



NOVEMBER 2011

Crystal Lake Montessori School
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www.clms.org

Events

**"Break of Reality" Raue Center
All School Performance**

Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

**Montessori Night for Lower Elementary Parents
"Cosmic What?"**

Thursday, November 10, 2011 from 6:30 -8:00 p.m.

No School-Veterans Day

Friday, November 11, 2011

Staff ½ In-Service Day

Friday, November 11, 2011

Panera Bread Day

Saturday, November 12, 2011
(See Parent Group article for details)

Market Day Pick-Up

Wednesday, November 16, 2011
10:30-11:30 a.m.

Middle School Information Night

Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Celebrations

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

No School - Thanksgiving Break

Wednesday, November 23- Friday 25, 2011

Classes Resume

Monday, November 28, 2011

Middle School Independent Projects Presentations

Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Book Fair/Buy 1 Get 1 Free

December 5-9, 2011

Middle School to Natures Classroom

December 6-10, 2011

Parent Group Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Features

Classroom News
Parent Group News
Market Day News
Gift Card Program
Small Hands Order
Box Tops for Education
New Furnace

Where Did the Tree Go & Why?

We Welcome Donations

Always Do Your Best, and Your Dreams Will Come True

Emergency Closing Center

Dear Parents,

Congratulations to all of the families that participated in our annual Fall Fun Fest last Saturday! Wasn't it wonderful? We all owe a huge thank you to Julie Durrant, Meg Anderson, all of the Parent Group, Ms. Madonna, our band director with the CLMS band, and our CLMS staff for a great time!



We would like to invite all families, parents and students, to attend our Middle School Information Night at 7:00 on Thursday, November 17. Upper Elementary families will definitely want to be in attendance. We also encourage parents of younger children to attend. The Middle School students will be making presentations about the many facets of our program and there will be CLMS graduates available to discuss their experiences at CLMS and their transition into high school. We hope many of you will be able to join us.

We will be closed on Friday, November 11, in respect of Veterans Day, and our faculty will be having a half day In-Service that day.



November is a wonderful month. A month for thanksgiving and gratefulness. Tuesday, November 22, will be the day each level celebrates Thanksgiving at CLMS. You will receive information soon about what will be needed for this special day. The following day will be the start of our Thanksgiving vacation, November 23-25.

Please look through our entire newsletter for photos and information about all of the amazing events from October and all of the events to come in November. A day doesn't pass without something exciting and wonderful happening here at CLMS, We are trying to share some of it with you.

We are all so thankful to be able to serve the many wonderful families here at CLMS. We appreciate the unique contribution that each child, each parent, and each staff member makes towards our school community. Enjoy the month.

A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues. ~Cicero

Peace, Ms. Pam



Parent/Infant/Child



You are invited to join our class. If you have a child under the age of two, please call and set up a visit. We meet on Thursday afternoons from 1:45 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. with a wonderful group of parents and children

Toddler (2-3 Year old) Program

Our toddler children are becoming comfortable with our daily routines and have come to trust that their moms, dads, grandparents, uncle, and caretakers will come back as promised to pick them up at the end of the morning. Having established this we are venturing out of our room to use the gym, library, and to say hello to Spike. Gym day for our T-2 class is Tuesday and our T-3 class is Fridays. Please have



appropriate footwear for this purpose. As weather changes, please send your child with appropriate attire for our outdoor time.

Thank you to all of the parents and children who met us at the apple orchard. It was the first time the toddler group participated together at an off campus event and it certainly was a success!



Remember as the holidays approach and our schedules become hectic, the stress of it all can transfer to these little ones. Please be sensitive to this fact so we can create a wider understanding for behaviors that may be challenging or different. Toddlers thrive with consistency and order.

Thank You
The Toddler Staff

"The role of the adult is to respect what the child can do for himself." –Aline D. Wolf

Early Childhood Program (3-6 Year Old)

We would like to thank all of the parents that attended the parent night "The Pink What?" We enjoyed talking with you after the presentation. Thank you to all of the families that attended the off campus trip to Royal Oaks Orchard. Even though it was a windy day



everyone seemed to have a good time. The children enjoyed talking about the trip in the classroom. We would also like to acknowledge the CLMS Middle School students who interned in our Early Childhood classrooms for one week in October. The Middle School interns brought added love and patience to our environment. It was a rewarding experience for everyone.



