



Garden Notes--Summer Edition

Greetings CGMS Community!

It is hard for me to believe that summer is already halfway over! How can that be? It is definitely that time where you are either wondering where summer has gone so quickly or will summer EVER be over? Whichever way you're leaning, your thoughts are starting to turn towards the new school year, and you are wondering how you can get your child ready. Whether your child is new to CGMS, returning, or moving on to a new school, below are several suggestions that can help.

- **Promote independence.** All people thrive when they are given control over their lives. Children are no exception. Of course, children are not yet ready to have complete control. They need support and guidance. However, they are ready to take steps. Offer your child choices appropriate to their age and ability. Respect their choices by not second guessing or pushing them to go in the direction you want them to go in.
- **Provide Time for Unstructured Play.** Unstructured play is key to helping children develop into critical thinkers. It allows them to experiment, socialize, and think creatively. It is the best way for children to figure things out for themselves.
- **Take a moment to smell the roses.** We all benefit from slowing down a little. This world is so fast paced, the stress of daily living can be overwhelming, especially to young children. Spending moments enjoying the beauty in the world reminds us all of why we're here in the first place.
- **Read together.** Children of all ages need to be read to, even if they can read by themselves. Special time to snuggle and listen to stories and prose allows children to extend their knowledge while establishing a positive relationship with the written word.
- **Share what you like to do.** Create opportunities to share your passions with your child. Love to cook? Have your child help you prepare the evening meal, a dessert, or just a snack. Love the outdoors? Go hiking together. Yes, it will be different from doing it on your own, and there is no need to do it every single time. But, your child will love spending time with you, learning what you love. Additionally, s/he will benefit from all the skills that come along with that activity.
- **Worry less.** It's tough being a parent. Everywhere you look are lists of activities you need to be doing to assure that your child has the best start in life possible. Instead of giving in to the pressure, remember that you've got this! What children really need is love, respect, and support. They are going to be the best people they can be, they just need space and time to find their way there.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!
Bekke Howell
Head of School



Summer Help Needed!

Families who attended the 2017-18 school year, please take a moment to give us your feedback by filling out this survey. Thank you to those of you who have already responded, but we would love to hear from as many of you as possible. Additionally, if you have ideas that you would like to expand on, please feel free to leave your name in the notes section so that we can follow up. Of course, you are also welcome to email or call me directly.

Thank you!

Take the Survey

If you are looking to help out around the school over the summer, we still need some help with watering and with hosting the school guinea pigs. Please take a moment to sign up, if you are interested:

Guinea Pig Care

Water the Gardens

Upcoming Events

Keep an eye on your inboxes for the following information, soon to be coming your way in the next few weeks:

- Community Auction Event Save-the-Date
- Volunteer Sign-up for the 2018-19 year
- Welcome Letters with Teacher Photos (coming via the Postal Service)
- Forms for 2018-19 (some of you already have these, others will receive an email from Catherine letting you know what we need for the new year)
- Invitation to the Beginning of School Picnic

