



JANUARY 2012

Crystal Lake Montessori School
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Events

School Resumed

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

Re-Enrollment for Current Families

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Call in for Conferences

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

All School Rae Center Performance at CLMS "Tropical Explosion"

Thursday, January 19, 2012 9:00 a.m.

Auction/Dinner/Dance Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 9 a.m.

Elementary Presentation Night

Thursday, January 19, 2012 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

All School Conference Week

January 23-26, 2012

Market Day Pick-Up

Wednesday, January 25, 2012
10:30-11:30 a.m.

No-School Conferences

Thursday & Friday January 26 & 27, 2012

Parent Group Roller Skating Event

Thursday, January 26, 2012
6:30-8:30 p.m. X-Treme Wheels in Crystal Lake

Re-Enrollment Due / Open Enrollment Begins

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Parent Group Meeting

Thursday, February 3, 2012 at 8:45 a.m.

Features

Classroom News
Parent Group News
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Mustang Connection
Market Day News
Box Tops for Education

Dear Parents,

I hope all of you had an enjoyable winter break! Welcome to 2012 and to school.

Last Thursday evening at Crystal Lake Montessori School the red carpet was rolled out and our students could have been awarded Golden Globes for their masterful presentations! However, our students do not need awards; they are self-motivated and excited to share what they know with others. If you attended our Elementary Presentation Night you know what I am talking about. Each student was a star that shone brightly as they confidently, joyfully and patiently presented a favorite activity or material to anyone who chose to listen and learn and many chose to do so. This special evening was just a small glimpse into the activities and joy that goes on everyday within each classroom at CLMS. Please enjoy the Elementary Presentation Night photos within this newsletter.



This is an important time of continued commitment to the incredible education of your child because it is time to re-enroll for the 2011-12 school year. You received re-enrollment information in your child's folder last week and enrollment began on Tuesday, January 18. The re-enrollment deadline is January 31, as we open enrollment for new students on February 1st. Please call us if you didn't receive your packet or have any questions. Next year will be another adventure into learning that you and your child will want to be a part of.

We all look forward to seeing you at the Parent/Teacher conferences this week.

Next month, February is National Wild Bird Feeding Month. February was chosen because it is the most difficult month for wild birds to find food, water and shelter. The theme for this year is "Most Wanted-American's Top Ten Backyard Birds." Can you list the top ten wild birds east of the Rocky Mountains? They are listed at the end of this newsletter. Contact The National Bird-Feeding Society at www.birdfeeding.org for more information. Membership is free and the goal of the NBFS is to help bring some of nature's most beautiful sights and sounds right outside our window.

Cardinal in the Snow

By Grace

A white blanket covers the yard.
Snowflakes fly swiftly threw the air.
There sits a Cardinal on the frozen bush.
Feathers puffed and bold
Singing a winter tune
The wet snowflakes melt on his head.
Hearing the creak of a gate, and with one swift
movement he lifts into a gentle soar.
Off he goes into the white sky.



Peace,

Ms. Pam

Parent/ Infant/Child Program

Our class is growing friendships as well as developing social skills to a new level. It is amazing to witness the growth that is taking place in this environment. The children talk of others at home and can't wait to "go to school!"



This photo was taken in the PIC classroom last year. Now Emmett is in one of our Toddler classes as you will see below and next year he will be ready for Early Childhood. Where does the time go?

Toddler Program

Welcome back to school!



After our two week break all of the children walked into the classroom appearing taller and more mature. We are all so content to be back together again. Children at this age seek and enjoy the order our days together bring. At this age stability and security are an important part of the children's lives.

Remember that our winter conferences will take place this week (January 23-25). Hopefully you have called in to reserve your conference choice of date and time. We look forward to spending time with you.



One last note: Please remember to bring shoes for your children to wear within the classroom on days they are coming to school in their winter boots. The children get hot while wearing them inside and we see a bit more tripping as boots tend to be cumbersome. Thank you.



Early Childhood Program

Let's hope everyone has had a safe and joyous winter break!

We are back and ready to have more fun in school! Winter is officially here and this means that it's time to take all the winter wear out of storage. Now that the snow has arrived, please, make sure your child brings snow pants, boots, a hat, and gloves - we go outside whenever the temperature allows. Please, label your child's winter clothing, because things do get mixed up when everyone is getting dressed; this way your child can keep track of his/her clothing items.

In January, we will be learning about birds and evergreens, and the continent of study will be Asia. Our author of the month is Jan Brett with all of her amazing animal stories. We will also introduce children to Martin Luther King Junior and his peaceful mission.



Jan Brett

In January during the week of January 23-26 we are hosting our winter parent-teacher conferences.

Thank you for trusting us with your children and providing your continuous support.

The EC teachers

Kindergarten Extension Class

January will be a busy time in the Kindergarten Extension class. With the new calendar year, we will be focusing on the calendar, dates, days, and months. We will also be looking at clocks and reading time.

The Lower Elementary children invited us to visit their classrooms and the students presented activities to us. This was practice for their Presentation Night.



