

# CMS FAMILY



A NEWSLETTER FOR THE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES OF CANTON MONTESSORI SCHOOL

## Upper Elementary & Middle School Students Travel to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Upper Elementary and Middle School students enjoyed the autumn beauty of Cuyahoga Valley National Park for 3 days/2 nights. Daily hikes, campfires at night, and exploring the 400-million-year-old sedimentary rock that make up the Ledges, allowed us to connect with nature and each other! National park rangers and CVEEC instructors provided lessons on map reading and how to read a compass. For many students, this was the first trip away from home and classmates leaned on and encouraged each other to enjoy their time in this beautiful place. This has turned into an annual trip for our students and we are already looking forward to next year!







# Garden Room

Autumn is upon us, the children are enjoying all of our new seasonal work. We are focusing on our practical life skills, we are using a mallet and golf tees to pound holes into our pumpkin, The children are also using a wheelbarrow to practice balance and following a straight line. The children are also loving being outside in the cooler temperatures. Later this month we will carve a pumpkin, using special tools, the children will also work with the pumpkin pulp.

Ms. Carla & Ms. Tanya



# Sun Room



The school year has started off amazing! The toddlers have been working hard learning about colors and shapes. In our science area we have been learning about our body parts, the 5 senses and how to care for our body. The children have enjoyed learning to brush their teeth, next we will be doing nail scrubbing. We have explored apples in September learning about the parts of an apple and the life cycle. The students picked seeds from the apples and planted them. We currently have several Apple Tree sprouts. We also baked apple cinnamon oatmeal and made our own applesauce from apples. October is the month for pumpkins! We have explored the parts, learned about the life cycle and have plans to carve a Jack-O-Lantern and plant the seeds!

We love to grow things in the Sun Room!

Ms. Rachell & Ms. Krista





# *The Ballroom*

Ballroom students kicked off the school year exploring the solar system. We painted our favorite planets and the moon and stars. In September, we settled into a work cycle filled with collaboration and concentration. Students can be heard singing the continent and ocean songs as they work together on puzzle maps or spin the globe. In October, we welcomed fall by discussing life cycles and labeling the parts of sunflowers, apples and pumpkins. Tweezing sunflower seeds, making crockpot applesauce and apple tasting continue to be just some of our fall favorites. In November, we travel across North America, exploring the food, animals, people and landmarks of our great continent.

Mrs. Bridget and Ms. Jordan





# Kindergarten Enrichment

Kindergarten students during the afternoon enrichment program traveled back in time as we explored the Cretaceous Period. Our eager paleontologists researched the great carnivores, herbivores and omnivores while reading the Magic Treehouse Chapter book, *Dinosaurs Before Dark*.

Magic Treehouse book 2 sent us to the Middle Ages. Students enjoyed designing and building castles and creating a Coat of Arms. We compared daily life in the Medieval Period to modern times and all agreed life is much easier with electricity and plumbing.

Our full day kindergarten students also participate in weekly specials of French, Art and Music as well as attend several field trips throughout the year. Fall and Spring visits from Rookie Sports coaches are a kindergarten favorite. Students are introduced to soccer, football and track and field while reinforcing cooperation and coordination.

Mrs. Bridget







# The Loft

Students in the Loft welcomed Fall with great enthusiasm as we studied apples, seeds, trees, and pumpkins. We have scrubbed, dissected, categorized, labeled, and discussed life cycles of them all. We took out our voting box after tasting 4 different and the clear winner was the pink lady this year. Identifying leaves from their own yards, making leaf rubbings, and of course raking them into piles outside have been some of our favorite Fall activities. We have also started our animal kingdom studies with classifying vertebrates and invertebrates. Halloween is the perfect time to learn about bats, spiders, and of course our skeletal system.



In geography, we have moved on from the solar system to Earth and identifying the 7 continents and five oceans. I'm sure you have been hearing the songs at home! Currently, we are focusing on North American countries, cultures, animals, flags, and landmarks. In November we will discuss the meaning of Thanksgiving, with a special focus on gratitude and traditions. As the year progresses, we will be covering ALL of the continents. The excitement the children show when it comes to geography amazes me every year!



