



SCHOOL INFORMATION

Community Montessori Office	.....	720-561-3700
805 Gillaspie Dr		
Boulder, 80305		
FAX	.....	720-561-3701
Attendance Line	.....	720-561-5408
SAC	.....	720-561-3777
Transportation	.....	720-561-5125 (Boulder)
	.....	720-561-5126 (Lafayette)
Web Site:	http://schools.bvsd.org/communitymontessori/	
E-mail addresses:	shannon.minch@bvsd.org , Principal	
	rosa.invernizze@bvsd.org , Bilingual Liaison	
	kathy.kinney@bvsd.org , Principal's Assistant	



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 14	-----	Worker Bee Wednesday – G2T– 2:30PM Court Yard
September 16	-----	New Parent Coffees – 8:15 AM
September 21	-----	Individual Picture Days – Primary & Upper EI
September 22	-----	Individual Picture Days – Lower EI
Sept 23 – Oct 7	-----	Pupil Count – <i>Very important attendance dates</i>
September 28	-----	SchoolMessenger Test to Parents – new date!
September 28	-----	Worker Bee Wednesday – G2T– 2:30PM Court Yard
September 28	-----	Parent Ed Night – Primary – 6:00 – 7:00 PM – See Child Care Registration form in this <i>Buzz</i>
October 6	-----	SAC/PTA Meeting – 5:30 – 7:30 PM – Room 114
October 11	-----	Elementary Field Day – AM (10/20 Rain Date)
October 12	-----	Picture Retakes
October 13	-----	Parent Visiting Night (A-M 5-6; N-Z 6-7 PM)
October 14	-----	NO SCHOOL – Work Day
October 17	-----	Read-a-thon Kick-off (thru 10/28!)
October 18,19,24,26	-----	Parent Teacher Conferences
October 19	-----	Worker Bee Wednesday – G2T– 2:30PM Court Yard
October 28	-----	Book Bingo – 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
November 2,9,16,30	-----	Nurtured Heart Classes – 6:00 – 7:30 PM
November 10	-----	Report Cards Home
November 10	-----	SAC/PTA Meeting – 5:30 – 7:30 PM – Room 114
November 11	-----	No School – Veteran's Day
November 14	-----	Vision/Hearing Screening
November 21 – 25	-----	No School - Holiday
November 28	-----	Open Enrollment Begins
November 29	-----	Public Tour – 9:00 AM

FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL...

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have had a great start to the school year! I am inspired and motivated by the enthusiasm for learning that your children have. The classrooms are “buzzing” with a tangible excitement and love of learning. I am amazed and at awe by the commitment of students, teachers and parents to the success of Community Montessori.

New Employees:

I hope you have had a chance to welcome our new employees.

Chad Hartkopf is our new facilities manager.

Colleen Jiron is our new library/media specialist. She will continue to be our school psychologist also.

Andrea Taydus is our music teacher.

Marilyn Cohen will join Jenn in our art department.

Jeff Rubin is our new band teacher.

Amye Woodcock is the assistant in Jenny’s class

Page Zekonis is the assistant in Becky’s class.

Laura Godt is the assistant in Holly’s class

Danny Ferry is the assistant in Patti’s class.

Victoria Boydston is a primary assistant.

Marissa Herrmann in Heather’s class

Gabriela Huebler is a primary assistant.

Ariel Laugel-Schloss is an assistant in Elizabeth’s class.

New Principal: Shannon Minch

As your new principal, my learning has been great. I am working to learn all of your student’s names and your names. It will take me time and I may ask you several times, but I will get it. I am learning about Montessori. I have been doing a lot of reading, for example: *Montessori Today* by Paula Polk Lillard, *What is Montessori Preschool?* By David Kahn, *What is Montessori Elementary?* By David Kahn, *The Normalized Child* by Kathleen H. Futrell, *The Four Planes of Education*, by Dr. Maria Montessori, *At Home with Montessori* by Patricia Oriti. I have joined the North American Montessori Teachers’ Association (NAMTA). In October I am going to the Saturday offerings of the conference “*Montessori in the Mountains*” put on by Montessori Education Center of the Rockies (MECR) and a conference in Milwaukee put on by NAMTA called Strengthening the Montessori Culture: Public and Private Sectors. The greatest learning I have had is by observing your children learning in the classroom. I have the utmost respect for our teachers and their passion for students and Montessori.

