

# AROUND THE HOUSE



## OUR COMMUNITY

Thank you for participating in Community Week! You told us that you would like to see more music. I am happy to report that we have partnered with Black Hills Studios of the Arts to provide music once a week this school year. You also requested more outside time. Nature is an important part of

## THANK YOU!

... the PTO for the Harvest Festival and all their support!  
 ...the School Board for all they do for our school  
 ...the Development Committee for their vision  
 ...the Landes, Ryders, Glover-Morgans, Grovens, Laneys, Frybargers, Bradriets, Mrs. Peña, Miss Parastou and Mrs. Verchio for helping with Clean-Up Day  
 ...Greg Bradriet for lending his landscaping expertise and tools  
 ...Families who ordered from Small Hands  
 ...Marcos Munoz for helping with the bus.  
 ... Mari Hasby for salting our sidewalks and then providing additional salt  
 ...Peter Strong for coordinating artists for the elementary at Racing Magpie  
 ...Stacie Lande for helping with elementary recess  
 ...David DeChristopher of the Black Hills Community Theater for the elementary theater workshop.  
 ...Seth Pfost for shoveling!

Montessori, and vitamin D is an important part of being a South Dakotan. Instead of having four, short 10- to 15-minute recesses a day like many schools, we offer two 30- to 40-minute recesses. We do this so we do not interrupt our work cycles. We have lots of movement in our classrooms which is good for our students' brains and bodies.

Lastly, you asked for more community potlucks. This was my personal favorite. The PTO has taken this idea literally (see invitations soon) as well as the spirit of getting together more regularly. I hope you were able to attend a playground play date! We are a community for more than one week so continue to say hello to your fellow parents at drop off and pick up and continue voicing what you would like to see at CHM.

Thank you for your support! Danielle Giuseffi, Director  
 ~Office Hours: Monday-Thursday; 7:30 to 11:30~

## MONTESSORI MINUTE

One of the questions we are often asked is: How much screen time should I allow my child? The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends limiting screen time to one hour a day of high-quality programming for children ages 2 to 5. But as your child grows, there is not a clear guideline. Too much screen time has been linked to obesity, poor sleep hygiene, behavior problems, and deficient social skills. But no exposure to technology has its consequences too. Your child could miss out on developing some important skills required in our digital age. Ultimately, the answer to this question should be made by your family and involving your child in the decision-making process.

Montessori does offer some good questions to consider when setting your family's screen time guidelines:

1. Is the technology being used in a purposeful, meaningful way?
2. Is the digital experience replacing a hands-on experience?
3. How is the technology balanced?

"The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn." – Maria Montessori



## FROM THE PRIMARY CLASSROOMS

### 8:15 /8:30 /KINDERGARTEN

The children have started music every Thursday. They are learning about whole and half notes and rhythm sticks. Ask them about the dinosaur song.

We will continue our animal classification studies such as reptiles, birds, and mammals. We will end the month with our Harvest Feast!

The Kindergartners enjoyed their trip to the Rapid City Public Library and have been sharing their fiction and non-fiction books with the preschoolers, as well as any reading books that go home in the children's reading bags on Fridays. As a reminder, reading bags will continue to come home every Friday and need to be returned on Mondays. In addition, the children will begin math works with the Montessori materials. They will also begin studying continents with the Sandpaper Globe and Colored Globe with a focus primarily on North America and its mammals.

Sincerely, Mrs. Butler, Miss Parastou, Mrs. Verchio, & Mrs. Gibson

## FROM THE ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM

This year we have 'Science Mondays' for the upper elementary and 'Science Fridays' for the lower elementary students. In both levels we have started with zoology. In the lower elementary, we studied wild animals and learned about animal domestication. Children are now researching one of their favorite animals either with a partner or by themselves.

Upper elementary students are getting more involved in using the Linnaean classification. They are studying animal habitats and routines. Upcoming is the review of external anatomy of different classes of animals, and then we'll investigate the physiology and organ systems before we shift our focus to human health sciences.

Starting with our first-year students, we will learn how to use references and use simplified citation formats in any work that we produce. The citation format will grow as we move to upper elementary and aligns with the MLA 8 citation format. It is never too early to learn to give credit to others!

We are also learning how to navigate the internet for research projects; however, under the direct supervision of a teacher. Children are introduced to safe search engines and will learn how to use several websites for cross referencing in order to find the most reliable information.

Throughout the year we will arrange to have visiting experts and scholars including many among CHM family members to share their knowledge in different fields of science. The goal of science curriculum is to keep the love of learning alive and to ignite our children's innate talents and interests!

Respectfully,  
Parastou

Nov 6<sup>th</sup>- Northern Eye Plains exam (optional)

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> – Book Order Due

Nov 14<sup>th</sup> – PTO Restaurant Night Out, Blaze Pizza (Mountain View Road)

Nov 19<sup>th</sup> – PTO Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.

Nov 26<sup>th</sup>- Harvest Feast – ALL students attend 10:15 to 11:30

Nov 27<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> – No School



