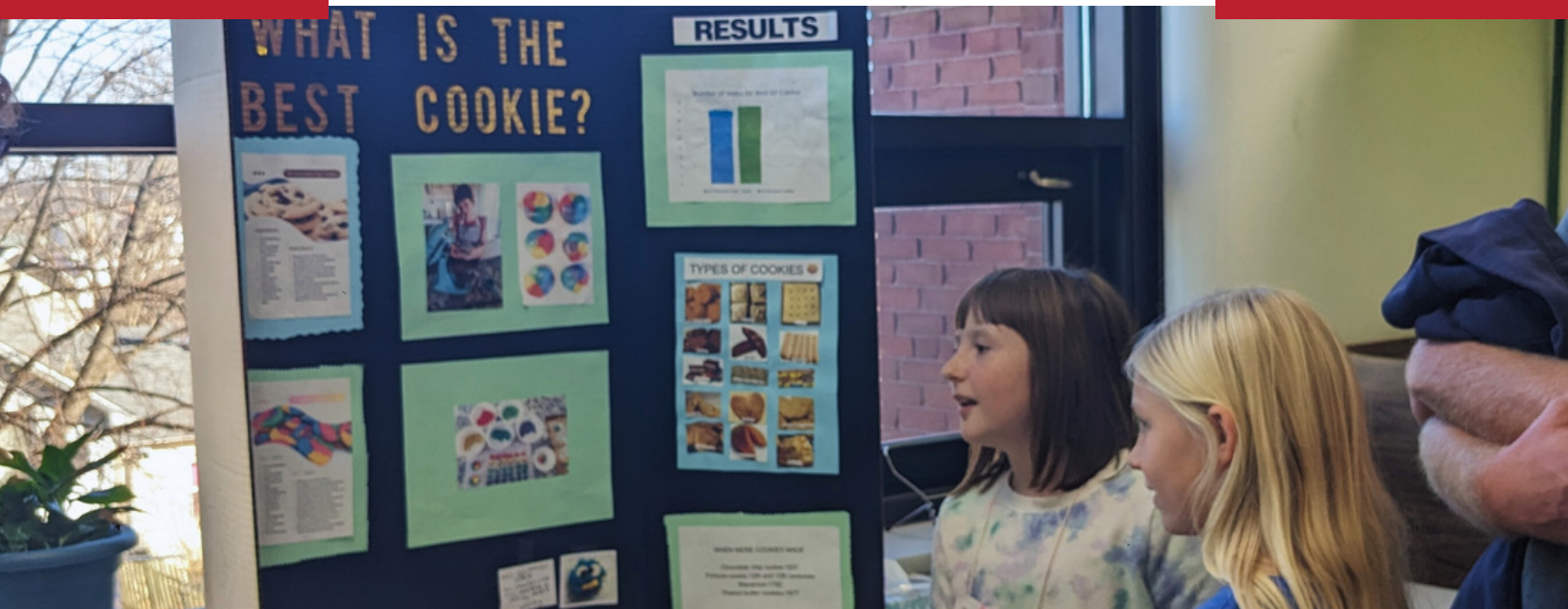




CV MONTESSORI NEWSLETTER



AT A GLANCE

- 12/12 Dairy Queen Night
 - 5:00 pm on Birch Street
- 12/14 Last Day of Online Book Fair
- 12/21 Parent Group Meeting
 - 6:00 pm School Library
- 12/25 - 01/02 Winter Break
 - No School

Stay up to date with all the school happenings by following us on [Facebook](#), joining the [CVMCS Parent Group Facebook](#), and checking our [school calendar](#).

AT HOME

Connecting Through Conversation - Many families find that their child spends all day at school, but when asked, "what did you do at school today" their response is, "nothing".

After STEAM Fair and Students As Teachers, many families have been able to see classrooms and their child(ren)'s work. Obviously, they're doing something while they're at school! How can we start that conversation with them? Here are a few conversation starters:

- I noticed {something you noticed} when I visited your school. Can you tell me about that?
- What special (PE, Art, Music) did you have today?
- You researched {STEAM Fair subject}, what are you learning about now?
- What did you play at recess today?

