



AUGUST 2011

Crystal Lake Montessori School

Telephone: 815-338-0013

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www.clms.org

Events

Landscaping Event

Sunday, August 21, 2011 at 1:30

Middle School Begins

Monday, August 22 at 8:30 to 3:30

Parent Orientation Night

**New Parents to CLMS, Especially
Parent/Infant/Child, Toddler & Early
Childhood, and all Interested Parents**
Tuesday, August 23 at 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

No School- Labor Day

Monday, September 5, 2011

Upper Elementary to Nature's Classroom

September 6-9, 2011

Milk Orders Due

Friday, September 2

Milk will begin Monday Sept. 12, 2011

All School Family Picnic/Potluck & Raffle At CLMS

Saturday, August 27 at 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Features

From the Desk of Ms. Pam
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Home Visits
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2011-2012 School Calendar

Dear Families,

Welcome to the new school year! We are looking forward to seeing you. As you will see, we already have many interesting and exciting activities planned for the end of August and into September.

This is our 32nd year of Crystal Lake Montessori School and our 18th year as an International Peace Site! The 2011-2012 school year promises to be memorable as always. This newsletter offers you important information to assist you with an easy transition from "summertime" to "Back to School Time".

You will find a full 2011-2012 calendar on the CLMS web site, www.clms.org and at the end of this newsletter.

Our staff just finished an enjoyable "Back to School" brunch and in-service at the Prairieview Nature Center in Crystal which is part of our McHenry County Conservation District. If you are looking for a special place to spend some family time out in nature, visit any of the McHenry County Conservation District sites www.MCCDistrict.org. There is also a publication that you may wish to request from MCCD. Simply email MCCD@MCCDistrict.org or call (815) 338-6223. It is published seasonally and offers you many events and classes for children, adults and the whole family.

***Nature will bear the
closest inspection.
She invites us to lay
our eye level with
her smallest leaf,
and take an insect
view of its plain.***
Henry David Thoreau



The following information will be important. Please read it carefully. If you have any questions call 815-338-0013 and we will assist you.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. We look forward to seeing you very soon.

Peace, *Pam*

Parent Orientation Night

Tuesday, August 23

All parents are welcome! This is an important meeting for ALL NEW FAMILIES, parents of students who are beginning the Parent/Infant/Child classes, 2-3 (Toddler) classes and 3-6 (Early Childhood) programs. Also any parents who have not attended a parent orientation due perhaps to a child starting mid-year should attend. From 6:30-7:00 p.m. we will have a "Get Acquainted Time". This will be the time to pick up your handbook. At 7:00 p.m. sharp, we will begin introducing our CLMS staff, briefly go over parts of the Parent Handbook, which apply to all, and then we will divide up into the individual age group levels, birth through six years of age. The teachers from each age group will go over more information, which is very important for you to know regarding the program your child is enrolled in here at CLMS. All Elementary parents will receive an orientation during their child's transition week. If you miss the transition week please contact your child's teacher. This is not a meeting for children, adults only please. Thank You.

Home Visits

The Toddler, Early Childhood, Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary teachers will be visiting incoming students in their homes before the school year begins. This is a very positive experience for both the teachers and the families. This is just a brief visit for a few minutes to have a chance to meet each other in your home. Your child can show them his/her room, introduce pets, etc.... it really helps the children and parents build a comfortable relationship with the teachers. The teachers will contact you to arrange a mutually convenient time and day for your home visit.



Toddler (2-3 Year old) Program

Toddler students (2 Year olds) will have individual orientations during the week of August 22nd. The Toddler teachers will be calling to set up a home visit and classroom orientation time. This is a very important opportunity for your child to become familiar with the classroom before the first day of attendance. Classes will be beginning on a shortened basis. Schedules for these phase-in classes will be explained during the individual orientations and home visits.

- Monday, August. 29th 2-Day Morning Class begins.
- Wednesday, August 31st 3-Day Morning Class begins.



