The three-year multi-age grouping is a topic that is near and dear to the hearts of Montessorians. We witness the benefits it brings to the children in our classrooms every day. Community Montessori has multi-age groups for lower elementary (1st-3rd), upper elementary (4th-6th) and middle school (7th and 8th). The philosophy behind this in Montessori schools emphasizes leadership, collaboration, diversity, respect, reinforcement of knowledge, observation, and sense of community.

Dr. Montessori, in her wisdom, understood that multi-aged groupings set the stage for success at every stage of development. Providing children with an enriched environment where children of mixed ages work together is a beautiful thing! Teachers are able to present a variety of lessons and work that take place simultaneously. This concept also allows children to learn from observing each other.

One of the greatest joys in observing and working in a Montessori classroom is to watch children take on leadership roles. It is fascinating to observe older children as they help their younger friends. As we watch older children respectfully interact with younger ones, we see their potentials unfold. The classroom is a prepared environment that is enriched by a full spectrum of abilities. Older students can help younger students which also reinforces their understanding of the content. In addition, sometimes another child can explain a concept in a way that an adult can ... facilitating better understanding for both children involved.

Multi-age classrooms encourage leadership, collaboration, respect, and community.

Multi-age classrooms also allow children to excel. With higher level materials and lessons available, and a system already in place to differentiate the instruction, students can work at their own pace within the curriculum. In addition, the multi-age classrooms also assist students that are in need of remediation by working specifically on the aspect of a concept that they are having problems mastering. This ability to “fill in” a child’s gaps in knowledge assists in helping students master the concepts in their own time.

A well-functioning multi-age classroom supports the needs of each child, promoting enrichment and remediation so that all children can be successful!
Children need at least one hour of exercise a day. With busy schedules, you would think it difficult for families to find the time to fit in fitness, but it is easier than you would think!

Turn off the TV: The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children ages 2 and up (including parents!) viewing no more than one-two hours of quality TV. This means educational, non-violent programming.

Once your child is 6 years old, encourage them to get involved in active organized extracurricular activities like sports and dance. The costs involved can be difficult for every family’s budget, so look for free and reduced-cost programs in your area.

Go outside: Going for a walk, planting in the garden, swimming in the pool, playing sports and games – all of these activities are great ways to get in exercise.

Go on a trip: Try family outings and trips that encourage fun exercise, such as canoeing or hiking at a state park, many park visits and activities are free!

Set an example: By seeing YOU exercise, physical fitness becomes a way of life for your child. Set the example to create a healthy habit.
When report cards went home in January, students in grades 3-8 also received an individual TN Ready Score report. These score reports provide valuable information about your student’s learning, their strengths, and areas for improvement. Here are some important things to know about TN Ready:

What is TN Ready?
TN Ready is our state’s end-of-year assessment for students in grades 3 through 11. It is actually a series of smaller subtests in English language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. These tests are given toward the end of the school year in April and May. Second grade students also take and end of the year math and English language arts assessment.

What do the TN Ready individual student reports tell me about my student’s learning?
The TNReady report tells you whether your child is on grade level and how your child is performing compared to other students in their school, district, and state. The report also goes into detail about your student’s strengths and areas for improvement in each subject.

What should we do with the information from the TN Ready reports?
The TN Ready report is designed to be a resource and a conversation starter for parent, student, and teacher. You can use the report to talk with your child about his/her learning. The reports come with a section called “Next Steps” which offers suggestions for helping your child to continue to grow. I encourage you to discuss the report with your child’s teacher at the upcoming parent teacher conferences this month. Here are some questions you can ask to start the conversation:

- What do these test results tell you about what areas my child needs help in?
- What do you recommend as next steps to help my child learn more?
- How can I support the learning happening in your classroom in our home?
- What are some things I can look for during the year to make sure my child is on track?

Winter Wonderland Father Daughter Dance
for the girls of CMS and the important men in their lives

February 24, 2018
7:00- 9:00 p.m.
Community Montessori Gymnasium

Cost: $10 per girl
$20 max per family

Check your child’s folder for a form to register!

Includes dancing, music by DJ Reedy, light refreshments, professional backdrop, and photo prop backdrop for pictures

Librarian’s Nook
by Mrs. Myracle Librarian at CMS

There are a lot of exciting library events coming up during the next couple of months! The first one is our spring Scholastic book fair! The book fair dates are February 8th-15th. We will be open on the evening of the 15th for parents attending parent teacher conferences. Students will visit the book fair twice, and may create a wish list or bring money to shop. Parents may also shop online using the following link: http://www.scholastic.com/bf/communitymontessorischool3

Our amazing PTO is sponsoring a coin drive to raise money for our teachers to shop the book fair! Bring in your extra coins, and teachers will use that money to buy books for their classroom!

- Tuesday, February 6th...
  Pennies
- Wednesday, February 7th...
  Nickels
- Thursday, February 8th...
  Dimes
- Friday, February 9th...
  Quarters

Another exciting event is our character parade in celebration of Read Across America! Start planning now! The parade will be March 2nd during our community meeting. Students are able to dress up like their favorite book character! Your student received a note about the parade in early February. This is such a fun event!