If you have any tips for getting your kiddo to open up about their day, please share on the [CVM Parent Group Facebook page](#).

IN SCHOOL

FUN FRIDAYS

Fun Friday presentations start again in January, and we have a few classrooms without presentations lined up.

Parents, guardians, or extended family can visit a classroom with something fun to share. The goal is to create equal opportunity for all students to experience presentations in their classrooms. Sign up:

[Children's House Elementary I](#)
[Elementary II](#)



FROM MS. PAM

>>> A LOT TO CELEBRATE

I started as principal at the height of Covid. These past few years, we went from total isolation to now having many people in the building and events happening again. Since the last newsletter, E1 took a walking field trip to the Pablo, we had our first Parent Ed night in quite some time, Mallternative was a huge success, Delong orchestra and choir visited, and we had STEAM Fair where we welcomed so many families and friends into the building. Some of these things happened last year, but every year we have more and more going on, which makes it feel like pre-Covid times.

Our Building report card was released which gave us a lot to celebrate. Covid caused a decrease in learning so it's great to see the rebound we've made at Montessori. This is a huge testament to the hard work students and staff have put in over the years. Everyone should be proud of where we are! As always, thank you for your support and hard work at home, too!

Pam Hermodson



THE MONTESSORI WAY

>>> FOUNDATIONS

In a previous newsletter, we listed the 10 foundations that guide a Montessori classroom:

- Concrete>Abstract>Critical Thinking
- Deep Concentration
- Four Planes of Development
- Absorbent Mind
- Sensitive Periods
- Independence
- Love of Learning
- Self-Construction
- Self-Regulation
- Universal Respect

Looking Deeper:

Absorbent Mind - Much like a camera, the young child's mind effortlessly and unconsciously records impressions and stimuli. The absorbent mind is the inspiration behind Dr. Montessori's theories of how children learn.

Sensitive Periods - During sensitive periods, children have tremendous abilities to learn and assimilate from the world around them. Periods are characterized by an innate drive to focus on one specific skill without tiring.

Independence - *Achieving independence is a major goal in a child's development. Maria Montessori believed that every child is born with a potential for independence. When children do things for themselves, they gain confidence and self-esteem and learn how to think, and problem solve.*

Love of Learning - Learning is an exciting process of discovery, leading to concentration, motivation, self-discipline, and love of learning. Montessori education offers children opportunities to develop their potential as they step out into the world as engaged, competent, responsible, and respectful citizens with an understanding and appreciation that learning is for life.

SCHOOL SCOOP

E1 Blanket Meet Up - During Thanksgiving Break E1 Students met to pick out fabric. they will spend the next few weeks making blankets for babies born at Mayo Clinic. They will deliver their blankets before Winter Break.



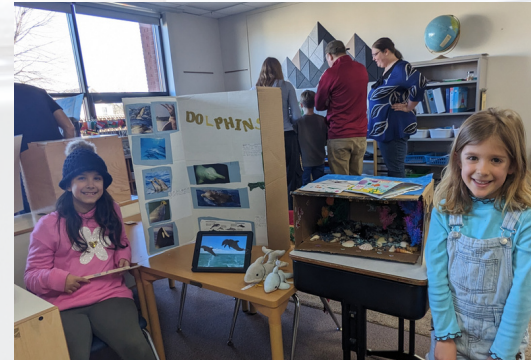
Arts & Crafts Club - We are so excited to offer clubs to our students this year! Arts & Crafts Club has been a huge hit! Thank you, Ms. Maria for being the club guide.



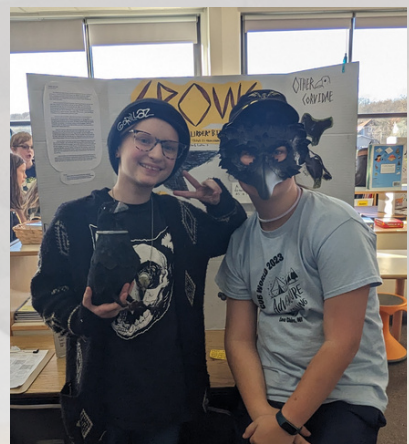
Book Fair - Thank you for supporting our school library at the Scholastic Book Fair



Musical Guests - Delong Middle School Music Department treated us to a special holiday concert.