New Collaboration Time:

This year our teachers are meeting every Thursday afternoon to participate in Professional Learning Communities (PLC’s.) This is a wonderful opportunity for teachers to share curriculum, look at state standards, examine assessments and focus on Montessori practices. The use of this time gives teachers the ability to do the work in our Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) and implement our Major Improvement Strategies to best support the growth and love of learning of all of our students.

New Procedures:

The arrival and dismissal procedures were a change that brought much trepidation. Arrival, in particular, has been a challenging transition. We will listen to feedback to try to make the mornings run more smoothly. In the meantime, please keep the following in mind:

1. Please do not turn around in our neighbors driveways or make u-turns.
2. Use the drop off area on Gillaspie in front of the school.
3. The front parking spots in the row closest to the school in the south parking lot is for Primary families as they have to walk their children in the building.
4. Please do not step over the orange protective fence. It is there for safety purposes.
5. One parent suggested turning right out of the parking lot towards Yale. It saved time and frustration.

I believe things will get better as more students are bussing, construction is complete and when Community Schools moves to the Ed Center. I appreciate your patience and flexibility through this time.

Opportunities for Parents:

Nurtured Heart: We will be offering a Nurtured Heart course for parents in November. The classes will be offered 11/2, 11/9, 11/16 and 11/30 from 6:00pm-7:30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn the behavior approach we use at school and apply it at home. Parents who took the class last year rave about the class. The cost of the course is \$45 per person; \$65 per couple – this includes a workbook. Scholarships are available.

King Soopers Cards: If you shop at King Soopers, please purchase a King Soopers card from our PTA. All you do is put money on your card and shop. King Soopers then gives us 5%. It is a great deal for the school and you are not spending any more money than you normally would. Contact Victoria at vboydston@yahoo.com.

Grant Writing: Our Grants Committee is looking for people to join. If you like to write, are organized, flexible and want to make a huge impact for the school, this may be the committee for you. There is no experience necessary and support is available. Please contact Alison Peters if you are interested or have questions about the commitment at Alison.Peters@Colorado.EDU.

Thank you for sharing your children with us! Their joy and excitement for learning is contagious!

Respectfully,

Shannon Minch

FROM THE SAC - PTA



There are many ways that you can get involved at Community Montessori. Please consider this list and see what works for you.

- ~ Sign-up to assist with your child's room team
- ~ Volunteer for Garden to table or assist with the classroom gardens
- ~ Attend PTA Meetings – the once per month meetings are open to anyone interested in learning more about the school. An Open Forum will provide parents an opportunity to ask questions and share comments
- ~ Purchase and use a King Soopers reloadable card – 5% of your purchases will be donated to Community Montessori PGC.

GARDEN TO TABLE



The vegetable garden is overflowing with bounty! Last week, Heather's class harvested a huge bowl of tomatoes that the Lower and Upper Elementary students enjoyed on the Harvest Bar at lunch.

Come to a **Worker Bee Wednesday!!** It's a great time to meet other parents and dig in the dirt with your kids! Meet in the courtyard at the vegetable garden after 2:30 pick up and have fun weeding, tasting and socializing.

Upcoming dates: Sept. 28th & Oct. 19th

A huge thank you to Cassidi Hansen for her dedication to the program the past four years -- without her, there wouldn't be a Garden to Table program. We will miss you.

Thanks also to the Alpers, Della Rocco, Leyva and Myers families for their help taking care of the garden this summer. It was challenge with all of the construction!