We finally have snow to play in and do snow, ice and water experiments. We will experiment with melting clean snow to see if it was really clean. Each student will look in the glass and decide if it is drinkable! What do you think? We will also experiment with evaporation. We will continue doing experiments in preparation for the all school Science Fair next month.

Lower Elementary Program

Welcome back! We hope that everyone is feeling rested and renewed after a long Winter Break. As the weather turns chilly, we will turn our minds to a warmer place as we focus on the continent of Africa. December's exploration of Native Americans inspired much creativity, including the building of tipi's and lean-to shelters at recess time. Our African studies are sure to bring about new and unique creations.

January also means Presentation Night! Presentation Night was held on the 19th of January. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to share their favorite materials with parents and other guests in their classrooms. They love this opportunity to teach and answer questions.



This week, we will be hosting our mid-year conferences with you and your child. It is a time to touch base on your child's progression as well as revisit his or her annual goals. Your child will be an

important part of the conference so please remember that your elementary child must attend the conference with you. The Lower Elementary team is looking forward to meeting with each of you.

Remember that we go outside as much as the weather allows. Please continue to send your child with full outdoor wear which includes, boots, snow pants, gloves and hats. Labeling all of your children's items is very helpful.

Happy New Year!



Upper Elementary Program

As we begin a new year, we appreciate the peace and routine that has settled into our classrooms and personal lives.

January holds the promise of cold, crisp, winter air, snowmen, snow forts, rosy cheeks, back packs stuffed with winter paraphernalia (you are all making sure your children have appropriate winter clothing, right?), and of course icy roads and sidewalks. January is also the month for winter conferences. We look forward to seeing you this week. Thank you for attending our Elementary Presentation Night .

Anticipating this very special evening, we decided to ask our students the following question:

"Why do you think "presentation skills" are important?"

Here are some of their candid answers:

"If you practice now, you'll be better in the future, and know how to present," Violet and Erik E. answered.

"Practicing now will prepare you for middle school, high school, and college," added Will A. "Or , if you want to become a teacher," Morgan said."Practicing now means you won't be scared to speak when you're a grow-up," added Madison and several students who couldn't understand why any adult would be afraid to speak in public!"Good presentation skills will help you get your job," answered Tatum."You will know how to present yourself when you are in an interview," added Breanna. Jade agreed. "It will make you better at your job." "People will listen if you have good presentations skills," replied Taylor G. Isabel F. agreed."Nobody wants to listen to a bad presentation."

We then asked them if they had any advice for someone preparing a presentation. Here are their "tips":

1. Keep eye contact and have a smile on your face. (Madeline D. and Sarah C.)
2. Enunciate and speak loudly enough to be heard. (Hannah A. and Georgie D. Ross R. agreed and added, "Project your voice.")
3. Don't use words such as "like", "ummm", "whatever", "you know", or "like". (Morgan and Taylor)
4. Don't just read your paper, use notes; memorize your presentation (Emily K.)
5. Be interactive. Try to get your audience involved (Eli and Isabel F)
6. Add humor (Hannah P and Yeager)
7. Take a deep breath before you talk to relax. (Kevin B.)
8. Practice, Practice, Practice! (UE1 and UE2)

We would also like to acknowledge all those who contributed books to our classrooms, and to Cora Rafe for her project of collecting Yoplait's pink yogurt lids for breast cancer research. She collected 571, which was more than 400 more than last year! Kudos to Cora! We are very proud of our global citizens!

Middle School

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

As we return from our Winter Break, we will begin **Cycle 4: Changes**. Our study begins with **Natural World**. The students will be investigating simple and compound machines. From there, they will learn what forces power them. This will be the lead in for the **Middle School Science Fair** projects this year, which is in February. Each student will be creating a machine with several steps to complete one simple task!

When we move onto **Social World**, we will be studying the **Industrial Revolution** from its beginning in Europe to its arrival in the United States to present day Changes. In addition to the inventions that have changed our lives, students will learn about people who were instrumental in bringing about these new inventions!

Last week and this week we are welcoming Middle School parents for our second set of **Goal Setting Conferences**. Students are not only setting new goals, but the eighth grade students will be discussing graduation and the transition to high school. The seventh grade students will be discussing upcoming **Business Internships** and the plans for their eighth grade year.

Of course, the beginning of January means getting started with practice for our upcoming musical in early March. This year the Middle School students will be performing selections of **1776**. This play is in preparation for our trip to **Washington, DC** and our study of the **United States Constitution**.

Keep watching for the Middle School students in the morning while they rotate the duty of selling **farm fresh eggs** and **fair trade coffee**!

Parent Group

Greetings parents!

We hope you all had a peaceful and relaxing winter break filled with fun! The month of January reminds us of new beginnings and all that we hope and wish to accomplish in the new year. The CLMS Parent Group wants you to know that we, too, are looking forward to the new year and fresh ideas. If you are looking to try something new in 2012, why not join us for a Parent Group meeting or become part of our annual dinner auction committee. We would love to have you! **Please join us for our next PG business meeting on Tuesday, February 10th at 8:45 a.m.** in the Parent/Community room.