We have enjoyed having many of you spend some time with your child up in the Loft, and I look forward to speaking with you all next week during conferences. Please remember to dress your child appropriately as the weather gets chilly. They are welcome to keep a spare set of mittens/gloves, hats, and boots at school as well. We love our daily time on the playground! If at any time you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. We sincerely want to thank you for entrusting your children with us. Happy Fall!

Miss Molly and Miss Samantha



# The Parlor

As we begin the school year, the Parlor is filled with excitement! We've explored fascinating topics, starting with the solar system, where children learned about planets, stars, and the sun's vital role in our universe.

Next, we celebrated the beauty of sunflowers, observing their growth, harvesting their seeds, and creating vibrant art inspired by them. Our exploration of apples brought tasty learning moments as students discussed varieties and found the star inside.

We also introduced the concepts of living versus non-living things, with hands-on sorting activities and engaged in discussions about what makes something alive.

This year, we're thrilled to welcome many new students who are starting their Montessori journey. Our returning students have been wonderful guides, helping their new classmates feel at home in the Parlor.

As we continue to explore and learn together, we look forward to the many adventures this school year will bring



Ms. Michelle & Ms. Julie





# Lower Elementary

Students in Lower Elementary prepare snack each day to include whole grains, fruit, & vegetables. They also care for classroom mammals, fish, & reptiles daily to include cleaning habitats, & feeding.

Students use Montessori materials for cultural , language, & math lessons. Older friends work with younger peers to assist with follow up work after initial presentations. Students also meet weekly for classroom meetings to share acknowledgements, concerns, questions, comments, & news.

The LE community is thankful for such a beautiful outdoor classroom where we are free to follow the children's natural interest in the natural world around them. The Lower Elementary community is a loving group of friends who work together to solve the challenges of the day. Often you'll hear the whole class break into song to celebrate the mood of the moment.

Ms. Shannon, Ms. Carissa, & Ms. Jordan





# Upper Elementary



We welcomed back 13 Upper Elementary students to the classroom on August 21st and we've been learning, growing and working together as a community ever since. The beginning of our year focused on Montessori's First Great Lesson. We learn about the birth of our vast Universe and ponder our place in it. Students observe and participate in a variety of lessons and experiments that teach us about the powerful forces and matter that exist in our Universe. In the Greek Waiter Tray experiment, students interact with Centripetal and Centrifugal forces. They also get to explore the properties of a Non-Newtonian fluid, Oobleck!



September found the Upper Elementary students managing our class business, Friday Pizza Lunch! UE students prepare a side dish and serve hot pizza to almost 40 students EVERY Friday. We have a pizza job rotation which allows students to understand the many tasks required to successfully serve lunch to the Blackburn community. We also enjoyed plenty of time outdoors whether it was playing golf at First Tee, walking to Arboretum Park for recess, or our 3-day/2-night trip to Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Having time connecting with nature and each other has been a highlight this fall!



The month of October also finds us learning to swim at Meyer's Lake YMCA and celebrating notable people from history with Mystery History celebrated on October 31st. Famous scientists were well represented during Mystery History and continue to inspire our scientific studies!

Ms. Kim



# Middle School

Middle School students have conquered their forces cycle during which they dove deeper into Newton's laws, researched forces of revolutions in history, forces in geometry, and within their historical fiction novels. We attended CVEEC with the Upper Elementary class where we deepened our understanding of magnetic forces. We also had the teen librarian from Stark Library visit to teach us about finding credible sources. This will help them throughout the year as the middle school curriculum is very research heavy. They are now in their second cycle of the year, learning all about structures — sentence structures, mathematical structures, structures of molecules, and governments. They have also been working hard on their financial literacy projects, living art presentations, and preparing to kick off their microeconomy with STEAM camp being offered to the elementary level students! If you haven't already signed up your child, we'd love for them to join us.

Ms. Dagny