We are looking for a Garden Lead to fill the big space Cassidi is leaving behind. The main responsibilities are to provide planting and harvesting guidance and to watch over the health of the plants growing in the garden. If anyone is interested or just wants to learn more about Garden to Table at Community Montessori, please contact Jess Hernandez (jess@jph.net).



READ-A-THON AND BOOK BINGO

In October we have our first fundraising event of the year - The all school READ-A-THON! Not only will we have fun promoting literacy, we will raise valuable dollars for our school's many needs. The Read-a-thon will kick off on Monday, October 17th and will run for 2 weeks until Friday, October 28th. We have many fun events planned during those 2 weeks including an all school Read-In and a visit from a very popular children's author - Kerry Lee MacLean, who wrote the *Pigs over Colorado* series of books!

Our goal is to get 10 pledges per child or 15 pledges per family; and to have each child commit to read 20 minutes per night. For primary children, that might mean parents reading bed time stories. For avid readers, perhaps it's reading a book to themselves or a poem out loud to parents or siblings. You can even play scrabble or bingo together...anything that involves literacy is something to count. We want to find ways for everyone to participate!

The Read-a-thon will culminate on Friday, October 28th from 5:00pm - 7:00pm in the evening with a fun family social including dinner and BOOK BINGO! - where everyone can win books by playing Bingo.

More information will be coming out soon in your child's Friday folder! If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Jane Breetzke at 720-320-7100 or janiebreetzke@comcast.net.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Please remember to keep the Box Tops coming in...our next submission deadline is not far off!

In September Kroger/King Sooper is running an exclusive Box Tops offer!!!

Receive 25 bonus Box Tops...when you purchase 8 participating Box Top products in a single shopping visit using your King Sooper card.

*You will get the additional Box Tops via a code on your receipt at checkout. You can either redeem them yourself by registering at RewardYourSchool.com and selecting your school, or you can drop your receipt in the Box Top collection container at school and we'll do it for you. (New users will receive an extra 5 bonus Box Tops for registering at RewardYourSchool.com)

The Box Top collection container is on the Parent Information table outside Denise's office.



UPDATES



👉 **School Safety:** Throughout the year, we will do safety drills, which include: fire, lockdown and tornado. We believe that students, staff and parents need to feel safe at their school. Our goal is to be proactive and prepared for natural disasters or a possible public hazard/threat. We follow the National Incident Management System (NIMS) which aligns with our first responders. Please talk with your students about safety at school.

👉 **LAST CALL!** Please turn in your **Directory Release** (Census Verification Report) form as soon as possible as we want to provide you with a student directory ASAP! Thank you!

👉 **Don't miss this deadline!** If your family had **Free or Reduced Lunch** status last year and you have not submitted an application for this year, the deadline is **September 28**. **Families that qualify for free or reduced price school lunches are also eligible for other assistance such as:**

- ~ Waived or reduced fees for athletic team participation and individual classes
- ~ Reduced costs for after-school care or kindergarten enrichment
- ~ Scholarships for after-school activities and summer school
- ~ \$10/month Comcast internet service
- ~ New computer for \$150 from Comcast or used computer for \$25 from BVSD
- ~ And more!

Free and Reduced Lunch application forms are available in school offices and in the BVSD Food Services Office at 6500 East Arapahoe Road, Boulder. **Don't miss this chance to save money while getting the most out of school for your child!** Questions? Call 720-561-5942.

☞ **CM Website and Listserv** Did you know that we have a Community Montessori website? It contains all school newsletters, past and present, school supply lists, school calendar, notices and more. Visit at <http://bvdsd.org/schools/communitymontessori/Pages/default.aspx> or through the BVSD.org website.

In addition, if you'd like to sign up to receive special email notifications, please sign up for our LISTSERV. To sign up, go to the News and Events section of the CM website, "Subscribe by Email." Or you may send an email to: cme-community-join@windom.bvdsd.org.