Early Childhood Program (3-6 Year Old)

For all of the NEW 3-6 (Early Childhood) students there will be home visits and individual classroom ORIENTATIONS held the beginning the week of August 15. Your child's classroom teachers will be calling you to set up your home visit and individual classroom orientation. We will again have a **GRADUAL BEGINNING FOR THE 3-6 year old (Early Childhood) classes:** This allows the teachers to concentrate on the new students, helping them get off to a successful start to the year.

- Monday, August 29 - Only Three Year Old Children attend.
- Tuesday, August 30 - Only Three and Four Year Old Children attend (New and Returning students).
- Wednesday, August 31 - All Early Childhood Students attend.

Lower Elementary Program

(6-9 Year Old)

First Day of School, Thursday, August 25th, all returning, 2nd & 3rd year, Lower Elementary students, (sorry, no 1st year students) will have a half day from 8:30 a.m.to12:00 Noon (including lunch). On **Friday, August 26th**, all students' 1st, 2nd and 3rd level students will attend for a half-day from 8:30 a.m.to12:00 Noon (including lunch). Please have your child bring a nutritious lunch and beverage.

Upper Elementary Program (9-12 Year Old)

First Day of School for all Upper Elementary students is Thursday, August 25th from 8:30 **a.m. to Noon** (including lunch). **Friday, August 26th** will also be a half day. Please have your child bring a nutritious lunch and beverage.

If any **forms for our Nature's Classroom, <http://www.nciw.org/> trip** have not been turned in, please give them to Ms Nadine at the Front Desk by Thursday, August 25. Thank you.

Middle School

The first day of classes will be Monday, August 22 at 8:30.



Milk

MILK ORDERS: Skim or 2% milk may be ordered for students who are here over lunchtime. Please fill out the attached form and return it with your check to the school by Friday, September 2. Milk service will begin on Monday, September 12.

Smart Tuition

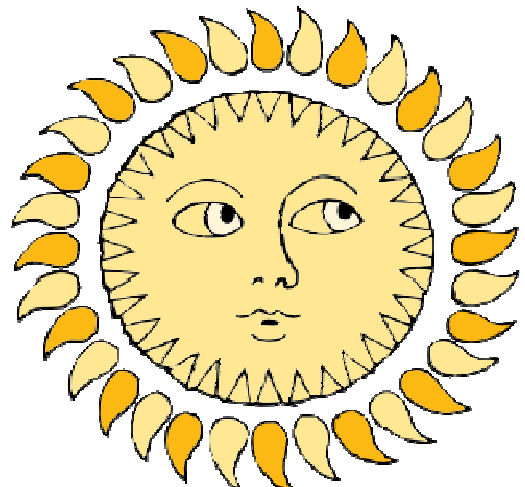
By now all families that are spreading their tuition payments over the school year should have a SMART TUITION account activated. If not please fill out the form at the front desk as soon as possible and get it to me. The only families that do not need a SMART account are those that will pay in full by September 1st. If you have any questions please call me or send a note or email.

If you are mailing in your payments you will receive a monthly invoice and statement in the mail. Please make sure that they have your correct address on file.

Web access has been improved and they now have a 24-hour help line available. The number is **888-868-8828**. You can call that line to ask questions about your account. You need to call the help line to receive your Internet login ID and password so you can access your personal account on the secure website. Please check your account soon as this is a very busy time for getting all the paperwork in order at CLMS and your SMART rollover or new enrollment may have slipped through the cracks. The first payment to SMART will be due on September 10th and will include the onetime \$43 administration fee charged by the SMART Tuition Service. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

CLMS All School Family "Back to School" Potluck Picnic

Please mark your calendars for the CLMS All School Family Picnic on Saturday August 27th at CLMS. We will be gathering around 1:00 p.m. for fun, food, and friendship. Please bring a blanket, plates, silverware and beverages for your family and a dish to pass. All families are welcome to join us.



Parent Group News

My name is Jennifer Emmert and I am the new CLMS Parent Group President for the 2011-2012 school year. I hope you are all enjoying your summer and looking forward to the start of school!

