

It's a Great Year at CHM

*What a wonderful year we are having! We have had several fun events thanks to the PTO, we have had numerous inquiries about the school program thanks to the good word parents are putting out into the community and we have had amazing things happening in the classrooms because of our **AWESOME** teachers. Thank you to everyone for your tremendous efforts in making **Children's House Montessori THE PLACE TO BE** in Rapid City!*

Around the House

**November
2011**

THANK YOU – The words seem so inadequate!

We have had amazing support from our parents – not only for our PTO and BOD functions but also in the classroom. Our regular volunteers help in some capacity every week but we have had many parents help with wrapping birthday books, monitoring dish washing, helping with the playground and with the gardening– you name it, we've had them help with it. In fact, since the first of September, we have had **272.5 volunteer hours** documented and \$1450.00 in donated items for the classroom, office, play ground and yard.

The generosity of our parents and the community is greatly appreciated. Please remember to sign in when you help in the classroom or track your hours at home if you are helping with projects there. We are asking all parents that volunteer in the classroom to sign a sheet with classroom guidelines and confidentiality protocol. If you have not already done so, please sign one next time you are in the classroom. They are in the binder.

Thank you for participating in **Mathoween!** Even though it was crowded – it was FUN!

"We like to live in an orderly environment because it ministers to a sense of comfort in us, and aids our efficiency."

Dr. Maria Montessori

From the Desk of the Director

The holidays are soon upon us and I would like to tell you about the CHM community service project this year. The staff, with consultation from the elementary students, have once again, chosen to offer holiday support and assistance to the Humane Society of the Black Hills. There are two main activities – Pennies for Pets and the CHM Giving Tree. The Pennies for Pets canisters will be sitting at each door every day for you and your child to drop your "pennies" into. Emptying your pockets at the end of the day and giving that change to your child to drop in when they arrive at school can be a wonderful routine. Our goal is to raise \$150.00 in a cash donation to the Humane Society. The CHM Giving Tree will be present on the patio within the next few days. There will be "mittens" hanging from the tree. Each "mitten" will have a specific item listed that the Humane Society has noted as a need. You can select a "mitten", purchase the item and return it to the school any time before December 16th. The cash donation and donation of goods will be delivered to the Humane Society prior to our Holiday Break.

This is an ideal time to show the best of the holiday – giving to those that are in need. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this project and for your support of "pennies" and "goods".

Janell Jewett

Skye Brucklacher has joined Children's House to complete her Early Childhood/Kindergarten Practicum. She is a student at BHSU and came to us from our friend and former BOD member David Calhoon. She had a couple of days to observe but we have since immersed her into the daily routine where she has proven to be a tremendous help. **Miss Skye** has been helping with painting, monitoring the playground, clean up and listening to kids read. Please introduce yourself to her and welcome her to CHM.

8:15 Class

Mrs. Nylander & Mrs. Barsch

We thought September flew by, but October went by even faster. The saying is, "Time flies when you are having fun!" All of our kids took part in harvesting our pumpkins and they enjoyed lending a helping hand to the elementary students! Our local fire fighters came to school and showed us all how they will look when there is a fire in a home. The students also had a chance to walk through an actual fire truck.

The preschool students are going to be working through their curriculum starting with planets! We are also going to have each student involved in small group lessons that incorporate our theme of the week. This will help them learn those fundamental skills such as sharing and listening.

Our kindergartners just finished up their study of Australia. We are now going to be moving to Africa. Students will be learning about African animals, culture and much, much more! They are working hard on handwriting and they will continue building words along with reading one-on-one. We have also been tackling our sight words. Please don't forget that the kindergarten students brought home a list of all the sight words we plan to learn this year!

8:30 Class

Mrs. Pappel & Mrs. Bollock

Fall is here and we are busy! We have finished our study of trees, pumpkins and fire safety. It was so much fun to harvest our pumpkins from the school's pumpkin patch. We also enjoyed the visit from the local Firefighters. They taught us to never be afraid of them dressed in their protective gear and to always get out of the house if there is smoke...and never hide.

We will begin our study of animal classification in the 3 day class and the study of the planets in the 5 day class. Remember Fit kids will be every other Tuesday. American Sign Language on Wednesdays and Music on Thursdays- and you thought we were joking when we said we are BUSY!!!!

Elementary Mrs. Pokorski

November finds us preparing for a community outing to the local newspaper. We are moving along with our own school paper and are excited to learn how the reporters at the Rapid City Journal get their articles done. At the end of the week, we will start our discussion on the seven continents. Each grade level will be doing their own research on their own topics. For this research you will find us at the library! We will go every other week to check out non-fiction books and to choose books for our independent reading actives. When we are not busy with this we will be writing our own vocabulary books to help our writing become more descriptive. Finally, since we are part of the community, we will be fundraising for the Humane Society by doing a Pennies for Pets drive.

Wish List

Snow Shovels

As part of their community service commitment, the elementary students will shovel snow for the elderly people that live in the twin homes behind the school.

Picture Uploader

We would like someone interested in taking our camera on a regular basis and uploading our pictures to Walgreen's They are sent in batches of 30 for development.

Please remember to call the school office or email your child's teacher if you have any questions, concerns or comments. That is the most effective way to reach any of us. Thank you.

Mrs. Pappel – cindypappel@chkids.net
Mrs. Bollock – pandibollock@chkids.net
Mrs. Nylander – andreanylander@chkids.net
Mrs. Barsch – christinabarsch@chkids.net
Mrs. Pokorski – stacipokorski@chkids.net
Janell Jewett – director@chkids.net

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

November 10 – PTO Meeting 6:00 PM
Computer Fundraiser at CHM 3:00 – 8:00
November 11 – Veteran's Day **NO SCHOOL**
November 17 – Board of Director's (BOD) Meeting 6:00 PM
November 18 – Pottery to Paint – a PTO sponsored event
6:00 – 7:30
November 21 – **ALL children are invited to attend school
During their regular classroom hours – We
will prepare for the Harvest Feast**
November 22 – Harvest Feast – **ALL STUDENTS ATTEND
10:15 – 11:30 ONLY Dismissal at 11:30**
The Feast is for Students only!
November 23 – 25 – Thanksgiving Break – **NO SCHOOL**
November 28 – Classes Resume
December 8 – PTO Meeting 6:00 PM
December 15 – BOD Meeting 6:00 PM
December 21 – Last day of Class before Winter Break
December 22 – January 2 – Winter Break **NO SCHOOL**

Remember to pick up your student on time. If you are picking them up in the building, you are late! 😊