



## SEPTEMBER 2009

Crystal Lake Montessori School  
Telephone: 815-338-0013  
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www.clms.org

### Events

#### Parent Group Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 2009 at 8:45 a.m.

#### Milk Orders Due

Friday, September 4, 2009

#### Parent Group Mum Sale! Cash & Carry

TBA

#### Parent Group Wrapping Paper Sales

TBA

#### No School- Labor Day

Monday, September 7, 2009

#### Upper Elementary to Attend Nature's Classroom Institute

Tuesday-Friday, September 8-11, 2009

#### Middle School Parent Education

Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

#### Band Presentation/Recital

For Upper Elementary & Middle School  
Tuesday, September 15 at 10:45 a.m.

#### All School Picture Days

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday September 15-17, 2009

#### Band Sign-Up

For Upper Elementary & Middle School  
Thursday, September 17, 2009 at 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

#### Classroom Substitute Class

Friday, September 18 at 8:45 a.m. & 12:45 p.m.

#### International Day of Peace

Monday, September 21, 2009

#### Market Day Pick-Up

Wednesday, September 23, 2009 10:30-11:30 a.m.

#### Call in For Fall Conferences

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

#### All School Potluck Picnic & Tuition Raffle

September 26, 2009 5:00-7:00 p.m. at CLMS

#### Fall Conference Week

September 28-October 1, 2009 for all students  
Except Middle School

#### No School Except Middle School

October 1 & 2, 2009

## From Ms. Penny & Ms. Pam

Dear Parents,

The 2009-10 School Year is off to a wonderful beginning. There is energy, excitement, and enthusiasm in the air! We would like to acknowledge all the efforts by the teachers and administrative team in getting this year off to such a fine start. The home visits, orientations, and many hours of preparation in the classrooms and office are greatly appreciated.

We also want to thank you, the parents, for your efforts in getting your children prepared for school to begin, for welcoming teachers into your homes for home visits, for attending meetings and orientations, and for your patience in the parking lot. Again this year we are requesting that cell phones not be used in the parking lot. It is essential that all thoughts be on safety. Please drive slowly and constantly watch for children who might be in the parking lot. All children should be with a parent...young ones should be held by the hand, but sometimes they get away, so please be vigilant. As always, we must be careful not to back up traffic on Country Club Road. Thank you all for your cooperation.

This year we will be participating in a celebration of the "International Day of Peace." On Monday, September 21, CLMS will join Montessori schools all over the world for a project to sing "Light a Candle for Peace." See the article "Peace Rocks and Rolls" in this newsletter for more details.

During the week of September 28-October 2, we will be having our fall conferences. Please do not forget to call in on Wednesday, September 23, to schedule your conference(s). Heather Madaus has offered to coordinate child care during the conferences. If you would be available to help with this, please call her at 815-338-1259.

The Parent Group has lots of activities and opportunities in which you are invited to become involved. Please read the information shared by the Parent Group in this newsletter to find out about upcoming events, especially the Mum Sale and the All School Pot Luck Picnic and Tuition Raffle on Saturday, September 26, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at CLMS.

We have such a special group of parents, students, and staff working together here at CLMS. We can never thank each person enough for his or her contribution to this wonderful community. We are truly looking forward to this school year and working together with all of you and your children.

Our monthly newsletter is going GREEN. There are two ways to receive our monthly newsletter electronically. One way is to go on our web site, [www.clms.org](http://www.clms.org), click on newsletters, and you will find all of the 2009-2010 newsletters posted as they are written each month. The second way is new this year. Just send us an e-mail at [newsletter@clms.org](mailto:newsletter@clms.org), and we will e-mail your newsletter directly to you each month. See the article "CLMS Goes Green" at the end of this newsletter. If you choose to receive your newsletter via e-mail, we will not print one for your family, and this will help us all to be GREEN.

Peace, Ms. Penny & Ms. Pam

## Parent/Infant/Child News

This is an invitation for any interested parents or caregivers to join our Parent/Infant/Child class. We have three class options: Monday 8:15 a.m., Tuesday 8:15 or 9:45a.m. Come share precious time together within a positive enriching environment. Please



contact our school's front desk to start your experience of growth and learning. We will be studying Montessori from the Start by Paula Lillard and Lynn Jessen informally within our class. Thank You.

***"The greatness of human personality begins at the hour of birth,"*** Maria Montessori

## Toddler Program (2-3 Year Old)

We would like to welcome all our Toddler families to CLMS. We thank you for your time during home visits as well as in-class orientations. We are getting to know our new friends, our classroom environment, and exploring our many exciting activities. Children will start soon to TRUST that "Mom, Dad or caretaker will be back, when the clock tells them to be back" and that our toddler environment is a safe and nurturing place.

