

# Cornerstone News



January 6, 2017

## ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE



**As you know, this year's Annual Appeal funds are earmarked to help us pay for some new playground equipment and the grounds preparations needed to install it.** I have been flabbergasted by the flurry of Annual Appeal envelopes arriving in the mail and on my desk over these last few weeks. We aim for 100% participation from the community, which is a lofty goal but it seems as though, this year, people are invested in helping us reach it. We have received contributions

from \$5.00 to \$5,000.00. Students have reached in to their piggy banks and made their own contributions. We are also starting to get contributions from our adult graduates as well as from their parents. Grandparents of students and former students have also been very generous.

If you have not yet jumped on this enthusiastic bandwagon it is not too late. Please consider making your contribution to the fund as we start to consider what we can afford and what will be most beneficial and fun for our students to enjoy on our beautiful playground.

The generosity of our school community is truly uplifting and inspiring which was most evident over the holidays as we received so many thoughtful gifts for which we are all very grateful. Your support is important to us.

Thank you,

*Lee Anne*

## PVG Links - NEW

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](mailto:tdenneen@comcast.net) to add your name for new events, notices and to post an event idea.

## Parent Volunteer Group News



### PVG Volunteer Opportunities

Parent Nights for each level are scheduled in January. This is an opportunity to visit the classroom, with your child as host. The Parent Volunteer Group organizes volunteers to provide dinner for the teachers since they will not have a chance to go home after school. If you would like to contribute, please go to [SignUpGenius](#).

Lower El Parent Night, Thursday Jan. 12th, 5:30pm

Primary Parent Night, Thursday Jan 19th, 5:00pm-6:30pm

## PVG Updates

Please join us at the next parent coffee scheduled for Friday, January 27th in the school gym after drop-off. We would appreciate your feedback on PVG and CFC activities and would like to start the planning process for the 2017 school year.

## Fundraiser Updates

Our Annual Appeal is still going strong, the goal is for 100% family participation (of any dollar amount at all). These funds go toward improving the school/classroom environment. This year's appeal, will focus on the outdoor play equipment, if you have not received your annual appeal in the mail or if you know a friend or relative who might like to make a contribution please contact the front office (Pam, Susan, or LeeAnne).

We are still collecting box tops for education, you can drop them off in the front office! Danielle Chase has volunteered to run this program and will periodically submit the box tops and keep us updated.

**Thank you again for all of your 2016 contributions and volunteer hours! Happy New Year!**

## Conference Sign-ups



**Parent conferences will be held for all classrooms on Friday, January 20th and on Monday, January 23rd.** The Friday date is an early release day (11:30a - Primary, 12:30p - all others), and there is no school on Monday, January 23rd. **Conference appointments can be made by calling the office, beginning on Monday, January 9th.** Please call early to best accommodate your schedule. All conferences are one half-hour long.



## **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to the Cornerstone Community for their generosity!

*“One of the deep secrets of life is that all that is really worth the doing is what we do for others”*

Lewis Carroll

**With grateful appreciation for your generous holiday gifts, we thank you for the wonderful opportunities to share our passions with your children every day.**

**THE CORNERSTONE FACULTY AND STAFF**

## **Junior Shivani Golf Achievements!**



**Junior Class 7th grader Shivani is an amazing golfer! She was Girls Birdie Champion of the Year for the second straight season at the 8th Annual New Hampshire Golf Association Champions Dinner which was held on October 20th at Manchester Country Club. She followed that up as runner up at the United States Kids Golf Holiday Classic Tournament held at the PGA National Resort & Spa in Florida on December 20th - 21st, 2016.**

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



**The Five Great Lessons.**

When Maria Montessori asserted that imagination was an integral characteristic of the 6-12 year old child, she realized what a strong tool it could be for education. While

the younger child used the 3-6 materials to define their world, the elementary child used their imagination to define their universe. In short, Dr. Montessori understood that giving the child a template for how the universe worked would enable them to put any subsequent knowledge in context. Study of one area leads to curiosity and interest in another. For example, research in geology leads to an inquiry into volcanoes, which stirs a fascination with the origins of the Earth. In fact, the whole of knowledge is contained in the universe, and all specific curricula are connected within this vast, interconnected web. This is a crucial point. To give a child random facts and information would only lead to confusion, an artificial vivisection of the universe. Instead, using a child's natural excitement and interest in everything will lead them, eventually, to an understanding of how they are all connected.

The Five Great Lessons (and many minor lessons), are Montessori's attempt to allow students to use their imagination and interest to drive their work. The name is a bit of a misnomer. They are more stories and narratives rather than teacher-given "lessons" where the teacher provides the answer. Rather, they are profound sparks; impressionistic presentations intended to fire a spirit of

**"Let us give them a vision of the whole universe."  
Maria Montessori**

inquiry within the child.

Two important notes. First, Dr. Montessori's use of the word "imagination" in this respect doesn't connote "fantasy" but the ability to think beyond the present moment and the present location. Second, she made a point to differentiate her approach to those who felt children should ONLY follow their interests. Montessori averred that this level of "freedom" was false and valueless without a broader understanding as background.

Over the next few newsletters, will explore the Five Great Lessons in greater detail.

**The Photo Album  
Solstice Festival!**

