



# From the Principal's Desk

By: Sarah Lord

Recently, I read an interesting description of how bald eagles prepare their baby eaglets to fly. It seemed symbolic to me, as we are the Sands Montessori Eagles and through partnership with parents, staff, and community, we help our “eagles” learn to fly. Like our preschoolers before they begin school, baby eagles start their lives in the warm comfortable nest that is lined with feathers and animal fur. When the eaglets are about twelve weeks old, their mother “stirs up their nest,” leaving the eaglets to sit on thorns and leaves. She does this because she wants her babies to get out

and fly. She begins to nudge her eaglets out of the nest even though they have no idea how to fly. The eaglets are probably frightened as they fall through the sky. Soon, the mother eagle swoops in and catches them. She takes them back to the nest and repeats the process of nudging and catching her eaglets until they realize that they have no choice but to fly. The mother eagle repeats this pattern because she loves her babies and wants them to have the best lives possible. Without their mother’s nudge, most eaglets won’t get out of the nest. At Sands, our students are

repeatedly “nudged out of the nest” (or their comfort zone) and take risks so that they can soar to new heights. As parents, staff and community members, we continually set new expectations and offer new challenges to help our “eaglets” learn to high levels, overcome challenges and develop into caring, responsible adults. I witness the fruits of this labor daily as I see our students grow academically, experience discovery, and become who they want to be through the nurturing guidance of our outstanding staff and parents.

## What Did Maria Montessori Mean by Sensitive Periods?

By: Kristin Crutcher

You may have heard people refer to Maria Montessori’s “sensitive periods” and wondered what was meant by it. The 3-6 teachers at Sands are very familiar with what Montessori meant by sensitive periods and how it applies to your preschool or kindergarten child.

Sensitive periods are transient periods of development in which a child is motivated to do an activity or work with the desire to master a particular skill or concept. Montessori identified these sensitive periods based on her years of observation of children. During these periods, a child’s brain is

especially sensitive or receptive to learning a particular skill, and it is easiest for the child to master that skill during this sensitive period. Children are often drawn to specific activities to meet these developmental needs. This is why you might observe your

Continued on Pg 2

Would you like to receive future issues on paper? Or would you prefer an email?

Please go to:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVV669R> to let us know!

To sign up for SMPO updates visit: [www.sandsparents.org](http://www.sandsparents.org)

### Inside this issue:

“How is Independence developed?”	2
9-12 Level Updates	3
Enrichment News	4
Spotlight on Mr. Bob	5
Library Corner	6
The Sandsbox Sale	7
Overcomers	8

# “How is Independence developed?”

Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Vickey and Community 2005 are tackling the third quarter theme “How is Independence developed?” Students in Community 2005 (6-9) are learning all about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Within this study they are also connecting our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter theme to independence. As a young boy Martin developed his independence by focusing on his academic studies and his desire to help others. We are all able to stand apart and stand up to what is right in the world. As our community learns and builds independence, it is our hope that one day, our names will be connected with such positive thoughts as the great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students have created mini globes that show what their dreams are. They have also been creating



timelines and sequencing charts to show how Dr. King developed from a young boy to a powerful leader. Students have also created an independence flip card. They wrote about how they are independent and also illustrated themselves being independent.



CONTINUED from Pg 1: child doing the same activity over and over again. Repetition is one way in which a child acquires new skills. The Montessori 3-6 environment is designed to help meet your child’s developmental needs. The Montessori materials have been created to address various sensitive periods, such as the sensitive period for language development, which starts right after a child is born and lasts until he or she is six. Your child’s 3-6 teacher will observe your child and help guide him or her to materials that will meet the developmental needs your child has.



Parents often wonder what they can do at home to help with their child’s development. One of the best ways to help a child’s language development is to read to your child each day. Even as babies, children are very receptive to listening to books, even if they don’t understand what is being said. When you

read to your child, he or she is learning new vocabulary words, pre-reading skills like rhyming and letter recognition, and sentence construction. A book or story before bedtime is a peaceful, relaxing way to calm down and end the day. Another way to help your child’s language development is to label various items in your house (like toys) to help them associate words with objects. Reading poems and singing songs are also useful language building activities. Please feel free to talk to your child’s 3-6 teacher if you have more questions about sensitive periods.

