Welcome to our school newsletter for this year. As you vacation and enjoy the weather this summer, we encourage you to make each experience a learning experience! See you in the Fall!

Classroom Updates

1st & 2nd
First and second grade had a wonderful time on our Lake Tobias field trip this month. We all had the chance to explore the zoo and take the safari ride. The safari ride allowed us the opportunity to hand feed and pet some animals we don’t get to see everyday. All the students and adults were champs through the three hours we spent on the bus. What a great trip!

3rd & 4th
As the school year is drawing to a close, students in 3rd/4th grades are looking forward to some exciting new learning experiences! We have just begun our final research project of the year on the 50 States. The students took a walking field trip to the Adams County Library to learn how to find materials to help with the research of their specific state. The final product of this research will be a poster that will be displayed at the Fine Arts Showcase. Along with this display, students are working on creating a piece of art and practicing songs to share with family and friends at this school-wide event. We also had a wonderful time on our recent field trip to the National Museum of American History! It has been an enriching school year. We hope everyone has a fantastic summer and we look forward to seeing “our kids” back next year!

5th & 6th
The Upper Elementary students have been busy this spring! We hosted our very own Mother’s Day Tea. The students worked hard to put together decorations, crafts, light refreshments, and a slideshow to present to the moms. It was a great success and we thank everyone who attended!

In the coming weeks, the Upper Elementary students will be participating in many events. The week of May 26, Upper Elementary students will be attending Outdoor School, more details to follow. Additionally, our room is preparing special skits for our portion of Showcase Night, which will take place on Thursday, May 28. And, students will be studying economics and creating their own business to sell products and/or services to the Lower Elementary students. The Economic Fair will be held on Tuesday, June 2. We look forward to having our students participate in and experience such an array of activities!
Physical Education

FIELD DAY – FRIDAY, MAY 29TH
(RAIN DATE, JUNE 1ST)

On Friday, May 29th, GMCS will host its annual Field Day events. Mr. Greg has been working with all of the students on the skills and activities that will take place on this fun-filled day. The kids have had the opportunity to practice the high jump, the long jump, and various relays. In addition to track-style activities, we will be introducing several “yard sports” such as ladder golf and corn-hole. We still need volunteers for Field Day, so if your clearances are up-to-date and you would like to help, please contact Mr. Greg. If you are unable to volunteer for Field Day, but would still like to help, we are looking for donations of powdered Gatorade, cups and ice. Please contact Mr. Greg if you are able to help with any part of Field Day at greg@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org.

NOT GETTING OUR EMAILS?

If you signed up to get email updates but have not been receiving notices from the school, check your SPAM folder. If you still cannot find recent messages from the school and would like to be added to the contact list, email or call Dani at dani@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org or 717-334-1120.

Our Mission

The Gettysburg Montessori Charter School (GMCS) offers an innovative, standards-based education which embodies the theories of Dr. Maria Montessori by supporting a child-centered learning environment. Our school uses a holistic curriculum based on the Montessori educational philosophy to promote a lifelong love of learning and to achieve the Pennsylvania State Academic Standards.
THE PRINCIPAL’S PIECE
I promised I would write a letter for our last newsletter of the 2014-2015 school year. I have procrastinated in doing this, but I finally found some quotes that help me to say it all.

First, a quote by Ernie Harwell, an American Sportscaster, “It’s time to say goodbye, but I think goodbyes are sad and I’d much rather say hello. Hello to a new adventure.” My husband and I are starting on a new adventure and it is very difficult for us both to say “goodbye.” My years at GMCS could not have been more rewarding. It has been the perfect adventure in which to end my educational career of more than 25 years. The students, parents and staff have been a very important part of my life for the last four years. I will miss everyone intensely. I will especially miss all the hugs I get each day from the students (of all ages!!).

Everyone has been working extremely hard to make sure everything will continue on smoothly with the transition of hiring my replacement and with looking for, and moving to, our new location.

Two Dr. Seuss quotes come to mind when I think of how to end my “goodbye letter.” One is for the exciting future GMCS has, “You’re off to Great Places! Today is Your Day, Your Mountain in Waiting, So....get on your way!” As a school family, you are off to Great Places. This school has a wonderful future. And finally the last quote, which I feel sums it up for me for the time I have had at GMCS: “Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.” I'm definitely smiling because it happened and has had such a positive impact on my life!

Thank you to everyone!

Robin Kirkpatrick, principal

REMINDER: BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR VOLUNTEERS
All volunteers and chaperones need to have three up-to-date clearances on file with the school. These clearances are: Child Abuse History, PA State Police Criminal Record Check & FBI Criminal Background Check. All volunteers need to update their clearances every 36 months.

Parents and guardians are encouraged and welcomed to volunteer and be chaperones once all three clearances are acquired. If you are interested in pursuing these clearances, packets can be picked up in the office for your convenience or found on our website.
IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **Transportation:** Will there be a change in your child’s transportation? If so, please be sure to call the office no later than 1 pm on the day of the change, 717-334-1120. If the office does not hear from you, your child will be sent home as usual. (Please note that if you notify the school of a transportation change via email, you will need to email your child’s teacher, Robin, Leigh and Dani to ensure your message is communicated to all necessary parties.)