☞ **September 21st & 22nd Individual Picture Days** – Primary & Upper El will have their pictures taken on Wednesday, September 21st. Lower El will have their pictures taken on Thursday, September 22nd. If you know your child is going to be absent on the day they are scheduled, please notify the office and we'll make sure they get their picture taken on the other date. Also, the photographer is looking for a few parent volunteers to walk children back and forth from the classrooms on both days. Please notify the office or email kathy.kinney@bvdsd.org if you are available. Thank you!

☞ The **Thrive Newsletter** is available on the BVSD website at <http://www.bvdsd.org/parents/Pages/ThriveNewsletter.aspx>.

☞ **For Information on a family program occurring on September 17th, please visit this website:** <http://conted.colorado.edu/programs/cu-on-the-weekend/> It's part of the CU on the Weekend mini-courses offered on off-football game Saturdays, and one of 3 family programs offered by several President's Teaching Scholars. (There's also a cool Craft Technology class where kids use 3D computer programming to make cool stuff.)

PICTURE BOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Taught by Dr. Shelby Wolf, President's Teaching Scholar

Saturday, September 17, 1 pm - 3 pm. Enrollment limit: 40.

Note: Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Tuition: \$10 per family (immediate family only)

BVSD Lifelong Learning's Fall Classes and Camps for Kids BVSD's Lifelong Learning Program offers after school classes for kids in the arts, outdoors and adventure, fencing, digital photography, video production, and science. For our science classes, we partner with Science Matters and for our photography and video classes, we partner with the YWCA. Besides after school classes, we offer fun and creative camps for kids ages 6-12 during school breaks and on no-school days. If you want to get a jump on planning for Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break and the November 11th No School Day, look for listings in our BVSD Lifelong Learning Kids catalog, sent home in your child's Friday folder (on August 26th or Sept. 2nd). **You can also see a complete listing of classes and camps by visiting our website, www.bvdsd.org/LLL. For more information, call 720-561-3768.**

Classes at Community Montessori:

Break Time Acting Workshop Ages 7-12: Thanksgiving Break

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

8:00 am - 4:00 pm; 3 sessions starting November 21, 2011, ending November 23, 2011

Tuition: \$195.00

Arts: Thanksgiving Break Art Camp Ages 7-11

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

9:00 am - 12:00 pm;

3 sessions starting November 21, 2011, ending November 23, 2011

Tuition: \$105.00

Break Time Acting Workshop Ages 7-12: Winter Break

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

8:00 am - 4:00 pm;

4 sessions starting December 19, 2011, ending December 22, 2011

Tuition: \$245.00

Arts: Intergalactic Aliens and Super Heroes Winter Break Art Camp Ages 7-11

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

9:00 am - 12:00 pm;

4 sessions starting December 19, 2011, ending December 22, 2011

Tuition: \$129.00

BVSD Lifelong Learning

Phone Number: 720-561-3768

www.bvsd.org/lll



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: BVSD Communications 720-561-5824

BVSD Invites Community Input in September Curricular Alignment Discussions

BOULDER – The Boulder Valley School District invites all interested community members to play an important role in BVSD’s alignment of its curriculum with the new Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) as adopted by the seven elected members of the Colorado State Board of Education in 2010. Under Colorado law and according to the Colorado Department of Education website, each Colorado local education agency, including BVSD, is required by state statute (CRS 22-7-1013) to review its standards in comparison with the CAS. Following this review, BVSD must revise its standards as necessary to ensure that district standards meet or exceed the CAS. To accomplish this, Colorado school districts may choose either to adopt the CAS verbatim or to revise their existing district standards.

BVSD has chosen the option of revising the curriculum to align with the CAS. The BVSD curriculum is contained in the district’s Curriculum Essentials Document adopted by the Boulder Valley Board of Education in 2009. This document underpins the BVSD Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum for elementary and secondary education in the district’s 55 schools. For nearly one year, district curriculum directors, under the oversight of BVSD’s chief academic officer, have been working to initially revise the district’s existing Curriculum Essentials Document. A list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and their answers can be found on the CDE website at:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/UAS/Standards_FAQ.html.