The CLMS Parent Group would like to welcome all of the new and returning families to CLMS by hosting our annual "Back to School" family picnic. The picnic is for all CLMS students, staff and their families. This first event of the season will take place on Saturday, August 27th from 1 – 3 p.m. The picnic is held on the school lawn, so we ask that you bring a blanket and/or lawn chairs, plates, silverware and drinks for your family, as well as a dish to pass. We would appreciate it if your last name begins with A – H if you would bring a main dish, I – P if you would bring a side dish, R – Z if you would bring a dessert to share with the CLMS community. In addition to sharing a picnic meal together we hope you will kindle old friendships and spark new friendships as we enjoy each other's company and play a few family friendly games such as 3-legged races, hula hoop contests, bago games, sack races and more. Please mark your calendars for what we hope to be a great kick off to the start of the school year! We will also be giving away a hot air balloon ride to a lucky winner! If you have any questions or would like to help with the games, please feel free to contact me.

I would also like to introduce the 2011-2012 CLMS PG officers for the new school year. They are as follows:

Nan Kueller – Vice President
Teresa Melton – Treasurer
Patty Meier – Secretary
Julie Durrant – Past President/President Advisor
Wendy Wagner – Parent Liaison
Reta Jankowski – Events Coordinator

As the parent of a CLMS student you are all part of the CLMS Parent Group. We welcome everyone to attend our first social of the year which will be held on Wednesday, August 31st at 8:45 a.m. in the Parent Community Room. This event will allow us to meet and greet all of the parents and enjoy coffee and refreshments as we get to know each other better. Please feel free to drop by after drop off in the morning and see what we are all about. It is a great way to meet other parents and participate in the various

events we sponsor at CLMS. Our first meeting to discuss CLMS PG business will be on Wednesday, September 7th at 8:45 a.m.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Arrival & Dismissal Times

MORNING ARRIVAL TIME for the 2-3 and 3-6 students remains at 8:15-8:30 a.m. and

AFTERNOON ARRIVAL TIME remains at 12:30-12:45 p.m. These students should arrive during these times and go directly into their classrooms.

Elementary arrival time is between 8:30-8:45 a.m. ELEMENTARY STUDENTS should be settled and in class ready to actually begin by 8:45 a.m.

DISMISSAL TIME: **MORNING DISMISSAL TIME** is between 11:00 and 11:15 a.m. **AFTERNOON DISMISSAL TIME** for Early Childhood students and Toddlers is 3:15 to 3:25 p.m. and 3:30 to 3:45 p.m. for Elementary and Middle School students.

We will once again be making large DISMISSAL NUMBERS for each family. We need each family to call in with **CARPOOL** information. Please have this information available when you call Monday, August 22 to find out your child's class assignment and to give us your carpool information. We will try our best to assign the same number as last year to retuning students, however some changes will need to be made. Numbers will be given out at the orientations or conferences, or sent home on the first day of attendance. Each child must have a dismissal number assigned and THE NUMBER MUST BE ON DISPLAY IN THE WINDSHIELD OF THE CAR in order to pick up a child from the circle drive. Toddlers need to be picked up inside and do not need a number.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO **DRIVE SLOWLY** THROUGH THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT, BE VERY PATIENT, AND WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU **DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONES** WHILE DRIVING IN OUR PARKING LOT.... (It is not safe and it is an Illinois State Law). WE HAVE MANY PRECIOUS LIVES AROUND OUR SCHOOL AND THEIR SAFETY REQUIRES OUR FULL ATTENTION.

Student Birth Certificates

The State of Illinois is now requiring parents or legal guardians to provide an official birth certificate for each child enrolled. Please bring it to Ms. Nadine at the Front Desk. She will make a copy and return the original to you.

How Much Sleep Do We Need?

