

Cornerstone News



February 17, 2017

Parent Volunteer Group News

Parent Volunteer Group Links

This year the Parent Volunteer Group is utilizing two websites to facilitate events and opportunities to volunteer at Cornerstone. The link will stay constant, but the events and opportunities will change so Favorite or Bookmark these sites!

1. SignUpGenius - [PVG Volunteer opportunities](#). Here you can find all volunteer opportunities and sign up at your convenience.
2. EventBrite - [Cornerstone Family Connections](#) - A PVG initiative to promote connections amongst Cornerstone families/caregivers via social events outside of school. Anyone can post an event (ex. apple picking, hiking, beach clean ups, walks, coffee meet-ups, etc.). Please contact Tamara (a parent volunteer) at tdenneen@comcast.net to add your name for new events, notices and to post an event idea.

Cornerstone is an Amazon Affiliate which means Cornerstone receives 4% cash back on purchase you make. This link can be found on the bottom of the Cornerstone School homepage. Please note this is different from Amazon Smile however is still an Amazon sponsored fundraiser.

Save the Date!
Friday, March 24th 6-8 pm
Cornestone Gym
Second Annual
Dance Away the Winter Blues!!

The PVG invites you to...

come enjoy quality time, dancing, food and games with your children.

Music by the fun & professional DJ Cubey!

If you own a business or would like to donate to the Dance raffle please contact Kerri Vivathana Kerri kvivathana@yahoo.com or Janis Timerman timerwoman@comcast.net

Called to a Lesson (a regular feature explaining key components and concepts of a Montessori pedagogy)



The Great Lessons (continued)

The Coming of Humans is the third of Montessori's Great Lessons, the grand narrative that tells the story

of the creation of the earth, the coming of life, humans, and civilization. The presentations are impressionistic, sometimes dramatic, and always meant to spark the child into further inquiry. The Story of Early Humans follows the Timeline of Life, which takes earth's history from the Paleozoic Era onward (see [3Feb1617CornerstoneNews](#)).

With a scientist's sensibility and an anthropologist's insight, Dr. Montessori hoped to engender a sense of gratitude for those early humans, seeing them as Robinson Crusoe's cast upon this new world, wresting material from the ground for his or her use. She identified a few distinguishing characteristics that set the human animal apart from the rest of the animal kingdom. The first was the ability think, to imagine things that were not immediately present. To see the possibilities in a stone to become an axe, a branch to become a spear, or a cliff to become a tool in hunting. To question why the stars shone in the night sky but not the day. To think about how the wind blew and cooled the skin, and how sitting by the fire warmed. To wonder!

A second characteristic was the ability to grasp. With an opposable thumb came the grip and the pincer movement (thumb and forefinger). This allowed early humans to shape and carry tools, and later to refine that tool-making even further, fashioning hooks and needles from bone and shell. Taken with an erect stature, this physical trait afforded a large advantage in hunting and in life skills.

Third, Montessori posited that humans had the ability to love in a way that was unique. A love that transcended the instincts that other animals felt for

their offspring. A love that transferred from the individual to the group, and to groups outside a given community. A love that added beauty to tools, decoration to basket-weaving and jewelry.

The materials Montessori chose to give the child access to these concepts include the Long, Black Strip, the Hand Chart, and the Timeline of Early Humans. The eponymous Long, Black Strip is a flat black ribbon about 100 feet in length, the last 1/4 inch or so is painted white, representing the

“No matter what we touch, an atom, or a cell, we cannot explain it without knowledge of the wide universe. What better answer can be given to those seekers for knowledge? It becomes doubtful whether even the universe will suffice. How did it come into being? How will it end? A greater curiosity arises, which can never be satiated; so will last through a lifetime.

Maria Montessori

entirety of earth's existence, the last piece of white the arrival of humans. The Hand Chart, similarly, is a long, wide piece of cloth that represents all of human history. An embroidered hand, holding a stone chopper, is sewn in the middle, and the final edge is painted red, representing written history. The message here is clear. The Earth has been around for a long, long time, and our time is short. And within even our brief history, humans have been around a long, long time before anything was written down. The Timeline of Early Humans, again impressive in size, is a constantly evolving product (if you will), as more research informs what we know about our ancestors at their nascency.

Montessori felt that the 6-12 year old child, with a burgeoning imagination, was especially suited for this study. **Next: The History of Language/Communication**



Rob Keys directs micro-economies in the Junior Class and Cornerstone Admissions. He is the author of "Follow the Child", available in the office and at Amazon.com.

**The Photo
Album**

**Upper El at
Camp Lincoln**