# 9-12 LEVEL UPDATES

9-12 Level has enjoyed time together on Home Community Days. Students are able to join other home communities during the morning hours and socialize while enjoying fun and purposeful activities. To name a few, we have written cards to troops overseas, constructed gratitude journals, acted out emotions, shared new board game activities, while enjoying company of new and old friends. Staff and students look forward to our community building time. As we all realize, 9-12 students SO enjoy being with one another!

All 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> level students are looking forward to a field trip to the National Underground Freedom Center Museum scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup>. Students will leave Sands Montessori at 9:30 in the morning and return before lunchtime. Students will be taken on a special tour of the museum and exposed to the importance Ohio and Cincinnati played in the Underground Railroad.

Mrs. Stevens is walking the 4<sup>th</sup> level through Thriving Learning Communities Curriculum, often referred to as *Happify*. During social studies each week lessons are presented on recognizing character strengths and building

upon those strengths. There are 24 recognized strengths, such as *Hope, Gratitude, Sense of Meaning, Leadership, Curiosity, and Kindness*. Students may also develop these strengths by completing activities on the computer at school or home. One of our goals is to establish a strengths-based language in our classrooms, school, and at home. 5<sup>th</sup> level also is enrolled in this program. Check out your child's work on [www.sands.happify.com](http://www.sands.happify.com)

Mrs. Heath is leading the 5<sup>th</sup> level in Advisory. Advisory supports students in setting goals for their future and understanding the importance of planning to meet those goals.

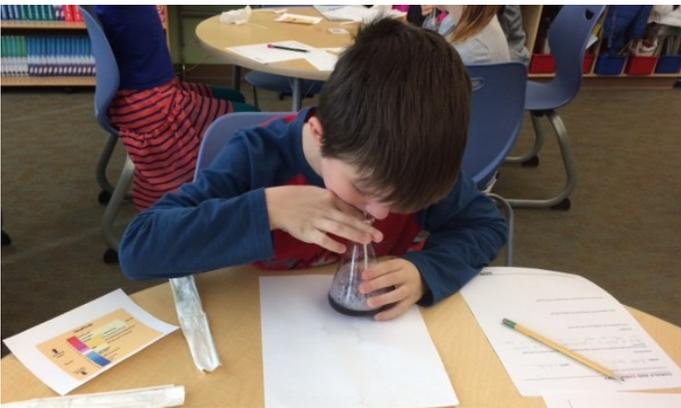
Currently, during social studies, students are researching colleges and creating college banners. Soon we will be able to enjoy their display of college banners. Within the next weeks please visit the 9-12 ELA to view their wonderful work.

4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> level social studies students are diving into Capstone projects. Capstone is a research project funded by General Electric. General Electric noticed workers of today were not able to work cooperatively together

on projects. Therefore, they developed Capstone so students will leave the classroom with skills that will benefit them in the workplace. Projects are connected to a main driving question based on our social studies curriculum. 4<sup>th</sup> level is pursuing Ohio inventors. 4<sup>th</sup> level is also charged with putting on their thinking caps and becoming inventors. Groups of students are to think of and design an invention that would be useful today. If you have any clever ideas please share your idea with your favorite 4<sup>th</sup> level student. Just beware that 4<sup>th</sup> level will retain the patent rights!

In 5<sup>th</sup> level science students have been interested in studying ecosystems and how they are changing. Much of the interest is in researching and understanding the role climate change may play in our ever changing environment. Also, Mrs. Rebich's Home Community Room 2011, has been reading with the kindergarteners in Home Community 1011 this year. It is a great way to build reading confidence, fluency, and community within our school. A fun time has been enjoyed by all!

There is much going on in our upper level classrooms. Come in and take a look!



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ERIN DEAN  
ON BEING RECOGNIZED AS THE  
WARM 98 TEACHER OF THE WEEK!**

# ENRICHMENT NEWS

## Regional Movie Critic Visits Sands Young Writer's Workshop

On Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, the Young Writer's Workshop (YWW), the writing program for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Sands Montessori Gifted Program, welcomed regional movie reviewer, Mr. T. T. Stern-Enzi ([www.terrencetodd.com](http://www.terrencetodd.com)). In addition to writing movie reviews for City Beat and the Dayton City Paper, Mr. T. T. is the founder and Executive Director of WatchWriteNow ([www.watchwritenow.com](http://www.watchwritenow.com)), Film Clubs for Creative and Critical Thinkers.