During the summer months many of us change our sleeping schedules. Now that daylight is beginning to shorten, we need to begin our back to school routines. How much sleep do we need and why? These are the guidelines suggested by the National Sleep Foundation:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| • 3 to 5 years | 11 to 13 hours |
| • 5 to 10 years | 10 to 11 hours |
| • 10 to 17 years | 8.5 to 9.5 hours |
| • 18 years and above | 7 to 9 hours |

"Getting adequate sleep helps to contribute significantly to overall well-being, particularly for youngsters whose minds and bodies are still developing"

For more information about this topic visit the CLMS Face book page or go to <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/2010815005413/en/Time-Set-Back-to-School-Sleep-Schedules>.



What's For Lunch?

Children need energy to make it through the day. The best way to insure that is to send them to class with a healthy lunch. Studies have shown that if you equip your child with healthy food to eat at school, they will be better prepared to study and learn. Although convenience products make packing your child's lunchbox a snap, those products are often loaded with saturated fat, calories and sodium. Fruits and vegetables add color and crunch while providing beneficial vitamins and minerals. Foods like wraps, smoothies and dips are healthy and fun to eat. Have your child taste test, shop and pack his/her lunch. The more involved he/she is in this process the more she/he will feel ownership and excitement. This will give them something to look forward to at lunch every day.

We also encourage waste free lunches. This means using cloth napkins, china or glass plates, glasses and tableware. We provide most of these in each classroom at school. You can help by sending lunches to school in reusable containers.

The lunch container in the photo above is called a "Laptop Lunch Box." If you are interested in more information about this container, you will find them at <http://www.laptoplunches.com/>. They are excellent however, not inexpensive and there are other options for reusable containers.

2011-2012 Calendar*

August 15	Middle School "Back to School Gathering" 7:00 p.m.
August 15-18	Middle School Conferences
August 18	Staff In-Service & Lunch
August 21	Landscaping Event at 1:30
August 22	Middle School Begins
August 22-26	Week of Individual Student Orientations
August 23	New Parent Night 6:30- 8:00 p.m.
August 25	½ Day-Returning Lower Elementary Students-No New Students 12:00
August 26	½ Day-All Lower Elementary Students 12:00
August 25 & 26	½ Day-Upper Elementary-All Students Attend 12:00
August 27	Back to School All Family "Potluck Picnic" from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
August 29	Toddler 2-Day Children Begin
August 29	Elementary Attend All Day
August 29	Early Childhood Three Year Old Children Begin
August 30	Early Childhood Three & Four Year Old Children Attend
August 31	All Early Childhood Children Attend
August 31	Toddler 3-Day Children Begin
September 5	No School-Labor Day
September 6-9	Upper Elementary "Nature's Classroom"
September 6	Kindergarten Extension Begins
September 6	Spanish Begins
September 21	U.N. International Day of Peace
September 21	Market Day
September 26-29	Fall Conference Week for All (except Middle School)
September 26-28	Book Fair-Parent Group
September 27 & 28	School Pictures
Sept. 29-Oct.1	MMTTC Institute
Sept.29 &30	No School-except Middle School
October 10	No School-Gandhi's Birthday
October 13	Montessori Night for Toddler & Early Childhood Parents
October 14	Early Childhood Family Fall Apple Outing-No School for Early Childhood Students
October 15	Open House
October 17-21	Middle School Classroom Internships/Business Internships
October 19	Market Day
October 23	G- Cap (Middle School UN trip)
October 24	U.N. Day
October 29	Fun Fest (All Family, Parent Group Activity) 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
October 29	Middle School to "Sound to Sea" North Carolina-4:00 p.m.
November 11	No School-Veterans Day (½ day In-Service for teachers)
November 16	Market Day
November 17	Middle School Information Night
November 22	Thanksgiving Celebrations
November 23-25	No School-Thanksgiving Vacation
November 29	Middle School Independent Study Presentations- 7:00 p.m.
December 5-9	Middle School "Nature's Classroom"
December 12-16	In-Line Skating in P.E.
December 14	Market Day
December19-30	No School-Winter Vacation
January 2	No School-Staff In-Service
January 3	School Resumes
January 16	No School - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
January 19	Elementary Presentation Night
January 23-26	Winter Conference Week - All School
January 25	Market Day
January 26-28	MMTTC - Institute
January 26 & 27	No School

