

CHIPPEWA VALLEY MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY | 2022



MS. MADDY SELECTED AS GOLDEN APPLE AWARD RECIPIENT

It was no ordinary day in Ms. Maddy's E2 class. Of course, with an educator as exceptional as Ms. Maddy, NO day is EVER ordinary. Ms. Maddy has such a profound connection to her students and nurtures them well beyond just their academics. They enter and leave her classroom knowing they are cared for and important. Their thoughts, feelings, fears, and dreams matter to Ms. Maddy.

The Golden Apple Awards are peer-nominated awards supported by the Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation in partnership with generous area businesses as well as WEAU.

She will receive a \$500 grant to use towards a classroom or school initiative of her choice. Montessori will also receive a \$500 grant to use towards one of the school's greatest needs.

The on-air segment will air on the 6:00 am and 6:00 pm WEAU newscasts on Thursday, February 24. Congratulations, Ms. Maddy!



2022-2023 APPLICATION LOTTERY UPDATE

The application lottery for the 2022-2023 school year took place virtually on Tuesday, February 1. The school saw an increase in applicants this year and ended up with more students on our wait list than in years past. We had 207 lottery applicants this year versus 94 during the 2021 lottery.

While this is exciting and shows that there is an extreme interest in our school and the benefits of a Montessori education, it also leads to disappointment and frustration when a student can't get in. If you talk to a friend, family member, or community member who didn't get an open spot on February 1, please let them know that we do see movement in the wait list as we get close to school starting.



IMPORTANT DATES:

- FEBRUARY 15 at 6:00 pm
Parent Group Meeting
- FEBRUARY 16 at 8:30-9:30 am
Parent/Guardian Coffee Social at SHIFT
- FEBRUARY 17 at 5:00-7:00 pm
Pinehurst Family Winter Outing
- FEBRUARY 24
NO SCHOOL - Family/Teacher Conferences
- FEBRUARY 25
NO SCHOOL - Staff Professional Development/Instructional Planning
- MARCH 1 at 6:00 pm
Governance Board Meeting
- MARCH 8 at 5:00-10:00 pm
Dairy Queen Fundraiser (Birch Street)
- MARCH 15 at 8:30-9:30 am
Parent/Guardian Coffee Social at SHIFT
- MARCH 15 at 6:00 pm
Parent Group Meeting
- MARCH 21-25
NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
- MARCH 29 - *RESCHEDULED*
Grade 4 Field Trip to Chippewa Moraine Ice Age Trail
- APRIL 5 at 6:00 pm
Governance Board Meeting
- APRIL 8
Grade 3 Field Trip to Chippewa Valley Museum
- APRIL 12 at 5:00-10:00 pm
Dairy Queen Fundraiser (Birch Street)
- APRIL 15 & 18
NO SCHOOL

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Have you noticed the changes along Whipple Street? Curious about what's in store? Over winter break four houses were demolished as part of the L.E. Phillips Senior Center long term plan. According to the Executive Director, the space is expected to be used as additional parking in the future. In the short-term, the area will be open green space. Now you know!

PARENT GROUP UPDATES

SEED SALE IS BACK!

It's time to start thinking of the warmer days ahead! We are excited to partner with Urban Farmer for our annual seed sale fundraiser. All of the proceeds will be added to our Parent Group treasury for future family events, garden workshops, and supplies.

You should have received a copy of the order form (both hard-copy and via email), but if you still need one, reach out to Jen Monroe at monroej192@gmail.com.

Order forms need to be returned, along with payment, to the school on or before MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14. The seeds will arrive in plenty of time for your spring planting projects.



UPCOMING AND ON-GOING FUNDRAISERS

DAIRY QUEEN on BIRCH STREET

Did you know the Dairy Queen fundraiser is a monthly opportunity to skip meal planning AND help the school? The Birch Street Dairy Queen location donates a portion of their sales to the school every month. Mark your calendars for March 8, April 12, and May 10 – the second Tuesday of every month – from 5:00-10:00pm.

