

Cornerstone News



September 9, 2016

Dear Cornerstone Families



Welcome to the 2016-17 school year! As usual, your children arrived at school eager to get started with the school year and become acquainted with old and new friends. I am always amazed at how our returning students, of all ages, dive right in to the work that has been prepared for them. It's always hard for teachers to keep up with lessons and work at this time of year because students just devour it as fast as they can get it out.

Parents are also eager at this time of year to learn and understand more about their children's work and Montessori curriculum. Below are just a few of the opportunities you have for engaging with your student's work and learning more about Montessori curriculum and your child's day while meeting other parents and faculty:

Curriculum Night is just around the corner in October. Curriculum Night is an opportunity for you (adults only) to get lessons from teachers in the same way that your student would. Check the on-line calendar for dates for specific classrooms.

Parent Night is later in the year in January. On Parent Night you have the opportunity to receive a lesson from your own student as s/he shares work and lessons with you.

Silent Journey is an adult parent education opportunity not to be missed. This year it is scheduled for the evening of Friday, November 4th and part two is during the day on Saturday, November 5th. It is a significant commitment of time but it is well worth it as we take a hands-on, in-depth look at Montessori curriculum from Toddler House through 8th grade. Watch your newsletter for further details and sign up early. We need a minimum of twelve participants and can accommodate up to twenty-four. We strongly urge you to participate!

All-school picnic is on Wednesday, September 14th, from 5:00 to 6:30 (rain date on September 15th). This is a perfect opportunity to meet other families and find ways to become involved in the parent community through other parents who are volunteers and very much involved in the school. \$5.00 gets you all the burgers and dogs you can eat, salads, side dishes and desserts. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

Parent Volunteer Group The PVG organizes community service projects, community events, the book fair, a few fundraisers and other school activities. If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering, please let me know and I will get you in touch with an existing parent who is involved in these projects. This is a fantastic and fun way to become involved in the school.

Watch for more opportunities throughout the year to welcome, and be welcomed by, other Cornerstone families. Your newsletter and the on-line calendar are the best places to stay up to date on events and opportunities in the Cornerstone community.

Finally, all of us at Cornerstone are cognizant of the sacrifices families make in order to provide their children with a Cornerstone education. We are grateful for your commitment and respect your decision. We are all excited about the new school year.

THE FARM@CORNERSTONE HARVEST 2016

JUNIOR CLASSY ENTERPRISES

As the school-year unfolds, the Junior Class operates a series of micro-economies, student-run small businesses with adult guidance. These economies take the form of products, services, workshops, etc... We look to the rest of the community to support those efforts, and these children, as they move forward in their last two years at Cornerstone, and thank you in advance for your participation.

Cinder's Pesto™ - It's the Sixth Annual PestoFesto! The JuniorClassy product that launched The Farm six years ago. Organic basil (from The Farm@Cornerstone) + Parmesan + Garlic + Olive Oil = Heaven on Pasta. If you can't wait, just smear it on a hunk of bread or grab a spoon and have at it. **\$4.00/ (4oz jar)**

Fresh Organic Tomatoes, Peppers, Cucumbers and HOT PEPPERS (NEW) - Lovingly planted and tended by the students of the Junior Class, these beauties are available fully ripe or green (for later ripening). **\$.50 - 2.50/lb**

Fresh Organic Herbs - Oregano, thyme, mint, cilantro and sage. Better quality and better price than the supermarket. Friends don't let friends cook with dried herbs when fresh herbs are available. **\$3.00/stuffed snack baggie**

Like Jazz Salsa™- Fresh organic tomatoes from our Farm@Cornerstone, combined with our own mild peppers, this salsa is light and sort of like... pico de delicious. **\$5.00/pt**

Death by Salsa™ - Fresh organic tomatoes from our Farm@Cornerstone, combined with our own hot peppers, this salsa comes with a message, and that message is, "Beware". Only for the brave. **\$5.00/pt**

With Relish™ Picallili- If you remember this from your childhood, well, congratulations, you've found it again. If not, you're in for a treat. Using a recipe from the 1940's, this relish combines organic green tomatoes and peppers (from The Farm@Cornerstone), with spices, onion, and cabbage. This stuff is delicious on its own or on a hot dog, providing the sweet, the sour, and just the right bite. Hugely popular in the Junior Class taste test. **\$5.00/pt**

Dill Pickles - A classic. These organic cucumbers were grown at The Farm@Cornerstone, and are of a sour variety. Each jar also contains a clove of garlic or two, also delicious. **\$5.00/pt**

Bread and Butter Pickles - Another throwback from the 30's and 40's, this is a pickle made from peeled organic cucumbers (from The Farm@Cornerstone), tender and sweet. Eat them as a side, or use as a relish. **\$5.00/pt**

ALL PICKLE, PICALLILI AND SALSA PRODUCTS COME WITH A \$1.00 SURCHARGE/REFUND FOR RETURN OF MASON JAR!

Historically, these delicious items have sold out very, very, quickly and supplies are limited and will be filled on "first order" basis. If you'd like to participate please order by sending an email to juniorclassy@gmail.com and sending in the appropriate amount in an envelope with your child's name and classroom. Your order will be delivered via "KidMail".