We have started to introduce the concept of the "cycle of activity," which means to choose an activity from the shelves, decide to work on a table or a work rug, explore the activity chosen, return it to the shelf where they found it, roll up the rug, and put it away before choosing a new activity.



There are many steps to remember!

Thank you for sharing your child with us!

***"The first essential for the child's development is concentration. The child who concentrates is immensely happy."*** Maria Montessori

## Early Childhood Program (3-6 Year Old)

Welcome Early Childhood families to CLMS. It is exciting to have another year under way. This month we will be spending time establishing community in our classrooms. We will also explore the topics of the solar system, fish, and trees.

Thank you to all of the families with new students who welcomed us into your homes for visits. Thank you also to those who attended the New Parent Orientation and the Individual Student Orientations. Getting off to a great start with each child makes such a difference for the whole school year. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held the last week of September and first part of October. It is nice to touch base with each family soon after the school year begins to share our observations, and to discuss any questions, comments, and goals you may have. Close communication between parents and teachers is very important to us, so please don't hesitate to talk with us. Please call the school office on Wednesday, September 23, to sign up for your conference time.

On Monday, September 21, we will be participating in the United Nations Peace One Day Celebration by singing "Light a Candle for Peace" at CLMS, and as part of this celebration, each child will paint a rock for the CLMS Peace Garden. If you have any rocks the size of a large potato, please send them in with your child by Friday, September 11.

We are all looking forward to sharing a wonderful school year with you and your children.



## Kindergarten Extension Class

Kindergarten Extension class meets three afternoons a week to allow kindergarten-aged children extended time to experience Montessori materials and activities as well as lunch and each other.

The K.E. classroom is set up just like the other Early Childhood rooms, and there will be ample time each day for the children to work individually and in small groups in all curricular areas. This month we will be working on table manners and etiquette because we will be eating lunch together. We will also begin to define and explore nutritious meals and food groups. An important part of this month will be getting to know each other and our new environment.

## Lower Elementary Program

A cool, gorgeous summer has just flown by so quickly, and here we are back to school! The classrooms are buzzing with happy voices, the teachers are creating new plans, the rooms look fresh and new, and the school year is off to an amazing start! What a wonderful year we have in store at CLMS with a Virtue of the Month plan to emphasize character education at each grade level and a Green Fair coming up in the spring. These are just two new happenings this year with so many more wonderful things still to come.

In October, we will be celebrating United Nations day in our classrooms. This year is a year for the children to explore their own countries of origin. We will share more information about this at our first conference with you at the end of September. It is an exciting day of sharing a piece of ourselves and our family history with each and enjoying a yummy dish from each country together. More than anything, it is a day to appreciate the role of diversity in our world and its role in world peace.



September is a time of new ideas, new routines, new materials, and new friends in our classrooms. It is a time of settling in, community building, and setting up for a wonderful year together. This includes the families of our children. So if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the front desk to leave a message, and your child's teacher will return the call as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to a peaceful, enlightened year with the children that will be full of connections, new ideas and many seeds of learning planted for more new ideas, to bloom and take shape. Thank you for this opportunity to have these adventures with your children!

## Upper Elementary Program

Excited. Nervous. Glad. Those are just a few of the adjectives we can use to describe the "back-to-school" feelings. Teachers and students are excited about the prospects of a new school year and excited to see old friends and familiar classrooms. Students and teachers are nervous, too. We may be nervous about something unknown, a new classroom, new teachers, and new students. When we explore the unknown, often we find excitement. Parents are glad to have students back in school, back to a routine, back to our peaceful Montessori environment. Students are glad to be reunited with their friends, and some are glad to get back to a familiar learning routine. Teachers are glad to have the opportunity to share knowledge and joy and explore the world with young minds. And we are excited at the prospects and the fun this year holds!

This year, we will highlight two different virtues each month as we investigate character education, a school-wide process. We will use role-playing, discussions and stories, and writing activities to build students' knowledge of the virtues. We hope our students practice these virtues outside our classroom community and at home as well. For September, our focus is Respect and Responsibility.



September begins with a fun week of getting back into our routines, of sharing stories, of getting to know each other, and of establishing our classroom responsibilities and rules. Then we are off to Nature's Classroom Institute for a week of environmental education, team-building, and fun. This is a great springboard to our school year, especially since our Culture Fair this year will focus on all that is "green," and the concentrations for Upper Elementary are land and water. When we are back at CLMS, other special events include a band concert and band instrument trials (Sept. 15 and 16), International Peace Day celebration (Sept. 21), and a classroom cooking experience (Sept. 25). Ms. Lindsay will be teaching in both Upper Elementary classrooms this year. We welcome her ideas and creative energy as we continue our studies in History, Geography, Geometry, Math, Language, and the Sciences.

