



Around the House

Happiness is Being at Children's House Montessori

Spring is in the air (at least most days), conferences are done and registration forms are in. Life is good at CHM!

- We want to thank all the families that participated in their child's conference. We always look forward to sharing the good news about your child and hearing your comments.
- With the onset of spring, we want to ask you to remember the weather can change in a moment's time in South Dakota. Please send your child with weather appropriate clothing and pack a jacket even on those warm, sunny days. We will be spending as much time outside as possible from now until the end of the school year. Please make sure your child has comfortable shoes for those days we decide to take a neighborhood walk. Flip-flops or dress shoes become uncomfortable very quickly. Thank you for your attention to this detail.
- If you know anyone looking for a preschool, kindergarten or elementary program for next year, please ask them to visit our website to find registration information or call the school to make an appointment for a tour.
- In-house registration is complete and we have begun filling open positions with names from our waiting list. If you enrolled your child, we want to thank you for your confidence in CHM. We realize this year has seen many changes and we want to reassure you our focus has always been and will continue to be, providing your child with a Montessori environment that ensures individual development, enriching activities and a respectful appreciation for each child's uniqueness.
- If you will not be returning to CHM next fall, we want to thank you for sharing your child with us. It has been our pleasure to spend our days with your child. If you would like to visit with a teacher or the Director about your decision and share your insights regarding that decision, we would welcome your comments.

Coming Soon Summer School Information!

It's a Hard Rock

Life!

June 6th - June 11th

The Great

Outdoors!

June 27th - July 8th

Water, Water

Everywhere!

July 18th - July 29th

Summer School information will be coming home the first week in April. *Excitement* will be the word used this summer for any child attending these camps! Class sizes will be limited so keep the dates in mind as you are making your summer plans.

Office Hours

Beginning March 28th, Director Janell Jewett will be available at the school during these hours. She will also be available at other times by appointment.

Monday's & Wednesday's

8:00 – 12:00

Tuesday's & Thursday's

12:00 – 3:00

Here's the News that IS the News!

Mrs. Pappel, Ms. Norse & Mr. Scherer

3 Day & 5 Day Preschool

The preschool classes have begun studying the seven continents. They love singing the song that name each of the continents. Ask them to sing it for you. We will begin studying Antarctica moving on to Australia, Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, and ending with North America. If you have visited any of these places and would like to share information, please see one of the teachers. We would love to have visitors. The children are enjoying their music teacher; Mrs. Grothe and their movement/dance classes twice a month. We love to sing and move! We are SO ready for SPRING- watch for CHM's caterpillar/butterfly study as we welcome Spring

Thank yous:

- to Vicky Post for all the behind the scenes help in the classroom,
- Dominic/Evie's grandpa (Phil ?) for the Railroad visit on March 25th,
- Griffin's dad for coming on to school Board

- Denise Huneke for shoveling, and to the ones we don't see shovel
- The families who have donated snack so far,
- Wonderful parent/teacher conferences

Ms. Handshue

Kindergarten

Kindergarteners are enjoying their study of money and have been working hard writing their money poems. This week we begin our continent studies with the students, beginning with Antarctica. It will be exciting to see what each kindergartener brings in to represent their selected continent. We are also looking forward to using the outdoor classroom when the weather warms up and for those caterpillars to arrive!

Mrs. Pokorski

Elementary

The elementary will be delivering flyers to the neighborhood regarding the blood drive. We are looking forward to the melting snow so that we can clean up the playground. In two weeks we will be visiting the cultural expo and working on investigating our family history. We are finally having success with our fish tank and have had a wonderful time with the guinea pigs. It makes us feel good to know that these animals are depending on us.

Opportunities Abound – Have you answered THE CALL?

The school's "health" is based on the participation and camaraderie of the families that attend. CHM has always nurtured the concept of community and the health of our community needs you to continue your support, cooperation and active engagement. Because your child becomes the beneficiary, we encourage you to become involved with these organizations.

PTO

This is a very busy time for the PTO. They are preparing for the election of officers and planning the events for the last weeks of school. This organization is vital to the health of the school community. This is **YOUR ORGANIZATION!** Their membership and involvement ensures your child receives numerous enrichment opportunities, the staff receives professional development opportunities and the school receives support through volunteer hours. During this past year, the PTO funded professional development for staff that included a visiting Montessori consultant for an all staff in-service and conference opportunities for preschool & elementary teachers in Chadron & Chicago. They also purchased curriculum support materials and funded CHM's music education program for preschool and elementary students.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has seen some changes during the year. They too, are preparing for elections. They're looking to increase the number of Board members and are seeking community representatives to serve on the Board. Including more community members will help offer new ideas, objectivity and insight. The Board will be conducting a Strategic Planning session April 9th. They will be looking at short term and long term goals and objectives. They are seeking input from all families – those that are leaving and those that are enrolled for the 2011-2012 school year. Please watch for a questionnaire to come home soon. If you would like to volunteer to be a part of this process, please visit with the Director.

- March 23rd – Blood Drive - Community Event
- April 2nd – Open House 11:00 – 2:00 Please extend an invitation to families looking for next fall
- April 11th – 16th – Screen Free Week – family activities sponsored by PTO – Details to Follow ☺
- April 13th – Volunteer Appreciation Event
- April 20th -24th – Spring Break
- May 11th - Early Dismissal for Planning Session (11:00 for all students & NO PM Preschool or Kindergarten)
- May 17th - Art Show
- May 23rd – Last Day of School – School Picnic