Friends keep each other warm.



Steam Fair - Students did a phenomenal job presenting their research.



FROM MS. GIN

>>> HERE TO HELP

As Partnership Coordinator, I have the honor of connecting families with what is happening in the school. But it doesn't stop there! I also can connect families with community resources. I deliver weekly meal bags and have access to the school food pantry and the District Closet. Additionally, I can connect your family to community resources for further support.

If there are items that your family needs, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm here to help!



E2 TEA COMPANY

>>> FROM SEED TO SIP

A few years ago, Mr. Kirk started the E2 Tea Company in his classroom. Students grow herbs in the classroom, blend, and brew them (currently, they're experimenting with new blends.) On Fridays, they deliver tea, cocoa, and coffee to staff. Additionally, they press mugs with a logo designed by a former E2 student, Noah Sylvester. The goal is to provide an entrepreneurial experience for students as well as a free hot drink to staff.

In the past, E2 Tea Company relied on staff donations before moving to classroom parents' donations. This year, I am working to help raise funds. Donations would go directly into operating expenses and any excess revenue at the end of the year would become a donation to the ECASD District Closet. Students took a walking field trip to make their donation last year.

If you are interested in supporting E2 Tea Company, you can send donations (suggested donation \$5) in your child's folder or drop them off in Ms. Gin's mailbox in the office. As always, thank you for all you do to support our students.

~Ms. Gin



FROM THE SCHOOL GARDEN

»» LOOKING AHEAD

Thank you to Superior Fresh for donating compost to our school garden, to all of the families that dropped off leaves, and to all of the volunteers who helped put the garden to rest for the season. Another thank you to all the volunteers who made this garden season possible. We received new garden beds and donations of soil and wood chips. Students filled the space with seeds; volunteers watered and weeded throughout the summer. As a result, we had a beautifully abundant season of flowers and produce.

While the garden sleeps, we plan! Now is the time when volunteers can collaborate on planting plans, garden lessons, and a garden item wish list. If you would like to be in the know about what's happening in the school garden or are interested in joining CV Montessori Garden Group, [please fill out this brief survey](#). No garden experience required, and your level of involvement is up to you!

FROM PARENT GROUP

»» THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make Mallternative a huge success! To those who stayed beyond your shift because we didn't have enough help, we see you and appreciate you so much! Looking into the future, our next big fundraiser is the thrift sale in March. These two events are so important because they raise funds from the community taking financial pressure off of our families.

With that in mind, we need more fundraising committee members. Did you know that the Parent Group needs to raise over \$20,000 yearly to supplement our children's education and enrichment opportunities? Without parents' and guardians' participation in the Parent Group, events such as The Boxcar Children play, the Science Museum of Minnesota, end-of-the-year carnival, author visits, Pioneer Village, and many more opportunities would not be possible. Our elections are right around the corner.

If you would like to get more involved behind the scenes with the Parent Group, reach out to CVMCSParentGroup@gmail.com to learn more. Come join us for a meeting and see what we are all about.

SAVE YOUR STUFF!

Organizing toys, books, clothing, miscellaneous household items before or after the holidays? Help us by saving your donations for our thrift sale in the Montessori gym.

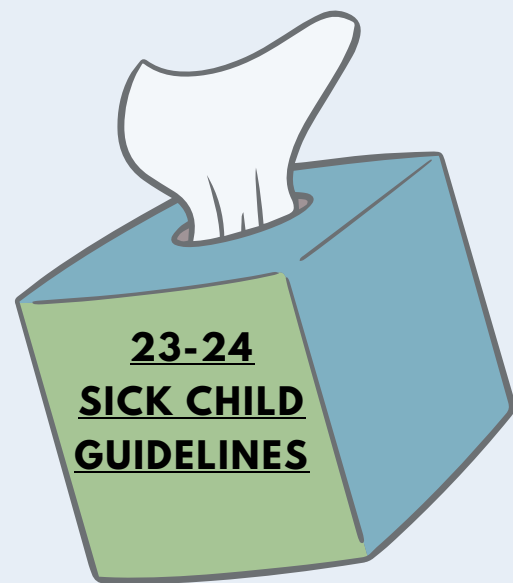
DROP OFF: MARCH 15

THRIFT SALE: Saturday, March 16



Watch for more details about times coming soon!
All proceeds benefit Chippewa Valley Montessori Parent Group.