Here is a recap of what your CLMS PG has been working on in the month of December:

BOGO Scholastic Book Fair – Kristen Carpenter & Alicia Slavin – Chairpersons

Thank you to all of you who came to the book fair and supported our school and our classrooms with your purchases and gifts to the classes of books from their wish lists. We hope you enjoyed the book fair! Many thanks to Kristen, Alicia and their LOYAL team of volunteers!

Technology Fund – Ms. Pam

With money raised from last year's "fund an item" at the annual auction plus matching funds from the PG, CLMS is in the process of upgrading and enhancing technology throughout the school. You will find more details in the technology article later in this newsletter.

Gourmet Gorilla – Jennifer Morales - Coordinator

Our new nutritious, organic and natural hot lunch program started in January. The hot lunches are provided by Gourmet Gorilla. Lunches are ordered on a monthly basis. Please feel free to check out gourmetgorilla.com for more details.

Auction – Amy Weiler – Chairperson

Save the date...**Saturday, March 3, 2012**...the annual dinner/auction will be held at the Bull Valley Golf Course. The theme this year is a sports themed tailgate party. Wear your favorite team jersey and join us in a relaxed atmosphere filled with yummy tailgate food and great fun! More details to come regarding how YOU can get involved with our biggest (and most fun) fundraiser and social event of the year.

Upcoming event dates:

Save the dates...Thursday, January 26th .. Is our Family Roller Skating Party at X Treme Wheels in Crystal Lake from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Friday, February 10th...is the All-School Family Valentine's Day Dance! You will NOT want to miss these events! They are DEFINITELY two of the most popular events at the school and the children's FAVORITES! For the Valentine Dance we have an awesome DJ lined up who gets EVERYONE dancing...yes...even YOU! It is lots of fun, so plan on attending and see the gym transformed into a dance party with your family and friends dancing the night away!

Nominations for next year's Parent Group Officers will be accepted beginning in February. Officers shall be appointed in April. Please start thinking about whether you might like to be a part of the CLMS PG as an officer or know someone you feel would do a great job in one of the roles as an officer on the board. More details will be sent out in the next month's newsletter.

We hope that you are enjoying the various PG sponsored events. Please feel free to let us know if you have any ideas or things you would like to see us do in 2012. We welcome your input. You can email us at clmsparentgroup@gmail.com or join us on Facebook.

We wish you a happy and healthy new year!

Our next Parent Group meeting is **Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 8:45 a.m.** in the parent/community room. See you there!

Jennifer Emmert

Mustang Connection

Our appreciation goes to Agnieszka Hansen for organizing and publishing the "Mustang Connection", a directory of businesses and services owned and operated by our CLMS families. Thanks also to all those who participated by listing and for the "good deals" offered to our families and the school. While we fully support this networking, we do need to mention that the school does not endorse or guarantee the quality of any of these services or products. We hope you find this directory useful and a nice way to build community among our families.



Market Day

Hi Everyone! Welcome to Market Day! A special thank you to all of our volunteers who help out each month; with an extra thank you to all of those who keep coming back to every sale! You are the best!



Note: Anyone interested in helping can come to any sale. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Profits Earned:

We earned around \$200 from December's sale. Way to go CLMS! Remember, all profits earned from Market Day help supply our children's classrooms with learning materials.

Next Sale Date: Wednesday, January 28.

Thank you,
Lisa

Box Tops for Education

Please continue to bring in your Box Tops for Education; this is a year-long project & all the children at C.L.M.S. benefit from them. Thank you!



Technology Plan for CLMS

Last year the Fund an Item at our annual Silent Auction/Dinner Dance was technology. At that auction we raised about \$2,500. This year our Parent Group elected to match it. This brings the total to \$5,000. What do we plan to do with this money?

We began by contacting three technology consulting companies and several parents to do technology audits. All of these audits were free and very helpful in understanding what we needed for CLMS and what it would cost. Next we chose Echelon Computers of Crystal Lake, one of the companies we had consulted, to work with us. They assisted us with needs, choices, goals, timelines and fees. Now we are in the implementation stage.

First, we updated our router. We now have an open wi-fi for parents and visitors to use and a security coded wi-fi for administration and staff.

All of the classroom computers were cleaned and loaded with new virus protection & software where needed.

We have purchased UltraKey 6, a typing program for our Upper Elementary students and will also be starting a pilot typing program in our Lower Elementary classrooms.

We are testing Net.Nanny to protect students on the internet. We will be making our decision to purchase this product by the end of this month.

We will be purchasing three LCD projectors and laptop computers, one for each level. The Montessori curriculum and philosophy is multi-sensory and hands-on learning and this will not change. The projectors and laptops will to be used to enhance not replace the learning experiences at CLMS.

We will continue to share the technology updates as they take place.



Bird List

The top 10 birds east of the Rocky Mountains are:

- American Goldfinch
- Black Capped Chickadee
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Downy Woodpecker
- House Finch
- Northern Cardinal
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- Tufted Titmouse
- White-breasted Nuthatch



Save the Date
Saturday, March 3, 2012
"Mustang Tailgate"
2012 CLMS
Dinner & Dance
Auction