September ends with our Fall Goal-Planning Conferences. Students learn about measurable goals, and we have a chance to sit down together to review the goals they set for themselves.

We hope you had a wonderful summer, and welcome back!

## Middle School

The Middle School students officially began their year on Monday, August 24. Our first week was an orientation to the Middle School routine and curriculum. The students developed their responsibilities to both individual and group activities. As the culmination to the week long process, we went to lunch on Friday and then on to bowling. While it was a great end to a busy week, it was also an orientation to traveling in the vans and budgeting for lunch as we do on all of our week long trips throughout the year!

Thank you to all of the Middle School parents who attended **Back to School Night** and **Family Goal Setting Conferences** earlier in August. Those events help everyone organize for an interesting Middle School year! It was fun to see all of the students and parents.

We would also like to acknowledge Ms. Michele for presenting a new **music appreciation program** during our daily Community Meeting. Her musical talents shine through in these selections that will coordinate with our Natural World and Social World cycle themes throughout the year.

As we move into September, **Cycle One**, entitled **Forces**, will begin. We will study this theme in **Natural World** with concepts such as gravity, speed, motion, and electricity. As we move into **Social World**, our theme of Forces will revolve around revolutions, their causes, and effects.

Middle School Students will also begin their businesses of selling **Fair Trade Coffee** and selling **Farm Fresh Eggs**. Watch for more details!



## Parent Group News

Welcome to the Parent Group!

Join the entire CLMS community at school for our **Back to School Potluck Picnic and Tuition Raffle** on Saturday, September 26, from 5-7, rain or shine! This is the first community event of the year as well as our first fundraiser. Meet new families and enjoy an evening with friends in a fun and exciting atmosphere. One lucky student will receive FREE tuition! Tickets are on sale now: \$100 each, or 2 tickets for \$150. Buy your tickets today!

We invite all new parents and parents of children entering a new level to participate in our new **Mentoring Program**. We are pairing new parents and parents of children entering a new level with a family that can help them navigate their way and provide answers as questions arise. We have already matched some excited new families and look forward to matching more families mainly based on grade and location. Please contact the Parent Group if you are interested in taking advantage of this program.

We look forward to your attendance at our **first Parent Group meeting** this Thursday, September 3, at 8:45 in the multi-purpose room. If you would like to be involved in the Parent Group but are unable to attend meetings, please don't hesitate to contact us by email at [clmsparentgroup@gmail.com](mailto:clmsparentgroup@gmail.com) or on Facebook at Crystal Lake Montessori School Parent Group. Of course, if you see us in the hall at school, we are always happy to answer your questions.

Later this month we will have our annual **Fall Mum Sale** as well as our **Wrapping Paper Sale**. More information will be coming soon in your Wednesday folder!

Your 2009-10 Parent Group officers are...  
Wendy Wagner, President  
Julie Durrant, Vice-President  
Sara Diamond, Treasurer  
Reta Jankowski, Secretary  
Carol Rinas, Officer at Large

## Gift Card Program/Tuition Reimbursement

Welcome back to the gift card program! Using this program you can earn tuition reimbursement credit for the 2010-2011 year and earn money for the school- and it won't cost you a DIME! Buy any gift card through our program at face value. Each vendor has a preset percentage which THEY give back to us. The more gift cards you purchase, the more dollars you will accumulate in your tuition reimbursement account. Some of last year's participants earned hundreds of dollars in tuition reimbursements for this year! Tell your friends, family, and neighbors, because with every gift card they order, they are helping CLMS and YOU! New this year:

-Online ordering (strongly suggested, contact Heather for password)

-Want to know how to get started?

- Contact Heather (call the front desk for her phone number and email address).  
Let's have a great year!

## News from the Front Desk

### Blue Emergency Cards

Please remember to stop by the front desk and update your school emergency cards. These cards are vitally important because they tell us how to reach you when there is an emergency. Thank You.

### Physicals, Dental Exams and Vision Exams

Please remember that we do need physicals for students in the Toddler, Early Childhood, Kindergarten, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and ANY NEW STUDENTS in our program. The state of Illinois also requires Dental Examinations for students in Kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. All kindergarten and students new to CLMS are now required by the State of Illinois to have an eye exam. There are forms available at the Front Desk. Thank You.