This BVSD curricular revision and alignment with the CAS must, under state law, be completed and approved by the Boulder Valley Board of Education no later than December 15, 2011. To solicit as much public input as possible and still meet the December 15 deadline, the following schedule has been set:

- **September 2011** – Five public meetings have been set that will explain current proposed revisions and gather feedback from any interested community member. Those five meetings are scheduled as follows:
 - **September 13, 4:30-6:30 PM, Heatherwood Elementary School, 7750 Concord Dr., Boulder**
 - **September 15, 4:30-6:30 PM, Emerald Elementary School, 755 W. Elmhurst Pl., Broomfield**
 - **September 20, 4:30-6:30 PM, Monarch K-8 School, 263 Campus Dr., Louisville**
 - **September 22, 4:30-6:30 PM, Southern Hills Middle School, 1500 Knox Dr., Boulder**
 - **September 29, 4:30-6:30 PM, Lafayette Elementary School, 101 N. Bermont Ave., Lafayette**

(PLEASE NOTE: If a community member would like to review the curriculum documents, but is unable to attend one of these sessions, they may contact Susan Wojciechowski in Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction to request a copy at 720-561-5139.)

- **October 2011** – BVSD curricular leaders will then review all public input and amend the initial proposed revisions as they determine before submitting a final draft to the school board for review, discussion and ultimately approval.
- **November 8, 2011** – The school board takes up its first review of BVSD’s proposed revision of its Curriculum Essentials Document as a “Study Item” on its meeting agenda. Further public input may also be given during the “Public Participation” portion of the November 8 board meeting agenda.
- **December 13, 2011** – If initially approved in November, the school board takes final action on the BVSD revised Curriculum Essentials Documents which would then be transmitted to CDE. Once again, public input may also be given during the “Public Participation” portion of the December 13 meeting agenda.



Dear Parents and Students,

By way of introduction to new parents and to Kindergarten parents: My name is Karsten Roell, and this is my fourth year teaching at Community Montessori. My personal interests include ancient-world studies, racket sports, general sports, and linguistics.

Our P.E. program provides students the exciting opportunity to participate in many varied activities and to develop their sport and movement skills in a safe, supportive environment. Our foundational goal is to help students grow in appreciation and enjoyment of physical activity and sports. This will promote their health, enhance their quality of life and encourage development of beneficial long-term habits. To this end, it is helpful to encourage your child to practice at home what he or she learns in P.E.!

Listed below are some important items students should wear or bring. I would appreciate you helping your children to remember them:

- **Activity shoes:** First and most importantly, for safety reasons on our wood floor, tennis shoes should be worn (or brought) every P.E. day, whether it's sunny or snowy! Acceptable shoes, made for activity, must cover the toes and encircle the heels, not have raised heels, should fit snugly, and have good traction. P.E. is on the same day each week; please ask your child or see the posted schedule on the board near the office (Kindergarteners come Tuesdays and Thursdays). Please help your children to remember. If a student forgets some day, they may borrow shoes if they are in lower elementary (1st-3rd). 4th and 5th graders must wear their own tennis shoes. The consequence for not wearing activity shoes is to sit out the whole class.
- **Good water hydration** helps students' minds and bodies to function well and is essential to health. Therefore, I would like to request that you send your children with a water bottle each day they have P.E. (this does *not* apply to Kindergarteners). If the water bottle seals well, please try to fill it at home—with water only, and label it. You may want to also place it in a reusable plastic sack to help protect schoolwork from leakage. Note: I recommend steel or hard plastic water bottles with manufacturer-coded numbers (inside recycle-type logo on bottom of plastic bottles) of 4, 5, 1, or 2. Nice steel bottles for \$10 and plastic for \$5.40 are available at King Soopers across from school, while a larger selection is at Vitamin Cottage.