With the 48 young writers, Mr. T. T. shared some of his vast writing experiences including parts of his

career journey. Of particular interest to the writers was the fantastic fact that Mr. T. T. watches at least 300 movies a year and has traveled to the Toronto Film Festival and to Germany to watch movies. In middle school he and his friends would co-write pieces where one would write an extensive story beginning and the others would add an involved middle and an exciting ending.

When Mr. T. T. finished his presentation, the young writers shared two key points they learned: 1) Write about what you care about and; 2) avid readers make good writers.

WatchWriteNow, the afterschool film club is open to all 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Families of interested sixth graders should

contact Ms. Delaney at

[delanea@cpsboe.k12.oh.us](mailto:delanea@cpsboe.k12.oh.us) and visit [www.watchwritenow.com](http://www.watchwritenow.com).

*Young Writer's Workshop with Mr. TT Stern-Enzi*



## Intervention Team News

The intervention team at Sands Montessori is continually collaborating with the teachers and specialists to ensure adequate support for identified students and those in need of intervention at various levels. We are fortunate to have several parent volunteers and paraprofessionals who have been trained in norm-reference, researched-based intervention programs and provide direct instruction to students in the Response to Intervention (RtI) process on a consistent basis. In addition, we have many adults serving as tutors and mentors for students across all grade bands. Our very own Therese Holt is also a huge asset to our team. She serves as our literacy support specialist and provides reading instruction to more than 30 students a week at the tier 3 level of intervention.

All of the above work is measured for efficacy through administration of a building-wide progress monitoring tool at routine intervals, among other

classroom, district, and state assessments. Our school psychologist, Annie Tate, has been an integral part of establishing this system and helping to analyze this and other data to best determine the needs of each individual. We have seen students closing achievement gaps as a result of early intervention and feel proud of the work that is being done to ensure we maintain 100% passage of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Because of the structure of our classroom environments, we have the opportunity to provide a spectrum of services in a variety of settings and we are grateful for your continued support.

If you would like to join our volunteer taskforce, please contact Tara Litmer at 363-5023 or [litmert@cpsboe.k12.oh.us](mailto:litmert@cpsboe.k12.oh.us)

**If your child passed the Walnut Hills High School entrance exam and is considering attending the school, this workshop is for you!**

As you know, Walnut Hills is one of the top high schools in the nation and is known for its rigorous academic program. To help parents better understand what they and their children will experience if they choose to attend Walnut Hills, Mt. Washington School is offering a **free one-hour workshop** "Be Ready to Soar Like an Eagle at Walnut Hills High School."

Presented by Susan Shelton, Executive Director of **MindPeace**, parent of two Walnut Hills students and the former President of the Walnut Hills High School Parent Organization; she will give you tips on how to support your child's transition to Walnut Hills and how to keep them on the track to success!

**Date:** Thursday, February 18

**Time:** 6:30pm-7:30pm

**Location:** Mt. Washington School Art Room; 1730 Mears Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45230

Pre-registration is required. Please contact Ramona Malloni at [mallonr@cps-k12.org](mailto:mallonr@cps-k12.org) or call 363-3835.

# Physical Education News

## Fuel up to Play 60

Fuel Up to Play 60 has a new “home” full of information, resources and activities designed to help students lead more active and healthier lives with support from their Program Advisors! The updated FuelUpToPlay60.com features visual and interactive content, with helpful tools and new and exciting elements designed to support success with the Fuel Up to Play 60 program. Receive program news and insights, and read exciting stories and feedback from students and educators about how Fuel Up to Play 60 is making a positive impact across the country! Fuel Up to Play 60’s new website was made possible through the generous support of partners, staff, team members, adult Program Advisors and Student Ambassadors nationwide.

## Cincinnati Ballet

Ballet Lessons were offered to all of our 6 – 9 students on November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. Five students from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade were chosen to participate in the Cincinnati

three parts, The First Steps Residency, Ballet Foundations, and ultimately The Budig Academy Experience.

## Jump Rope for Heart

We raised \$6,307.26 to improve the lives of all Americans. The American Heart Association’s goal is to provide public health education in a variety of ways. The American Heart Association is the nation’s leader in CPR education training and helps people understand the importance of healthy lifestyle choices. They provide science-based treatment guidelines to healthcare professions to help provide quality care to patients; educate lawmakers, policymakers and the public as they advocate for changes to protect and improve the health of communities.

