



## From the HEAD of SCHOOL

### Transitions

Spring is here! The birds are singing. The flowers are popping up, coming out of hiding slowly, in surprising places. Buds are peeking out of the tree branches. The outside world is in transition.

Spring marks a time of transition inside as well. For Children's Garden staff, spring break is the point that signals the speedy approach of conferences, outside explorations, and end-of-year celebrations. Additionally, it is a time of planning for the following school year as we firm up enrollment, orient new families into our community, and discuss classroom plans for next year.

Positive or negative, transitions are difficult for people of all ages. They are also inevitable. Seasons change. Children grow up. Life rushes along like a raging river. As much as we would like to conquer each transition smoothly and bravely, we cannot help but feel some anxiety as we approach them.

Transitions signify the unknown and the unknown is anxiety causing. Because children look to the adults in their life to learn how to navigate transitions, it is imperative that we manage our own fears with courage and maturity.

As adults, we like to know what is coming next so that we can plan. We hope that if we can plan, we can remain in control and the transitions won't be as scary. Unfortunately, we cannot always know, nor can we plan as much as we would like. Instead, we need to take some deep breaths and practice patience. We live in a culture where everything is always happening so quickly, we feel like we will be left behind if we don't keep up. Sometimes it is helpful to remind ourselves that we are still in control and that we have time to make our own decisions, our hands need not always be forced.

### MARCH 2016

#### Dates to Remember

- 3/11 NO SCHOOL**  
Teacher In-service
- 3/15 Tuition Deposit due**
- 3/25 SPRING BREAK**  
**BEGINS**
- 4/4 Teachers Return**
- 4/5 Students Return**



Details for these events are included within the newsletter or on the school calendar.

The best way to prepare for the next transition, is to prepare ourselves. We can give ourselves the time to find out what is coming next, and we can share our anxieties with other adults, out of the earshot of children. As we process and question, the future will become clearer. Of course, many things will not be a reality until we find ourselves in the middle of or even on the other side of the transition. The best way to help our children to prepare is to avoid passing along undue worry. Time is all about perspective. For us, months speed along much faster than we would like. For them, months, weeks, days, even hours seem to stretch on and on. There is no need to talk about next year until summer. It is still very far away. As the time grows closer, we help children by empathizing with their trepidation as we encourage them to take the next step. We share our own experiences, times where we faced transitions and how we managed to navigate them successfully.

### What exactly are “Teacher In-service” days?

A couple of times each year, we close school for students to hold Teacher In-Service days. The state requires that each teacher and director in a childcare facility have 15 hours of continuing education. Education credits come in a wide variety of forms: conferences, webinars, special speakers, etc. Although many times we attend such events outside of the work day, we like to have a couple of days where teachers can catch up without having to take time away from their families. We appreciate your support in allowing us to fulfill all our work obligations with these special teacher work days.

### Ready to get your creative juices flowing?



Come and join us for **Studio Night!**

On Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

From 5 PM to 7 PM

Join us for an adults only event. We will have a potluck followed by creative preparations for our Cultural Festival that will take place later in the month.

Watch for an invite and sign up in your email!

### Unbirthday Celebration

You don't want to miss the annual Unbirthday celebration on Sunday, April 10th from 11am - 1pm at Dardano's Gymnastics Studio. More information will be available soon.



## Reminder

Please remember to update any changes - new address, who is authorized to pick your child up, emergency contacts - in the **Parent Portal** on our website. If someone is picking up who is not on your authorized list, please send a note and include their name and phone number and advise them to have their identification with them. If your child is riding home with another CGMS family, please send a **note or email**. If plans change during the school day, **email** your child's **class** and **Catherine** - [cramey@cgmontessori.com](mailto:cramey@cgmontessori.com). Not only is it difficult for the teachers to remember all of the verbal communication at the gate, written notification is required by the State Regulators. Thanks for your cooperation.

We would like to thank the **Gaddis** family for the generous True Food gift cards; **Hilary Haynes** for the banana bread; all of the **families** who are contributing to the **cooking projects** in the studio; **Jen Byyny** for baking banana bread with the children; **Alexis Rudisill** for making meatballs in the studio; our wonderful **XP lunch volunteers** and to **all of our families** for continuing to **spread the word** about Children's Garden to your family and friends.



**Planning for next year** is in full swing; re-enrollment is in and the lottery for new students starts soon. It looks like next year will be as full and lively as ever. Thank you for honoring us with the task of providing your children with a nurturing and dynamic foundation. In keeping with our value of learning through interactions, we design for limited numbers of children in each classroom to create a comfortable fit and community. We think through program times and class assignments as carefully as we plan and arrange the classrooms for the children's active learning and growth. As the pieces fall into place and the final numbers become clear, I will notify each family about next year's placements. In the meantime, I highly recommend a re-reading of Bekke's description of "Why We Do What We Do", <http://cgmontessori.com/parent-resource/newsletters/recent-articles/>.

### Enrollment timeline:

Tuition Deposit #1, \$1000 per student is due March 15, 2016.

Contract and Deposit #2, enrollment specific is due May 15.

Installments for remaining tuition is deducted monthly, September through April.

**Tuition assistance** and scholarships are available. Families intending to apply should submit 50% of deposit #1 per child, or contact Jamie for other arrangements, and complete all components of the application by April 1, 2016: