



# COUNTRY DAY MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF RALEIGH

May 2010

Country Day Montessori  
Newsletter

## Head's Up by Georgiana Nderitu, Head of School

Spring is here, summer is close at hand, and we are busily preparing for our first end-of-school celebration, a transition celebration for our departing 5 year olds, as well as launching our first special Summer program. Yet I must slow down and reflect upon the pleasure that I feel for the children, the families and for my wonderful staff. Since we came in October, I have been continually impressed with how you have taken to the school, for our goals and vision. Many of you have noticed and mentioned the your appreciation for the

improvements. It only makes me want to work even more diligently to make CDM the school we all want it to be. Parents—I sincerely appreciate your help in making this a safer and better school community, for helping our teachers to make this a happy and healthy environment. Your participation in the events (Earth Day, Staff Appreciation, Mothers' Day) that we plan demonstrate to me, to the staff and especially to your children just how serious you take our work....caring and nurturing your children's education and

developmental growth. This is a very clear message that you send to them...one that will reap great rewards as they get older and attend elementary and middle school. Staff—please know that I cannot do this alone and just how much I appreciate, care and respect each and every one of you and the strengths that you bring to the classroom and to Country Day Montessori School of Raleigh. I look forward to our special summer ahead and hope all of you do as well.

## Making it Special for Mom

The CDM mothers received special invitations...and even more special treatment as their children paid homage to them on Friday, May 7th. Moms came and enjoyed good food and a special time of fellowship with their sons and daughters. The teachers lovingly prepared the classrooms so beautifully and the food was "yummy. The kids really enjoyed preparing the handmade gifts, but enjoyed their mothers' expressions even more! Hopefully this was a day the moms won't soon forget!! *And dads, fear not, your special day is coming. See p. 2.*

## Summer Session Plans are Underway

We are very excited about the plans that the staff and administration have been putting together to make the summer months on the Country Day Montessori School campus the most fun ever had in the school's history. Each week, beginning with Tuesday July 6th and running through

Thursday, September 2nd, there will be different themes for the children to enjoy. Many concepts will be presented to the children through books, arts & crafts, music, waterplay, outdoor activities and in-house presentations. Look inside this newsletter for more details!!



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### Special Dates of Interest

- May 31st—CDM closed, Memorial Day
- June 18th—Donuts for Dads, 8-9am
- June 25th—End of Year Ice Cream parties in each classroom
- June 25th—Kindergarten Celebration for CH I & 2
- July 5th—CDM closed
- July 6th—Summer Session starts
- September 3rd—CDM closed, Staff Work Day
- September 6th—CDM closed, Labor Day
- September 7th—Fall Session begins!!!!

See 2010-2011 School Calendar attached to this newsletter



## Let's Celebrate our Transitioning Kindergarteners!!

Plans are underway for our 2010 Celebration of our Childrens' House students—those transitioning to other schools in the fall as well as their younger friends who will remain with us for another year or two. The date of the and time of the celebration is Friday, June 25th at

3:00pm. The children and staff are busy preparing for the big day, which will include music and songs, as well as the awarding of certificates. More information will be coming home from Childrens' House 1 and 2, so mark your calendars for this hallmark event.

## As the School Year Comes to a Close...

Friday, June 25th will be a very busy day here at CDM. Childrens' House 1 and 2 will celebrate the conclusion of the program for several of their classmates. However, we also want to take the time to mark the end of our regular school program before the Summer Session begins the following

week. In honor of the successful conclusion to our school year together, we will plan to have an ice cream social in each of the classrooms (around lunchtime). Ice cream and other frozen treats will be shared with one another as we say goodbye to the school year and hello to summer.

## Donuts for Dads

Friday, June 18th is our chance to spend some time with the Dads of our school. Dads, granddads, uncles, or special men are invited to come to campus between 8:00 and 9:00am to have a sweet treat with your

child in his/her classroom. Please sign up so that we know how many people will be joining us as we celebrate these very special people in our lives. Happy Fathers' Day to you all!



Children won't want to miss even one week of the excitement we have planned for the summer of 2010. There will be special themes for each week, as well as new toys, materials and on-campus entertainment!!

## Summer Session Schedule



**Week 1; July 6-9**  
Happy Birthday America  
**Week 2; July 12-16**  
Summer Fun  
**Week 3; July 19-23**  
Trip to the Ocean  
**Week 4; July 26-30**  
Let's Go to the Zoo

**Weeks 5 & 6; Aug. 2-13**  
Around the World in 10 Days  
**Week 7; Aug 16-20**  
All About Science  
**Week 8; Aug 23-27**  
Sports Week  
**Week 9, Aug 30-Sept 3**  
Spirit Week



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“Each child is constantly working towards  
the person they will become...”  
—*Maria Montessori*



### Earth Day Celebration

The Log Cabin and CH 2 did a recycling project on the playground. They trashed the playground with recyclables and then the kids went and put the recyclables in the bins. The kids cleaned up their playground and also received a lesson on recycling. Ch1 and Ch3 planted gardens. CH1 made bird feeders out of things they recycled from their lunchboxes.

After learning about how things grow and parts of the flower-All the classes planted flowers and gardens. Some parents stopped by to lend a hand to help with the gardening. Many hands were involved in this project and we much appreciate all the parents who donated items, as well as their talents and time. We would also like to extend a special thank-you to our own “in-house” gardener Mrs. Marine--she stayed outside the entire day gardening with the parents. The day ended with popsicles and a take home project. Miguel’s mom donated seeds and we put them in recycled yogurt containers from Olivia’s grandma with dirt and everyone has a seed to take care of. Again “Thanks” to all the parents who donated to make the day a success.

## News You CAN Use!!!

**Water Bottles and Lunch Boxes**—We truly appreciate that you, our CDM families, have really helped us to meet our licensing requirements by labeling the your child’s water bottles and lunch boxes on a daily basis. Reminder: *Now that the warm weather is here to stay, children need to have water each and every day. We make it available through large thermoses and cups, however, most families prefer their children to have their own water supply.*

**Intent to Return Forms**—attached are forms for each family so that they will be able to signify what their enrollment intent is for the summer and the fall. This information is vitally important for us, both in terms of planning for the program (including staffing needs), as well as to enable us to determine just how many slots are potentially available in each classroom. Since the new ownership, interest in our programs and inquiries about our school are at an all time high. Returning this form by **May 28th** is necessary to ensure that your child has a slot available to him or her.

**Updated Contact Lists**—please remember that all contact lists **MUST** be updated in the main office if you are adding, editing, and/or deleting any information about your child or family. Common changes are work numbers, cell numbers and especially approved names for alternate pick-up of your child. Children will not be released to anyone **NOT** authorized to pick up your child. Simply handwriting this change on a sheet in the classroom or building is not sufficient as the information **MUST** be entered into the records database.

**Snack and Lunch Components**—we know that many folks are tired of this announcement, but we are still experiencing a problem in most classrooms where lunch boxes do not contain the five (5) components as required by the Division of Child Development. Please know that this is an area in which our school will be found in violation if we all do not do our part. Again, the required components are: **A protein rich food (Meat/Meat Alternate), 2 fruits; or 2 vegetables; or 1 fruit and 1 vegetable, a Milk/milk alternate, and a grain/grain alternate.** CDM policy states that if parents do not provide a component, we will do so as it is the law. However, monthly billing invoices will reflect a \$2 charge per item/per day. Unless otherwise allergic, these items **MUST** be in the lunchbox daily. Parents who would prefer children to drink water at lunch should consider purchasing a small container of soy milk to be kept in the lunchbox. For other ideas, please contact your child’s teacher or see Georgiana.

If your child is allergic to any items, a doctor’s note **MUST** be on file. We can make staff aware of the situation. **Please note: Child Care Rule .0901 states:** Non-nutritional food can be served for special occasions and in addition to nutritious snacks. Foods such as potato chips, candy, cookies, and fruit juices with less than 100% real fruit juice are not considered to have any nutritional value.

*Thank you for your attention to this information!!!*