- **Sign out your child:** Be sure to sign your child out if you take them from school before class is dismissed. This is particularly important on special event days (i.e. Field Day, the last day of school, etc.), so that the office knows of any change in pickup routine.

- **Returning students:** Returning students will hear from the school by the end of June regarding details for the next school year, including your child’s classroom assignment.

- **Preschool balances:** Parents and guardians of preschool students – Please be sure to pay the balance of your preschool bill before the end of the school year. For current account information, check with Dani at dani@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org or 717-334-1120.

- **Lunch account balance:** Be sure to pay any balance on your child’s lunch account before Thursday, June 4. For current account information, check with Dani at dani@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org or 717-334-1120.

- **Bus transportation:** If you have not already done so, please submit your 2015-2016 bus transportation form to Leigh ASAP.

SNOW DAY MAKE-UP DATES

- Tuesday, June 2, full day
- Wednesday, June 3
- Thursday, June 4, half day

CHECK OUT OUR UPDATED WEBSITE!  www.gettysburgmontessoricharter.org

Check regularly for updates from the school to get upcoming event details, to view this month’s school menu, and so much more. Keep checking the classroom blogs under the ‘Our Classrooms’ tab!

FINE ARTS NIGHT – MAY 28TH @ 6PM

‘AMERICA, THE LAND THAT WE LOVE’ SHOWCASE NIGHT

- Students should arrive at 5:45 pm and report to their designated area in the gymnasium.
- Student performers should dress in RED, WHITE & BLUE
- Student works and art will be exhibited in the hallways.
- Showcase presentations of song and theatrical performances will begin promptly at 6:00 pm in the gym.
- Board elections end this evening! Please make sure you take advantage of this time to vote. (One ballot per family)
Join us Saturday, May 30th from 8 am to 12 pm for the Wolfpack’s 1st Annual Children’s Consignment Sale! The sale will take place in the GMCS gym. Don’t worry if you can’t make it before noon, there will be a half price sale from 1 pm to 3 pm that day. The sale will include children’s clothing sizes 0-16, Junior’s clothing, toys, electronics, maternity items, baby gear, children’s furniture (up to crib size), crib mattresses, children’s bedding, books, and games. You won’t want to miss this sale! Our consignor’s have already entered more than 2,000 items and we’re continuing to add more every day. The GMCS Wolfpack receives a portion of all sales, so please come out to support our school!

BAKE SALE: MAY 30TH @ 8AM

We’re currently looking for donations of baked goods and juice pouches/boxes to be sold during our consignment sale. Baked goods should be individually wrapped and items may be dropped off at the school on Friday, May 29. If you have any questions regarding donations of baked goods, please email Melissa at mbarham610@gmail.com.

PLANT SALE: MAY 30TH @ 8AM

Simply Willow Plants will be joining us at GMCS the morning of the consignment sale. They will provide a large variety of affordable plants, including:
- Annuals: $1–2
- Perennials (in one gallon pots): $5–7
- Hanging Baskets starting at $8
- Small Trees & Shrubs starting at $6
- Herbs and Vegetables will vary based on type/size

Simply Willow is graciously donating 25% of all sales to GMCS. If you have any questions regarding varieties or if you are looking for something specific, please contact Elijah at 717-965-2228 or at swplants@yahoo.com.
ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD
Voting for new members of the Board of Trustees will take place on Thursday, May 28 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at the school, and will be open during the first part of Fine Arts Night. Each family is eligible to vote once.

BOARD MEETINGS
GMCS Board Meetings are open to the public. You can find Board agendas and meeting minutes on our website under the Our Leadership tab. All board meetings are held in the GMCS Teacher Lounge. Upcoming Board Meetings are currently scheduled for:

Wednesday, June 24 @ 7:00 pm   Monday, July 20 @ 7:00 pm

NEW CEO HIRE
The Hiring Committee has interviewed and selected candidates for our new CEO position. We are currently in the process of checking background clearances and hope to announce this exciting new person to you all as soon as possible!

WHAT’S NEW WITH THE BUILDING?
The Building Committee, which is comprised of board members, faculty and administrators, has been working hard to develop our expansion plan with the realtor, architect, financial institutions, legal guides and municipalities. Stay tuned for updates!

CHARTER RENEWAL
We continue to have an open dialogue with GASD and supply any additional materials for our renewal upon request. The school district is required to provide an answer by June 30, 2015.

WHO DO I TALK TO AND WHAT ABOUT?
Dani • dani@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org
Handles lunch orders, absences & school communications

Leigh • leigh@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org
Handles bussing & Principal’s admin

Robin • robin@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org
Manages school & staff, curriculum, gives tours

Sara • sara@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org
Guidance counselor

Becky • becky@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org
Special Education coordinator

Board • board@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org
Governance of school & management of CEO/principal