



News from Cornerstone Montessori School

News from Cornerstone Montessori School

May 2010

A huge thank you for the opportunity to host two days of spring Portfolio Presentation meetings. We had a great turn out and the teachers appreciate the time they were able to spend with each family.

The month of May tends to zoom right into summer at lightning speed. We have a few events planned before the end of the school year. Our last day of school is Friday, May 28th. All Cornerstone students and families are invited to celebrate the culmination of a wonderful 2009-2010 School Year with a Potluck picnic for the entire school beginning about 11:15am. We are looking forward to celebrating this amazing school year with all of you. Please note that we close early on the last day of school and ask that all children be released to a family member by Noon.

Our Kindergarten graduation ceremony will take place on the school's terrace at 10:30 am.

We extend a big thank you to all of our families for participating in the General Mills Box Tops for Education program this year. We just received a check for \$61.90 which will go toward playground improvements and equipment.

We also would like to give a notable thank you to all of our 'behind the scenes' folks: to Laurie Hutchings for collecting the Box Tops & for baking our Birthday Muffins; to Kristina Otero, Kathy Giddings, & Kelly Hall for doing the classroom nap sack laundry; to Janice Nolan for collecting the Campbell's Soup Labels; and to Kelly Hall for taking over the Scholastic Books & Birthday Books.

The Parent Guild Children's Fair originally scheduled for May 15th has been postponed until September 11th and will be held in combination with our Back to School Potluck Brunch. Watch for more details as we approach the new school year.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to Lynae Douthit and Heather Lee and everyone who has been involved with the Parent Guild for all the support provided to the school and the many fabulous events sponsored for our families. This year we bid one of our Parent Guild Coordinators, Lynae Douthit, a fond farewell. Over the last seven years Lynae has created and coordinated our classroom quilts, chaired numerous school events, has been a classroom helper, Parent Guild coordinator for the past two years, and even provided animal care while her three sons attended our school. The list is long and too numerous to mention everything! Lynae, please know that your contributions will continue even after you leave. Thank You!

We are excited to welcome two new incoming coordinators, Allison Costenaro (Sophie & William's mom) & Cindy Moe (Stefan & Ian's mom), who will be joining Heather Lee (Sheridan's mom), our continuing Parent Guild Coordinator for the 2010-2011 School Year. Thank you ladies!

At this time of the year, we like to include the parable of the Butterfly. It reminds us of Dr. Montessori's teachings of, "Never do for a child what s/he is capable of doing for her/himself." and, "We must help the child to act for her/himself, will for her/himself, think for her/himself; this is the art of those who aspire to serve the spirit." We have been honored to watch the children grow their wings this year; so for those of our families leaving in May, we bid you the best and please keep in touch. For those families returning in the fall, we will see you on September 7th. And, for those families joining us for Summer Camp, we will see you on June 7th.

The Butterfly Story



There's a story attributed to Henry Miller, the writer, about a young boy in India.

He sees an Indian wise man sitting and gazing at something in his hand. The boy walks up to the guru and looks in his hand but doesn't quite understand what it is. So he asks the guru, "What is that?"

"This is a cocoon," the guru answers. Then he tells the young boy, "Inside of the cocoon is a butterfly. Soon the cocoon is going to split open and the butterfly will come out."

"Oh, please could I have it?" asks the young boy.

"Yes," says the guru. "But you must promise me that when the cocoon splits and the butterfly starts to come out and it is beating its wings to get out of the cocoon, that you will not help it. Let the butterfly do it by itself. Do not be tempted to help it by breaking the cocoon apart."

The young boy was so excited and made a promise to the wise man. He carefully took the cocoon home and sat and watched it. At last he saw it begin to vibrate, and then to quiver, and finally it split. Inside he could see a beautiful damp butterfly, frantically beating its wings against the cocoon. It seemed to be unable to get out of the cocoon. The young boy desperately wanted to help but he remembered the words of the guru. He finally just had to give in and reached over and pushed the two halves of the cocoon apart. The butterfly immediately sprang out but as soon as it got into the air, it fell to the ground. The young boy picked up the dead butterfly and in tears, went back to the guru and showed it to him.

"You pushed open the cocoon didn't you?" said the guru.

"Yes'" answered the young boy.

And the guru said, "You didn't understand what you were doing. When the butterfly begins to come out of the cocoon, the only way it can strengthen its wings is by beating them against the sides of the cocoon. When you helped it the way you did, you prevented it from growing strong before flying. This is why the butterfly fell to the ground."

May you enjoy a wonderful Summer!

With warm regards,
The Cornerstone Staff