

# Cornerstone News



October 7, 2016

## News from the PVG (Parent Volunteer Group)



### PVG Updates

This year the PVG is planning to hold a parent coffee every other month and a **Cornerstone Family Connections** (aka CFC) event on the alternate month. Cornerstone Family Connection is a new initiative to promote connections amongst Cornerstone families/caregivers via social events outside of school. The next CFC events are:

- 1. Monday, October 31st 6:30p-7p. Join us at the Portsmouth Halloween Parade to watch the parade and support the Project Monarch Club.** The Project Monarch Club is an after-school club for children at Cornerstone who have an interest in the environment in general and monarch butterflies specifically. The Monarch Club will be making costumes depicting the whole life cycle of Monarchs and then will be marching in the parade. Come support our students as they march in the parade as a "giant Chinese dragon-like caterpillar, chrysalis lanterns, and primary aged butterflies"! We plan on meeting at Flatbreads at 6:30p. The parade starts at 7p. To see all CFC events follow [this link](#). To opt in to receive and post events contact [tdeneen@comcast.net](mailto:tdeneen@comcast.net).
- 2. Friday, November 4th at 8:45a. If you are looking for a chance to get to know some of the other parents at Cornerstone, please join us for a walk, a chat, and a coffee! Kid and doggies welcome; the more the merrier!** Parent/Caregiver walk & talk at Stratham Hill Park. To see all CFC events listed, just follow [this link](#). To opt in to receive and post events contact [tdeneen@comcast.net](mailto:tdeneen@comcast.net)

## BOOKFAIR!

## November 14th through November 18th

(News from the PVG, continued)

## **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](#) - [www.eventbrite.com/o/cornerstone-family-connections-11249460834](http://www.eventbrite.com/o/cornerstone-family-connections-11249460834). Anyone can post an event (ex. apple picking, hiking, beach clean ups, walks, coffee meet-ups, etc.). Please contact Tamara (a parent volunteer) at [tdeneen@comcast.net](mailto:tdeneen@comcast.net) to add your name for new event notices and to post an event idea.

## **PVG Volunteer Opportunities**

Toddler House Curriculum night is **Wednesday October 12th at 5:30p**, there are still openings on [SignUpGenius](#) to donate meals for the teachers. The teachers work a long day and often do not get to go home and have dinner with their families on these evenings.

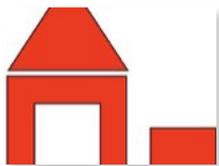
## **Fundraisers**

An easy and meaningful way to support Cornerstone School is through our Amazon link. We are an Amazon Affiliate which means Cornerstone receives 4% cash back on purchases you make. This link can be found on the bottom of the [Cornerstone School homepage](#). Please note while this is different from Amazon Smile, it is still an Amazon-sponsored fundraiser.

Save those box tops and drop them off in the front office! We collect them throughout the school year. Another great way to get the whole family involved, someone mentioned that grandparents particularly like this one.

Our Annual Appeal is in December, 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.**

## **Conference Sign-ups**



**Parent Conferences are a crucial component of the overall communication necessary to a child's education.** The chance to share successes and concerns, to inform and enlighten, to set goals and get on the proverbial same page is invaluable to the school experience. The Cornerstone School holds "formal" conferences (tuxedos and evening gowns) in October, January, and May. The January and May conferences include a written narration, while the October conference is more of a "check-in", sans report.

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



**Technology and Montessori at the Second Plane of Development, Lower and Upper Elementary.** As more and more longitudinal studies emerge

regarding elementary-aged children and screen-time, it is clear that the activity in which the child is involved rather than the mere sum of hours spent is a better barometer of the experience's efficacy. This seems a reasonable starting point for a discussion of technology at the Second Plane of Development (ages 6-12). Simply stated, technology is "the use of science to invent useful things or to solve problem", essentially a tool. A compass to determine the angle bisector of a triangle? Technology. The pegboard to calculate a square root? Technology. A wheelbarrow to move soil into a raised bed? Technology. In effective Montessori elementary classrooms, technology is not seen as inherently good or bad, but rather as a tool to be more useful, to solve problems, just like any other teaching material in the classroom. The teacher's responsibility is to present the "tool", its appropriate use, and precautions against its misuse. In arithmetic this could entail demonstrating how to exchange ten 10-stamps for a 100, and a reminder to count carefully, lest you make a error. In the classroom kitchen, the lesson could be the most efficient way to cut an onion, along with safety considerations ("keep the tip of the knife on the cutting board..."). In this light, using a computer

is no different than any other learning tool Montessori teachers and students have at their disposal. This helps to inform our decisions and our discussions with parents and colleagues. The question. "Is this an appropriate use of this technology?" becomes more manageable. Will

"This is education, understood as a help to life."

"An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking; it involves the spiritual development of man, the enhancement of his value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live."

Maria Montessori

this computer use help solve a problem? Will it enhance the lesson? A group of upper elementary children studying meteorology may become interested in forecasted temperatures versus actual temperature. A weather website would prove useful in developing a chart for comparison. A classroom writing a common document would find GoogleDocs an effective tool for collaboration.

The crucial distinction here is that concept and interest remain our starting points while the technology takes the role of service. Screen time augments the experience, it is never the genesis.

**Next Week: Technology and Montessori in the Third Plane of Development, Junior Class**



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[www.cornerstoneschool.org](http://www.cornerstoneschool.org)

Calendar, classroom news, newsletter archives

## The Photo Album



## Primary Apple Picking

