posters:** Each year we offer our parents the opportunity to order a poster, from Simply Create, of the work your child has created. Kindergarten parents usually pick from the work in their child's art portfolio that we have been creating throughout the year. Parents of preschool or pre-kindergarten children are welcome to participate by bringing in art that they have saved at home. We will be setting a date for meeting with the Simply Create representative after the Kindergarten Art Show on June 4th. You can see samples at [www.simplycreatekids.com](http://www.simplycreatekids.com), and check the prices too. There is a sample of their work hanging in the office.

**Pizza Fridays:** As a reminder, pizza Fridays are scheduled for March 8th, April 12th, May 10th, and June 7th. We hope you enjoy those mornings free of lunch making!! We certainly enjoy the pizza!



## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

**Spring Celebration:** Get your hiking boots on and join us for a hike through the woods here at Children's House. We will follow the path markings through the woods, check out the stream reconstruction, climb the rocks, rest on the logs, and generally have a good time in the woods. The hike will begin at 11:00, with pizza served at 11:45. We'll provide a bag for collecting special items you find along the way, and if you happen to find a nice, small, smooth rock, we'll have markers available for decorating. Hope you will be able to join us!!!

**Family Camping:** One of *the most exciting* things that happens during the school year is our annual family cabin camping trip! The theme this year is "Camping is SNOW much fun!" I wonder what fun activities Ms. Karen will come up with!! We are lucky to have the same campsite at Prince William Forest Park as last year, Camp Happyland. Our trip is planned for Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26, Friday to Sunday. This is a really fun opportunity to spend time with other families (and your own) and we hope you'll join us. The camping fee is \$60 per person, toddlers (under three) are \$35 and infants (under one) are free. The fee covers our rental and utility costs, some meals, craft and activity supplies, and a camping trip t-shirt. Families sign up to bring additional food for everyone to share (drinks, pot-luck contributions, etc) and everyone pitches in to cook, clean, and run activities.

There will soon be an "interest" sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for you to let us know if you are considering joining us. Registration packets with all the pertinent information will come out in April, and a mandatory meeting for camping parents on May 22nd from 6:30—8:00. There is lots to do to make this a fun weekend family event. Be sure to save the date; you won't want to miss it! If you have any questions, Karen's the one to ask!



## PARENT ACTIVITIES

**Parent Education:** Our last two parent education nights will be on March 12th, and April 9th, from 5:30—6:30. On March 12th we will take a look at our language curriculum. Starting with sandpaper letters and moving through the movable alphabet and learning phonograms, we'll show you how your child learns to read. Writing will be a part of the evening as well. On April 9th, the topic will be math. Come learn how your child progresses from learning to associate the quantity with the symbol from 1 to 10, to multiplying units, tens, hundreds, and thousands with the stamp game. See why so many people say, "I wish I had learned math this way!" Pizza will be served, of course, and babysitting is \$10 per child. Watch for the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences:** Our final conferences for the year will be on Friday, April 5th. School will be closed that day, and babysitting is available for your conference time only. Siblings are welcome to come as well. We will also have some dates available before and after school on the days following April 5th as it is not possible to see everyone in one day. The teachers really look forward to meeting with you and sharing the wonderful things your child has been doing in class.



**Progress Reports:** There are two more progress reports to come this year. One will be available the week of March 25th in preparation for the parent teacher conferences scheduled for April 5th. The last report will be available the week of May 27th to wrap up the year. We look forward to sharing with you all the exciting activities your child has been engaged in this year.



**Ways to Volunteer:** Sign-up sheets will continue through the rest of the year for you to volunteer at school. Spring activities include listening to children read and tidying the library. We will also invite you to help your child plant a flower in our garden in May, after we have prepared the soil during our gardening sessions. This is a new activity for parents to participate in our nature activities so we hope you'll join us on the playground for some flower fun! Keep your eye on the bulletin board for sign-ups for these opportunities.

## FROM THE OFFICE

**\$100 can be yours!:** We are in the middle of registering new students and the process is going very well. Thanks to Cinthia's enthusiasm, we have many families signing up. However, we would still like to offer you the opportunity to help us out. If you recommend our school to a friend or colleague that leads to the registration of a child for next year, a \$100 Visa Gift Card will be yours. 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 the family to mention your name to us so we can give you credit and a \$100 Visa Gift Card, or tell us yourself! Thanks for your help!!



**Footwear Reminder:** Please remember that 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.

**Summer School:** The registration forms will soon go out for our Summer Fun activities this summer. For staffing reasons we will accept only 20 children per week, on a first-come-first served basis, so get your forms in early. We will have a different theme each day, such as “water day” or “cooking.” The Montessori materials will also be available, of course. You will be able to sign up for a week at a time to accommodate your vacation plans. Watch for information coming your way soon!