This November we will continue our classroom exploration of the autumn harvest. We will be learning about leaves, the life cycle of pumpkins, fruits and vegetables. The Early Childhood Feast will be on Tuesday, November 22. Please watch your child's blue folder for more information about the feast.

This month we will begin our continental study of Europe and our zoological study of reptiles and dinosaurs, a classroom favorite. Our author of the month is Don and Audrey Wood. A husband and wife team who write entertaining books for young children.

As the weather grows colder, please continue to send your child with the appropriate outdoor clothing. We will head outside daily as the weather permits. Enjoy the fall weather.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving



Kindergarten Extension Class



In November, we will make applesauce. We will study the first "Thanksgiving," table manners, and how to introduce ourselves and others. While we are doing all of these special projects, we continue to work on our skills: reading, writing, and math.



Lower Elementary Program

October has been an exciting and busy month! We have enjoyed the changing temperature and playing in the beautiful leaves on the playground. Our study of the universe culminated with a fabulous trip to the Adler Planetarium and



we celebrated United Nations Day by focusing our annual Culture Fair on the fundamental needs of humans. In Lower Elementary, we explored the need for Shelter, Food, Spirituality and Culture such as music and dance. The children were so excited to present their work to the Upper Elementary students. The children beamed with passion and pride! It is a wonderful time of community.

Please remember to mark your calendar and attend the "Cosmic, WHAT?" presentation on November 10. This presentation designed for adults will focus on Cosmic Education, Planes of Development and other key Montessori topics. It is not to be missed!

Plans are underway for our Thanksgiving celebration on Tuesday, November 22. Please watch for more information in upcoming red folders.

As we enter into November, a month that we emphasize gratefulness, we would like to thank you for sharing your amazing children with us and for all that you do to make Crystal Lake Montessori School a place "where all students are honored."

Upper Elementary Program

Greetings from Upper Elementary!

Thank you to the Lower and Upper Elementary classrooms for an informative, entertaining, and exciting Culture Fair. Each classroom focused on two "Needs of Humans" that took our students on a journey around the world that covered much distance and time. A fun time was had by all. Thank you to everyone for their hard work and effort to make it a successful and memorable event.

Our Upper Elementary students enjoyed their off campus learning experience to the Prairieview Education Center in Crystal Lake on October 31st. The program was run by the McHenry County Conservation District. We took part in a map and compass class. Fall is such a beautiful time of the year to explore the changing leaves and the outdoors at a beautiful facility.

This experience was a perfect springboard into our upcoming cultural map study. We will focus on the various biomes within the continents of Asia and Australia. There is quite a bit to explore within these two continents. It will be fun!

As we begin November, we want to remind and encourage all families to continue to foster their child(ren)'s learning at home. This may occur through discussions at the family dinner table, math facts practice, (student-created flashcards may be beneficial, since writing and saying the equations can help in the recall process), and daily reading is a great way to expand vocabulary and comprehension practice. These activities do not take much time, but they do have a positive impact.

"The American family is the rock on which a solid education can be built. I have seen examples all over this nation where two-parent families, single parents, stepparents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles are providing strong families support for their children to learn. If families teach the love of learning, it can make all the difference in the world to their children."

Richard W. Riley
U.S. Secretary of Education

Finally, our Thanksgiving celebration will take place (in the gym) on Tuesday, November 22nd. We are thankful for so much. We hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.



Middle School

October has been a busy month for our class! The week of October 17-21 was Internship Week. During that week the seventh grade students assisted in all of the other classes in our school. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn the joy of teaching and working with younger children. Our students enjoyed the experiences including those in the elementary classes who were part of the United Nations Culture Fair Day.



While the seventh grade students worked in classes, the eighth grade students completed Business Internships. Each student found an exciting work opportunity. The purpose of the internships is to learn how a various business operates and to assist that business with some of the duties.

Following internships, some of our eighth grade students had the opportunity for a trip to the United Nations in New York. The students learned a great deal about the United Nations and the work that is accomplished there. The students also saw many historic places. Thank you Ms. Lisa and Mr. Jerry for accompanying the students!



Now as the month ends, it is off to the Outer Banks of North Carolina to learn about the habitats of that area!

On November 17, our class will host Middle School Information Night at 7:00 PM! Mark your calendars to learn about our classroom and to hear from past graduates about the transition to high school,

Middle School Students Attend Global Conference in New York City

New York! New York! This year's Global Citizen Action Project Conference was held at the Marriot Marquis Hotel, right on Times Square. Along with learning about Crisis Prevention and Recovery of the UN Development Program, US Campaign to Ban Landmines, Roots and Shoots, and Save the Rain, the students visited the United Nations and the Mission of Zimbabwe.