THANK-YOU!

Welcome Back to School from the Parent Volunteer Group (PVG)!



The Parent Volunteer Group will host the annual Back-to-School BBQ on Wednesday 9/14, 5-7pm (rain date Thursday 9/15). Please bring a side dish to share. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers will be grilled on site. Eat all you want for \$5/person. We need a few volunteers for set up and clean up which only takes about 10-15 minutes of your time. To sign up go to our [Sign-Up Genius Page](#). Thank you!

Curriculum Nights for your class are at the end of this month (see the school calendar). Curriculum Night is an opportunity for you (adults only) to get lessons from teachers in the same way that your student would.

Every year the PVG group organizes dinner for the teachers since they will not have a chance to go home after school. If you would like to donate a meal please follow this [link](#). Meals can be dropped off at the office during school hours the day of your child's Curriculum Night. We also included a sign-up section for people to bring finger foods for parents to snack on.

The next Parent Coffee will be held Tuesday October 4th at 8:30am in the Cornerstone gym. All are welcome. We will begin the coffee by hearing from Lee Anne Robertson, the Head of School, followed by upcoming events hosted by the PVG and parent volunteer opportunities. When parent volunteer opportunities are available the PVG will continue to list them at this [web address](#) all year. Bookmark the address!

Even if you are unable to attend Parent Coffees, PVG opportunities and events are posted in the Cornerstone newsletter. If you have questions about the Parent Volunteer Group please feel free to contact the Chair Jessie Gilton jessie.gilton@gmail.com.

Another simple and automatic way for you to support Cornerstone, is when ordering from Amazon, enter the Amazon site through the link at the bottom of Cornerstone's home page. We get a percentage of everything you ordered. Thank you for your support!

Emergency Evacuation Information



In the event that Cornerstone is notified of an emergency situation in the area that requires evacuation of the school, Cornerstone will call you and let you know that you must pick up your child immediately. At a certain point, FEMA or Homeland Security will call us again and ask about how many children and adults are remaining and they will then send a bus for that number. The children and adults would then be taken to the Manchester reception center at Memorial High School on Porter Street. **Please make sure we have updated phone numbers throughout the year so that we can reach you in case of an evacuation or**

emergency.

Cross-country



The Cornerstone Cross Country team is up and running! Our first meet is on Thursday, September 15th at Demeritt Hill Farm in Lee. We will be racing against Oyster River, Deerfield, CMS, and PCA. Our coaching staff includes Beth Finelli, Sandi Keys, Selvi Lampman, Lee Anne Robertson, and Alayna Signorello.

Our most updated roster of twenty-one runners (!) includes Juniors Brian, Nikhila, Sophie, Alana, and Katie. Upper Elementary students include Tristan, Laura, Max, Jatin, Emilia, Annika, Travis, Myles, Bryn, Rhys, Niko, Brendan, Caitlyn,

Ella, Andrew, and Oalin.

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



For most people, New Year's Day is celebrated at midnight, December 31st. If you have kids, New Year's Day is celebrated at 9:15p or

so, 10:30p if you're feeling wild and crazy. As a parent and/or teacher you know that the *real* New Year starts sometime after Labor Day, least 'round these parts.

Even more than January 1st, the First Day Back To School represents a true change in our lives. Overnight, children's bedtimes become set, and painfully, so do alarm clocks (not that they were ever set in August!). Vagaries of schedule, indeed, even the *having* of a schedule is replaced by routine. White board calendars are dusted off, and there are suddenly places to get to and appointments to be kept, and aspects of our day become predictable. A break from the break. It's not such a bad thing, this routine.

For many returning Cornerstone families, this re-entry includes the move to new environments, new teachers, new expectations, new social circles. For others, it's the experience of a whole new school and community (Welcome!). And for the oldest students at each level, there is the new fit of new roles for children who are perhaps now "elders" in their respective classrooms. Adjustment abounds, sometimes as smoothly as settling into a new comfy chair, sometimes it's lumpier. Adjust, re-adjust, acclimate.

Change can often lead to curiosity. Curiosity leads to response, and paves the way for parent education. Pay close attention to this newsletter's lead article and to the copious list of opportunities for parents to become more involved, to gain more understanding, to dig deeper than drop-off. Curriculum Nights

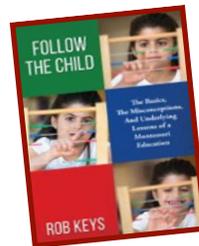
"Follow the child."

Maria Montessori

(October) and Parent Nights (January) afford excellent opportunities to learn more about the Montessori pedagogy at your child's specific level. Silent Journey, a more comprehensive and in-depth experience from Toddler through the Junior Class, is made available to our school community every November.

Certainly check out the newsletter, and this column, for explanations of the Montessori method, how it relates to current research, and maybe an insight or two. If there is a subject you would like to see covered, feel free to send an email to the crack newsletter team at newsletter@cornerstoneschool.org.

Happy New Year, everybody!



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.

www.cornerstoneschool.org

Calendar, classroom news, newsletter archives

The Photo Album

Harvest 2016