### Milk Orders are Due

Please return your milk forms and money by Friday, September 4. Milk service will begin on Monday, September 14. If you, have any questions please contact Ms. Nadine or Ms. Lorry at the front desk. Thank you



## Classroom Substitutes

On Friday, September 18, 2009, we will be offering a class for adults interested in substituting at CLMS. Because we team-teach in most classrooms, our substitutes do not need to be certified teachers. You will not be responsible for the whole classroom and the children. You will be an assistant. We welcome all interested parents. We will meet in the small multi-purpose room. To meet a variety of needs, the class will be offered at 8:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Please call the front desk to register for one of these classes so that we can prepare your information. Thank you and see you then.

## School Band

Ms. Madonna Swenson from Music Education Services will be returning as our band director. An introductory Concert will be on Tuesday, September 15, at 10:45 to 11:15 a.m. for the Upper Elementary and Middle School students. At that time, a concert by a trio of professional musicians will perform. All the band instruments they offer will be demonstrated and explained.

Then Instrument Trials will be offered on Wednesday, September 16, at 10:45 to 11:30 a.m. Each child will have the opportunity to try two instruments in order to determine his or her interests, natural ability, and match his or her physical characteristics to an appropriate instrument.

**Band Sign up will be on Thursday,  
September 17, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
in the multi-purpose room at CLMS.**

## Market Day News

Market Day is a food co-op, where you can conveniently purchase restaurant quality food items, conveniently, **at Crystal Lake Montessori School!** Market Day guarantees all their products to your complete satisfaction!

When you purchase Market Day items, CLMS benefits at a standard 10% profit rate and up to a 50% profit rate during our special promotions!

Our Market Day profits go directly to our children's classroom supplies!

Ordering is simple.... Order at [www.MarketDay.com](http://www.MarketDay.com) (school code-2676) by noon the SATURDAY before the sale, or turn in your paper order forms on the Friday before the sale by 3:00 p.m.

**VOLUNTEERS... WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!** We need volunteers to help at the sale one day a month. We need help from 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. It's a great way to meet other parents and sample some Market Day products. So, if you can spare an hour or so, **IT WOULD REALLY HELP and BE FUN.**

We will be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.  
Lisa Gust and Nikki Andersen

## CLMS Parking Lot Procedures Revisited

As we enter the new school year, I would like to remind you about the needed safety measures in the Crystal Lake Montessori School parking area. Please let all your drivers (grandparents, neighbors, and older siblings) know of the need for **safety first** in and around the school area when walking or driving. Please follow these simple rules, but above all, please drive slowly and be on the lookout for small people that **may not** be looking out for you and your vehicle.

1. When walking in the parking lot, all children should be holding an adult's hand and never be allowed to go off the sidewalk alone.
2. The only walk-in entrance is the main entrance past the front desk. The entrance by the gym is for carpool drop off and pick up only when adults are at the spots. During arrival and dismissal, please use the front desk door if you are walking your child in or out.
3. Please keep your speed as slow as possible in the parking lot. Sharp turns and wet or slippery pavement can make stopping very difficult. The melting and refreezing of the snow piles result in patches of black ice during most of the winter months.
4. Coming early and lining up for dismissal is affecting the flow in the parking lot. If you are early for arrival or dismissal, **do not line up by the sidewalk**. Please park in the other areas of the lot and wait until adults are stationed on the sidewalk. Other cars need to exit around the west end of the lot. After dismissal or arrival begins with adults opening car doors, there is only one lane of traffic, and **no cars should try to pass the line on the left**. If you are leaving the school, you must stay in line until you are clear of the drop off area. Patience is very necessary for safe operations.
5. My personal observation when I stand by the entrance during dismissal is that many are on cell phones while driving. **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE do not use your cell phone** while trying to control your vehicle in the lot and rummaging around to find your number to hold up. Safely park the vehicle and then answer or make the needed call. I invite anyone to spend 10 minutes with me at the entrance during arrival or dismissal; it can be a scary and eye opening experience. The teachers have also requested that you **do not use your cell phone** when you are at the pickup points. With doors open and young children near the cars, we all request your fullest concentration on the safe entering or exit of your children in your car. Above all, you are sending a message to your future young drivers that the phone is more important than greeting them or the safe operation of the vehicle. This will be a hard thing to undo when you undertake their driving education in a few years. They are driving on their own.

During the next few months, there will be some school events that will again require patience and safety in the parking lot. The "All School Picnic" and the "Halloween Fun Fest" are full parking lot events. Both events will require extra effort. If the parking lot is full, please drop off your passengers. Then, park in the church lot across the road, but be very careful crossing Country Club Rd. on foot. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Mr. Jon

## Daily PE Classes: A Healthy Body and Mind

At CLMS we believe that our students who spend all day at school benefit greatly from daily physical education classes. It provides the students the opportunity to exercise their muscles, to develop an interest in sports and games, and to practice good sportsmanship and teamwork. Physical exercise has also been shown to provide stimulation for the brain and to enhance classroom learning.