In between speakers we were able to experience the New York subway, a ferry ride past the Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero, The Lion King on Broadway, Central Park, 5th Avenue, Rockefeller Plaza and so much more! What an experience of a lifetime for all who attended. The students chose "Save the Rain" for their Global Citizens Project this year so you'll be hearing more about it later this year.

Parent Group News

Greetings parents!

We have certainly had a busy, but fun start to the school year! September and October were packed with many fun activities, volunteer opportunities and fundraisers to support.

Here is a recap of what your CLMS PG has been sponsoring:

Landscaping project – Parts 1 & 2 – Coordinator: Teresa Melton/Part – 3 – Coordinators: Beth & Shane Rank

Parts 1 & 2 of the landscaping project took place in August and September and they went so well that we want to keep this work in progress going! Many thanks to Teresa Melton for organizing this event and for planting bulbs earlier this fall and to all of the parents, staff and teachers who have volunteered to help so far. It looks great! But as any of you with landscaping of your own know...the work is never quite done. Our friends at Countryside Nursery (the folks who provided us with our beautiful mums this year) have offered to donate several plants to CLMS the beginning of November. Please stay tuned for more information regarding Part 3 of the landscaping project which will take place on a weekend in November. Thank you to Beth & Shane Rank for volunteering to coordinate this next phase of the project.

Family Hayride – Agnieszka Hansen/Jessica Jones
Our family hayride outing at Randall Oaks went on without a hitch (insert laugh here)...! The little bit of rain at the start of the evening did not dampen anyone's spirits! The weather soon cleared and we had a beautiful evening full of fun and festivities! We had many families as well as staff and teachers attend this annual event and a great time was had by all! In addition to the hayrides we enjoyed a beautiful bonfire, yummy snacks, hot beverages and fun times at the playground! Many thanks to Agnieszka Hansen and Jessica Jones for helping with the decorations and the serving of the food and beverages! They were certainly a pleasure to work with!

Book Fair – Kristen Carpenter/Alicia Slavin
We would like to thank Kristen Carpenter/Alicia Slavin and ALL of the volunteers who helped make our first book fair of the year such a huge success! It was so nice to have so many people willing to donate their time volunteering as well as parents and grandparents attending the book fair to support their child's love of reading while raising money for CLMS.

Parent Group Cont.

Mum sales – Wendy Wagner

What more can we say about the gorgeous mums this year? Wendy Wagner and her friends at Countryside made this year's mum sales another blooming success! Thank you to Wendy and her volunteers (including her student interns) for their time and for all of the people who bought the mums to support this service project! ALL of the mums were sold...thanks to you!

Innisbrook – Jenni Wingate & Art to Remember - Patty Meier/Beth Rank

All of your orders have been submitted for the Innisbrook wrapping paper/ gift items and for the Art to Remember gift items. Thank you to Jenni Wingate for organizing this year's Innisbrook fundraiser and to Patty Meier for organizing the Art to Remember fundraiser and to all of you who supported us. We would also like to thank Patty for her many years of service on this project and also to thank Beth Rank for volunteering to take over this project next year as Patty's children will be graduating from middle school. Stay tuned for more details about these fundraisers.

Box Tops/Labels for Education – Karen Schwaab

Karen is doing a fantastic job of keeping you all updated on the progress of this easy to support fundraiser with her notes in the folders. Thank you all for clipping your labels and submitting them to school. Keep up the great work. Just a little clipping really adds up!

Cartridges for Cash – Recycling program

Thank you to everyone who has helped our school earn money by recycling their used ink cartridges, cell phones, and cell phone accessories with CLMS. This is another easy way to support our school and for you to do your part in saving our planet. Just drop off your items in the box in the parent room and we will send them to a company called Cartridges for Kids who recycles them free of charge.

Fun Fest –

Meg Anderson & Julie Durrant-What a great time we all had at this year's Fun Fest! There were so many cool costumes, fun games and good treats to eat! It was wonderful to see so many of you in attendance and many new faces volunteering at the various stations! This is one event that greatly relies on strong



coordinators and many volunteers.....everyone answered the call and helped make Fun Fest a huge success! A BIG thank you and heart-felt congratulations to Meg Anderson, Julie Durrant and all of their volunteers for a job well done!

Posters – Agnieszka Hansen

Have you noticed all of the wonderful posters we have had to publicize our events? They are all due to the wonderful skills and artistry of one of our parents, Agnieszka Hansen! Thank you so much for doing such a beautiful job and sharing your talents.

Spring Auction – Amy Weiler

A HUGE thank you goes out to Amy Weiler for volunteering to coordinate this year's dinner auction. She has already begun scouting out locations and will begin holding committee meetings soon, so please make sure to watch for details regarding our biggest social event and fundraising effort of the year! You will not want to miss it!

Treasurer's Report – Teresa Melton

We would like to keep everyone at CLMS in the loop on what the various activities which are earmarked as fundraisers collect, and what we do with the money that you have helped us raise for our school. Please watch the next newsletter for details.

This brings us to November...

November 12th is CLMS Day at Panera Bread in Crystal Lake. Panera Bread has contacted us and offered to do a fundraiser with CLMS. All it requires is your appetite and a flier. We will be sending out more information, but if you are out and about on Saturday, November 12th doing your errands, running to sporting events or you simply want to grab a bite to eat...please consider stopping by Panera Bread and enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner at their café on Route 14 in Crystal Lake. By handing the cashier a flier at check out, CLMS will receive a percentage of the sales that day. It is as simple as that!

November is the month we like to slow down a bit and re-group from all of the fall activities. It is also the month we reflect on all of the things for which we are thankful. I, for one, am thankful for the opportunity to send my children to CLMS and for them to experience all of the wonderful ways of learning, exploring and growing that the teachers and staff offer and allow them to experience on a daily basis. I am also thankful for all of our parents who have supported us and will continue to do so because they want to be a part of their child's education and help form their experiences at CLMS. We really appreciate all of our coordinators, volunteers and parents who have helped support the PG!

Please join us for our next PG business meeting on Wednesday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose room. We will be holding this meeting in conjunction with the BOGO Scholastic Book Fair night. The book fair will be the week of December 5th – 9th in the parent/community room. The book fair will be open for family night on December 7th, so come early and shop for your books and then join us for our first evening PG meeting of the year. We will have child care available as well. We would love to see our regular members as well as those of you who haven't yet had the opportunity to join us because our meetings have been held during the day. Teachers are welcome to join us too! We always love your input as well!

The PG is a wonderful way to meet other parents and stay connected with the various activities we sponsor. From social, to service, to fundraising there is an activity that hopefully speaks to you in some way. Please come and see what we are all about. We would love to have your new ideas and fresh outlook on things.

Jennifer Emmert

Market Day

Thank you to all of the people who purchased Market Day, especially the new customers. In October we made \$109.35 for the CLMS classrooms. Lisa Gust is doing an amazing job each month. Thank you for your help. Think of all the extra meals and visitors you may have during the month of November and fill your freezer with quick meals from Market Day.



Please fill out your order form and return it to the front desk by 11/9 or online www.marketday.com by 11/12 at 11:00 p.m. (CST) Thank you

Gift Card Program

Have you taken advantage of the Gift Card Program yet? With the holidays just around the corner, it's a good time to start. Are you cooking for the holidays? Get your gift cards for Honey Baked Ham, Jewel Foods or Wal-Mart. Traveling? Get gas cards for Marathon, Shell or Chevron. Don't know what gift to give? Give a gift card for Starbucks, iTunes, Bath & Bodyworks, Barnes & Noble, Sears or Menards, the possibilities are endless!

What could be better than giving the perfect gift and reducing next year's tuition at the same time? Turn in your gift card orders on Monday and receive them Wednesday, signature required at pick-up, or purchase from our cash & carry form of stocked gift cards. If you have any questions, please see Lorry Scurto.

Small Hands Catalog Order

Please help us earn free classroom supplies and materials for our school! We will be distributing the **For Small Hands** catalog in folders on Wednesday, November 3rd with orders due Friday, November 19. There will be a folder in the Parent Nook or just send your order back in your child's folder, at which time we'll place our Group Order for the Montessori Services **For Small Hands** School Credit Promotion. When we get together and order from the For Small Hands catalog or website during the promotion and credit the school, the school earns valuable merchandise credit! We will contact you when the order arrives sometime late November or early December.