AMAZON SMILE

Don't forget to connect your Amazon account to our school with AmazonSmile. Go to smile.amazon.com (make sure you're logged into your Amazon account) and then under the "Your Account" drop-down, you'll see a link for AmazonSmile. You can search for "Chippewa Valley Montessori School Parent Group" as your charity of choice. That's it! As long as you place future orders through smile.amazon.com, the school will get a percentage of your order automatically.

READ-A-THON

The Read-A-Thon is right around the corner! Keep an eye out for all the details, but students will have a chance to flex their reading muscles over spring break to help support future school events. Thanks in advance for supporting this cause every year. It's such a fun way to promote some extra reading!

CVMCS Family Event **PINEHURST PARK WINTER OUTING**

Thursday, February 17th | 5:00-7:00pm

Join us at Pinehurst Park (3523 Delbert Rd, Eau Claire) for Winter After Hours. Bring the entire family and enjoy an evening of ice skating, snowshoeing, sledding, cross-country skiing, free hot chocolate and more!

Equipment such as youth snowshoes, sleds, hockey sticks and soft pucks, kubbs, and hockey/sledding helmets are available for use, but is limited so please bring your own, if possible. (Ice skates are NOT available for use.)

**This weather-dependent event is hosted by Eau Claire Parks and Recreation and Volume One and will be open to the general public, but it's a great opportunity for Montessori families also to get together!*



Questions? Please contact the Parent Group at cvmcsparentgroup@gmail.com.

THE E2 TEA COMPANY

Special Submission by Rya M., E2 Student

WHAT IS THE E2 TEA COMPANY?

In Mr. Kirk's E2 class, we run the E2 Tea Co. We do exactly what it sounds like: make and sell tea! We make our tea blends from fresh ingredients and package them ourselves. On Fridays, we offer Hot Drink Delivery to the staff and teachers in our school.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

We grow and dehydrate herbs in our classroom to make our tea blends. Other ingredients, like ginger, are donated by students or bought with the company's budget.

We currently offer three blends, which each come in packs of three tea bags each: Mint Chamomile, Zesty Citrus Mint, and Soothing Tea Blend. Each box costs two dollars. We also sell mugs hand-pressed with our logo for 5 dollars.

HOT DRINK DELIVERY

Every Friday, a group of five students from the E2 Tea Co. runs the Hot Drink Delivery. What they do is go around the school delivering freshly brewed tea, coffee, mochas, and hot chocolate to the staff and teachers. Each drink costs one dollar, but the E2 Tea Co. offers ten-dollar and five-dollar punch cards, so that you don't need to have money with you to order a drink. Staff members can also sponsor a week for \$10 and everyone can get what they want!

PROCEEDS & DONATIONS

We have raised over \$500 so far selling tea, mugs, and delivering drinks. We had a chance to deliver our first donation just before Thanksgiving to the ECASD Closet, a program run out of the downtown district offices offering families clothing and school supplies.

WELCOME, RICKY!

We're beyond excited to welcome baby Ricky into the Montessori family. Congratulations to Ms. Nichole (E1 teacher), her husband, and the new big siblings! We're sending lots of love your way. A special thank you to Ms. Sara for taking over as long-term sub while Ms. Nichole enjoys all the newborn snuggles.



STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Get to Know Ms. Jane, Partnership Coordinator

What is a Partnership Coordinator and what do you do?

The Partnership Coordinator role looks different in each building. We have the flexibility to adapt to meet the unique needs of our building. I collaborate with staff, families, students and even members of our community to facilitate and promote Montessori opportunities.



Ms. Jane with her son, Ben (17)

How long have you been at the school? I started volunteering at Montessori in 2010 when my son was in 5K. I was lucky enough to start working here in 2013.

What do you love most about the Montessori approach to education? I am most proud of Montessori's work above and beyond academics. A lot of time and effort is spent helping students to be kind and mindful beings, thoughtful leaders as well as good stewards of their community. These efforts will set our students apart from others.

Which of the traditional school events (pre-Covid) do you miss the most and why? Tough one, but I think I miss Harvest Fest the most. It is an event so unique to Montessori and embodies so many of the values we celebrate here. To spend a whole day celebrating the season and the bounty of the garden with so many families participating and enjoying just feels good to me.