Our 40 minute daily PE classes focus on stretching exercises to warm-up the body, playing games with rules and teams, and exposing students to common sports like volleyball, baseball, and basketball. In our gym classes, we are never concerned with winning or losing, only with having fun and practicing good sportsmanship.

In order to make the most of the daily PE time, it is necessary for students to dress appropriately and to always wear or have available gym shoes that tie or velcro so that they stay on the feet. Please help make sure your child is prepared for PE class every day.

If your child has an injury that would exclude them from PE, please send in a note to his/her teacher and/or Ms. Meg. Otherwise, all students will be expected to participate in gym class every day.

## Middle School to Participate in National Grant Study

Middle School parents are invited to learn more about this project at a Parent Education Night on Thursday, September 10, at 7:00 PM in the Middle School room. Ms. Michele, our new Assistant Administrator, has been awarded the 2009 Ursula Thrush Peace Seed Grant by the American Montessori Society. She has developed a program that includes new methods and materials to further peace and social justice education. Ten Montessori Middle Schools will be participating in this study. They are located in Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Texas, Arizona and Illinois. Ms. Michele is very excited about this opportunity to contribute to peace education. In addition, there will be a presentation on Computer Use and Safety. Hopefully, all of the Middle School parents will be able to attend.



## Pennies for Peace Follow-Up

You may recall last year's school service project, Pennies for Peace. This program uses pennies donated by school children to construct schools in remote and impoverished areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. The June Newsletter reported the final tally of \$663.53! Since then, Greg Mortenson, founder of Pennies for Peace and co-author of *Three Cups of Tea*, has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize by a bi-partisan group of Congressional representatives. CLMS is proud to be connected to this important cause and to a hard-working champion for peace through education like Greg Mortenson. Thus, CLMS students will be welcome to continue collecting Pennies for Peace throughout this new school year! Keep an eye out for more service opportunities in upcoming newsletters.

## Peace "Rocks and Rolls"

"On Monday, September 21, Montessori schools from around the world will join together for the United Nations Peace One Day Celebration to sing "Light a Candle for Peace." This children's song about peace will be sung continually around the world for an entire day. The singing will begin in New Zealand and finish in the Hawaiian Islands," explains Shelley Murley, the composer of the song "Light a Candle for Peace" and champion of this project.

If you would like to have a copy of "Light a Candle for Peace," you can download it free at [www.shelleymurley.com](http://www.shelleymurley.com).

On that day we will line a path through the CLMS Peace Garden with painted rocks. Each child at CLMS will have an opportunity to participate. We will need almost 300 rocks, so if you have one or several rocks, please send them in to school before Friday, September 11. The rocks should be the size of a large potato.

Ms. Svetlana has organized this very special project. She has also been the caretaker of the CLMS Peace Garden all summer and continues to work in the garden whenever she has spare time. She would welcome any volunteers that enjoy gardening in a beautiful, peaceful place.

## Pizza Days

We will be having "Pizza Day" again this year. Carolyn Fortman will be the coordinator of this weekly lunch special again this year. She will welcome any volunteers that can come to school each Thursday at 10:45 a.m. for about one hour. You will be helping her organize each classroom's slices of pizza and delivering them to the classrooms. Come and be a part of this tasty day.



## CLMS Newsletter Goes Green

This should be the last paper newsletter you read from the Crystal Lake Montessori School. Imagine that, and welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I am planning to E-Mail the October newsletter to everyone, but I need your help. Please send an email to [newsletter@clms.org](mailto:newsletter@clms.org) from the email address to which you would like to have the CLMS newsletter sent. I will add that address to the electronic mailing list. Multiple addresses are okay, but send each one individually. If you would like to receive the CLMS newsletter at work and at home, send two separate requests. Please note that this email address, [newsletter@clms.org](mailto:newsletter@clms.org), will not be monitored or used for any other purpose than for informational emails from the Crystal Lake Montessori School. If you need to send an email to anyone at the school, we have only one e mail address that is monitored daily, and that is [clms13@clms.org](mailto:clms13@clms.org). Please use that address if you send an email to the school that may require a reply.

If, for any reason, you cannot receive the newsletter by email, please send a note to the front desk requesting a paper copy. We are trying to print as few copies as possible. The environment thanks you, and I thank you.

Sincerely, Mr. Jon

## The Virtues for the Month of September

Respect and Responsibility