This is a great way to integrate Montessori into your home. These make great Holiday gifts, too! Not sure which items are appropriate? Ask their teacher for recommendations.



Box Tops for Education

Karen Schwaab, our "Box Tops for Education" coordinator wanted to let you know that with your help we received \$145 for box tops during the months of September and October. She also wanted to acknowledge Pat Moll for her work trimming thousands of tops. Thank you.



New Furnace

Thank you for understanding when we needed to close school for an extra half day last month. We discovered that we needed to replace the furnace on the north side of our school building. Now you may or may not know that our beautiful Montessori school building was designed and built in four stages. The furnace we just replaced was one of the original furnaces. It was almost thirty years old! Let's hope the new one lasts that long! It was really an interesting event. One that we wish you all could have seen.



Where Did the Tree Go & Why?

The tree in the Toddler play area was an Ash. It contracted Ash Bore and was not going to recover; therefore we needed to remove it. We have replaced it with a beautiful Sunset Maple tree. We wish to thank Henry Connor and Matt Gilbert for their help moving our fabulous new tree.



You will be seeing several other changes in the Toddler play area. The chain link fence is being made more natural with wooden pickets and the playground entrance is also moving to the east side, away from the parking lot for safety. It will also be more beautiful and welcoming. All of these changes should be happening very soon!

We Welcome Donations

Currently we are looking for easel paper. Paper that has at least one plain side for drawing or painting would be wonderful.



If you have upgraded your digital camera and do not know what to do with the old one we have several classrooms that would love to give it a new home. Our students

do amazing things every day. It is great to be able to take pictures to share with other students, parents, in newsletters and even send to the local newspapers.

Finally, CLMS would like to purchase a used plow truck or used truck that we can attach a plow for our snow removal this winter. If we do not find one we will contract with a local company to plow our parking lot but we would rather do the plowing ourselves.



would rather do the plowing ourselves.

Thank you

Alumni News

Two CLMS alumni stopped by the other day to share one of their newest activities, motherhood.



On the left is Mave, 12 month old daughter of Claire Sullivan and Alejandra, 6 month old daughter of Kate Cichucki is on the right. They were able to join a session of the Parent/Infant /Child class last Thursday. Kate and Claire were in my Early Childhood class together and have remained friends, even now when they live on opposite sides of the country. Kate, Miguel and Alejandra live in Seattle Washington and Claire, her husband and Mave live in New York City.

Always Do Your Best, and Your Dreams Will Come True

by Collin McCarty

*It's not always easy to know
which path to follow,
which decision to make,
or what to do.*

*Life is a series of new horizons,
new hopes, new days, and changes
that come to you.*

*And we will need some help with these things
from time to time.*

*Remember these things: Dream it. Do it.
And discover how special you are*

*Be Positive, for your attitude
will affect the outcome of many things*

*Ask for help when you need it;
seek the wisdom the world holds
and hold on to it.*

*Make some progress every single day
Begin. Believe. And become*

*Give yourself all the credit you're due
don't shortchange your qualities, your abilities,
or any of the things that are so unique about you*

Remember how precious life can be.

*Imagine. Invest the time it takes
to reach out for your dreams;
it will bring you happiness that no
money on earth can buy.*

*Don't be afraid; no mountain is too big to climb
if you do it at your own pace.*

What's the best thing to do?

That's simple:

Do your best

And everything else will fall into place

The Crystal Lake Montessori School closure due to poor weather conditions policy is to follow Woodstock and/or Crystal Lake Public School's decision to close. We will send a message to your telephone using SchoolReach, an automated telephone service and we also use "The Emergency Closing Center" to report school closings. See the information below, or go to our school's website, clms.org, and click on the Snow Days link. Because the families at CLMS come from a wide area, even if CLMS does not close and your area is unsafe, please stay home. You can always come later in the day when the roads become clear and safer to travel.

More Ways To Know Before You Go

Tune in to:



Call: **847-238-1234** Touch-Tone phone needed.

Online: Go to the website of any of the radio or TV stations above, or go to **www.EmergencyClosings.com** to search for your facility by name and city or by phone number

E-mail: Sign up for personalized E-mail notification of your facility's status at **www.EmergencyClosings.com**

To find information for the following:

FACILITY NAME	
CRYSTALLAKE MONTESSORI SCHOOL	
FACILITY LOCATION (CITY)	MAIN PHONE NUMBER
WOODSTOCK	815-338-0013

EMERGENCY CLOSING CENTER™