In the hope of having warmer, drier weather, we have moved **Field Day** to the fall. It is scheduled for Tuesday morning, October 11th, with a rain date of Thursday, October 20th. If you would be able to volunteer for this all-school event, I would very much appreciate it! Also, I again plan to coach a jump rope club for grades 1-5 in the spring, and will announce it in the *Buzz*.

I will communicate your child's progress on the report card. If a concern arises, I will contact you. Please feel free to talk to me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. A good way to reach me is to stop by after school, Monday through Thursday, or to email or call me: Karsten.Roell@bvsd.org , 720-561-3727. You are welcome to visit your child's P.E. class anytime.

Thank you for your support! It is much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Karsten

Karsten Roell
Physical Education Teacher
Community Montessori



“Mens Sana In Corpore Sano”
(A sound mind in a sound body)

Chess Club!

Karsten and his father, Eberhard (Eb) Roell, would like to continue the chess club for the benefit of children **in grades 3rd to 5th**.

Tuesdays, September 20—December 13 (except October 11-25), 2:30pm-3:45pm.

Apart from the fun associated with any board game, chess is an excellent mental exercise. It disciplines the mind as it challenges the player to first learn the moves of pieces, then to strategize and think beyond the next move. Instead of scoring points, you capture pieces. You play both offense and defense as you battle your opponent for control of the center of the board.

If your child is interested please complete the permission form below and return to the office or to Karsten. Chess Club will meet in the library.

Spaces are limited to the first 16—so please sign up soon. A waiting list will also be kept in case of an opening.

Chess Club Permission Slip

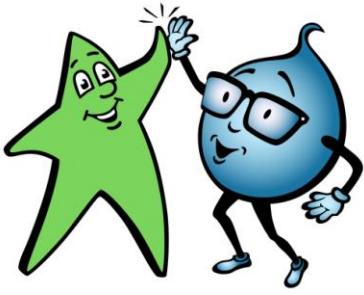
(Please sign and return to the office or to Karsten)

I give permission for my child/children (incl. last name, please) _____
_____, (in _____'s class) to participate in the
extra-curricular activity of the Chess Club at Community Montessori from *September 20th through December
13th, 2011.*

_____/2011
Parent/Guardian Signature (and printed name) Date

Contact Number: _____

Email: _____



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Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

P.O. Box 19006 • Boulder, CO 80308

www.ecocycle.org

(303) 444-6634

Dear Parents,

Did you realize that Americans buy approximately *500 million disposable bottles of water every WEEK*? Only 20% of those bottles end up in a recycling bin. Eco-Cycle, BVSD and the City of Boulder have teamed up to give students at Green Star Schools the opportunity to refill reusable water bottles and cups instead of using disposables.

Two Green Star Schools were chosen this fall to participate in this pilot project: Community Montessori and Southern Hills Middle School. Two five-gallon restaurant-quality water dispensers and a set of reusable cups were purchased for Community Montessori. This will make it easier for kids, staff and parents to refill durable drink containers instead of using disposables during school events.

Eco-Cycle will be visiting recess at your child's school on September 13th and 20th to celebrate this project with the students. *Please help your student remember to bring a reusable water bottle to school on those days for a chance to win fun prizes.* (Students who don't have a reusable water bottle could win one!)

Be sure to check out the new water dispensers at school events. This is the latest way that Green Star Schools are leading us to a Zero Waste future!

Sponsored by



in partnership with





PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

Wednesday SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

Will start on time

Presentation by Primary Teachers

Come learn more about the
Montessori Primary Program
At Community Montessori

Childcare will be provided during the meeting.

FOR STAFFING REASONS ALL CHILDREN MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED.

Childcare will be available from 5:45-7:15 PM

Child 1 _____ age ____

Child 2 _____ age ____

Child 3 _____ age ____

Please return this form to school office by **Monday September 26**