What's your favorite part of your job? In short—ALL of it. But, really I love all aspects of my job because of the people. I am so privileged to work with and serve our dedicated Montessori staff, our engaged and passionate families, and our inspiring students. I have enjoyable and meaningful interactions every day.

What's your favorite dessert? I will never pass up a piece of apple pie!

What's your favorite movie? My favorite movie is probably *Secretariat*. I love a good sports movie and I have a soft spot for all animals. *Secretariat* has both. I cry EVERY TIME he comes down the final stretch. *Hoosiers* is a close second. I grew up playing basketball in a small Indiana town, so that one really resonates.



SUBSTITUTES ARE NEEDED

The fact that there is a nationwide substitute teacher shortage is not news, but it continues to affect the day-to-day operations of the school. If you, or anyone you know has some schedule flexibility, becoming a sub might be a great option. There are no specific requirements as to how many days per semester you have to commit to and anyone can apply for substitute positions ranging from certified teacher, clerical staff, support staff, food & nutrition, buildings & grounds. You can even complete the application and only offer to fill in at our Montessori school. A number of our subs don't work anywhere else in the district. The application is straightforward and easy to navigate. Visit this website for all the details: <http://www.ecasd.us/District/Departments/Human-Resources/Substitute-Opportunities>

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET INVOLVED?

Join the Governance Board

The CVMCS Governance Board is seeking new members for the upcoming school year. We are recruiting for the roles of Parent Representative and Community Representative. Applications and nominations are due by Monday, March 7.

The Governance Board is made up of the principal, CVMCS teachers, parents, and community volunteers. The board meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Service on the Governance Board is a stimulating and meaningful way to contribute to the school and a fun way to connect with others.

To learn more about the Governance Board and these specific positions:
<https://bit.ly/GBNomination>.

DON'T FORGET!
Governance Board
nominations and
applications are due
Monday, March 7.

GOVERNANCE BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

The CVMCS Governance Board met Tuesday, February 1, for a brief regular meeting followed by committee breakout sessions to advance our strategic initiatives. The EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE remains focused on two primary objectives: school neighborhood outreach to share our story and encourage applications, and facilitating next steps of the staff's 360-degree scan for inclusive excellence. The IDENTITY COMMITTEE continues working toward the development of a survey to determine a benchmark for our school community's understanding of Montessori practices and principles. We will use this data to determine our focus areas for parent education and staff development. The COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE has been working hard on building connections between CVMCS and the greater community through the monthly coffee socials, parent education event brainstorming, developing this newsletter, and more.

You do not need to be an official member of the Governance Board to participate in one of these committees—all are welcome! Send an email to cvmcsgovernanceboard@gmail.com for more information on joining.

QUICK REFERENCES

SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER
 (715) 852-6950

SCHOOL WEBSITE
<http://ecasd.us/CV-Montessori-Charter-School/Home>

SCHOOL CALENDAR
 All school events including field trips, meetings, and days off can be found on the school calendar linked below.
<https://bit.ly/Montessorievents>

GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETINGS

Held the first Tuesday of every month virtually at 6pm. The public is encouraged to join.

PARENT GROUP MEETINGS
 Held the third Tuesday of every month at 6pm in the school library and virtually. The public is encouraged to join.

OUR MISSION
 To provide an innovative learning environment to the Eau Claire community that promotes the social, intellectual and emotional development of each child based on the foundations and methods of Maria Montessori.

COVID-19 DASHBOARD
 Visit the link below for the latest district-wide statistics and safety guidelines the school will be following during the Coronavirus pandemic.
<https://www.ecasd.us/District/COVID-19/COVID-19-Dashboard>

UPCOMING COFFEE SOCIAL DATES

The parent/guardian coffee socials have been a great success. It's been nice to see familiar faces every month and meet new folks along the way. Mark your calendar and join the fun at one of the upcoming dates.

8:30-9:30am at SHIFT Cyclery & Coffee Bar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 • TUESDAY, MARCH 15

THURSDAY, APRIL 14 • WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