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES



December Menu

BOOK FAIR

SHOP ONLINE DURING DEC 1 – DEC 14 TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!

Bring on the Bookjoy—25% of every online purchase during the Fair directly benefits our school!

Having Small Talks to Make a Big Impact

Short, frequent conversations with your kids about preventing underage drinking and other drug use can make a big impression. This winter holiday season, talk with your kids about the risks of substance use and set expectations for them.

Visit these resources to get tips on how to starting talking:

www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/small-talks

Why Small Conversations Make a Big Impression

- ✓ Short, frequent discussions can make a real impact on your child's decisions about alcohol.
- ✓ Talking can build an open, trusting relationship with your child.
- ✓ Many little talks are more effective than one "big talk."

This information is provided by the Eau Claire Health Alliance - Substance Misuse Action Team, which works to prevent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug misuse. Learn more at: ehealthalliance.org



Family Engagement Newsletter

Eau Claire Area School District

WINTER BREAK ACTIVITIES

December 26–30

ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

Event Schedule:

- * **Color Bash** PreK–GRADE 6
Tuesday, December 26 • 1–2:30 p.m. • Youth Program Room
Drop in and colorify your day with light experiments, prisms, and colorful crafts. No registration.
- * **Dabble Box Open Lab** ALL AGES
Tuesday, December 26 • 2–4 p.m. • RCU Dabble Box Makerspace
Wednesday, December 27 • 10 a.m.–Noon • RCU Dabble Box Makerspace
Stop by and see where your creativity takes you! Equipment and supplies for all ages.
- * **Animanga Club** GRADES 7–12
Tuesday, December 26 • 6:30 p.m. • Carnegie Room
Watch anime, create themed projects, and socialize with others who share a common interest. Registration required.
- * **Ice Bowl** PreK–GRADE 6
Wednesday, December 27 • 1–2:30 p.m. • Youth Program Room
Brrr! It's cold in here! Join us for ice experiments and snowy crafts. Excavate objects from ice, test whether salt melts ice faster than vinegar, design a snowflake, and more. No registration.
- * **Knotty & Nice** GRADES 7–12
Wednesday, December 27 • 2–3:30 p.m. • RCU Dabble Box Makerspace
Join us for a cozy afternoon of macramé and hot cocoa. Choose your project (snowflake, gnome, or feather) and hot cocoa toppings, then settle in to knot and hang out with other teens. Registration is required.
- * **Pokemon Club** GRADES 3–6
Wednesday, December 27 • 4:30 p.m. • Youth Program Room
Meet up with other Pokémon fans to play, talk, and do Pokémon-themed activities. Registration is required.
- * **Family BINGO** KIDS (ALL AGES) & THEIR FAMILIES
Thursday, December 28 • 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. • RCU Dabble Box Makerspace
Play BINGO at the library! Families are invited to stop in and play BINGO for fun and small prizes. No registration is required, but space is limited.
- * **Perler Beads** GRADES K–6
Friday, December 29 • 1–2:30 p.m. • Youth Program Room
Join us for an afternoon of Perler bead fun! Adult participation encouraged for children under the age of 8. No registration required. While supplies last.
- * **Teen Cookie Decorating** GRADES 7–12
Friday, December 29 • 2–3 p.m. • Innovation Lab
Make art you can eat! Use icing and sprinkles to create a cookie masterpiece. Registration is required.

More info



MHS Orchestra Cookie Walk & Carnival

**December 9, 2023
Noon to 2:30**

Memorial High School Cafeteria

- **FREE ADMISSION**—Everyone welcome
- **Homemade Cookies**—sold by the pound \$9.00
- **Holiday Music**—Performed by MHS Orchestra and friends
- **Kid's Crafts, Games, Instrument Petting Zoo**

**CHECK OUT THE PUBLIC
LIBRARY'S CALENDAR
OF PROGRAMS AND
EVENTS FOR
DECEMBER.**