## Billion Mile Race

Our friends at Tufts University in Boston have just launched a new campaign for America’s schools: the Billion Mile Race. They’re challenging schools to walk, jog, and run one



Ballet Dance Program. Cincinnati Ballet’s Cincy Dance! Program provides free dance classes and dance attire to young people with or without formal dance training. Their goal is to introduce children from a wide range of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds to dance; giving them the chance to learn both the discipline and the joy of dance in a safe, structured and supportive environment. The Cincy Dance! Program consists of

billion miles through participation in school-based programs like The Walking Classroom. Any and all miles achieved at school count whether your kids are on the move with The Walking Classroom, as part of walk-to-school, or at an annual event like a 5K or walk-a-thon. Over 1200 schools across the country are already tracking their miles and contributing to the ambitious goal. — Jennifer Toebbe



## Spotlight on....Mr Bob Cook

Mr. Bob Cook has been the building engineer at Sands Montessori for six years. He has worked in Cincinnati Public Schools for 12 years. Mr. Bob graduated from Deer Park High School and Scarlet Oaks. When Mr. Bob is not at school he enjoys camping, remodeling homes and spending time with family. Mr. Bob enjoys cooking meals for the entire staff and he makes a scrumptious breakfast casserole. Mr. Bob’s favorite thing about Sands Montessori is “the kids.”

Greetings from the Health Clinic and the Wellness Committee! January was "Volunteer Blood Donor Month" and to celebrate we were so happy to have the Hoxworth Blood Mobile at Sands. Faculty, staff and our Sands family and friends were invited to give the gift of life. We had a great response to the call.

Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> was American Heart Association's "National Wear Red Day." We are so excited to spread the word about this day of recognition for the leading killer of women, heart disease. February 5<sup>th</sup>, all faculty, staff and students were encouraged to show support of women's health by wearing red. We also had free blood pressure screenings from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm for all faculty, staff and Sands friends. All events were sponsored by the Wellness Committee.



# Library Corner

## Reading Tips from the Librarian Mrs. Appino

**There are five key components to becoming a good reader.**

1. Phonological and phonemic awareness: making a relationship between the letters of the alphabet and the sounds that they make; recognize and manipulate the sounds and syllables within words
2. Phonics: blending the sounds of letters to create words
3. Fluency: reading smoothly at a good pace and with good expression
4. Vocabulary: understanding the meaning of the words that are read
5. Comprehension: connecting what is read with what is already known; visualizing or seeing pictures in the mind's eye while reading; self-questioning

**Reading with your child 3-4 days a week will help them develop these skills.**

Beginning readers, or those struggling with phonics, can build confidence and fluency with repeated reading, including:

- Using an easy reader, read short phrases out loud while pointing to the words.
- Ask your child to reread the same words back to you.
- Repeat the process with the same phrase until they can read it smoothly.

If your child reads fluently but is reluctant to read independently, this could mean that they are struggling with vocabulary or comprehension. These skills will strengthen if you read out loud together regularly and engage in discussion.

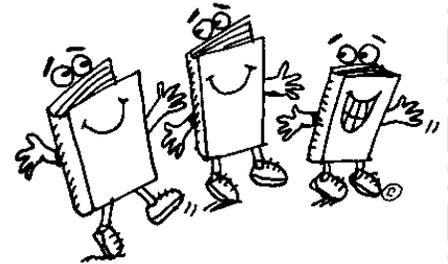
- Take time to pause in between every couple of pages and verbalize your thoughts, questions, and the connections you are making with the text.
- Suggest connections your child may be able to make based on experiences you know that they have had.
- Use descriptive language to tell them what you see as the scene unfolds in your

mind. (Think about size, shape, color, number, sounds, location, time, mood, background, and perspective when verbalizing your description.)

- Talk about the meanings of words, especially those you think they might not understand.

Monitor students who are reading independently by asking questions to check for comprehension.

- What is the problem in the story?
- Tell me about your favorite character. What do you have in common with the character?
- What do you think is going to happen next? How do you think the story will end?
- How is this story similar to the last book you read? How is it different?



This year, the SMPO is trying a brand new fundraiser that has been wildly successful in several other schools. We hope that this fundraiser can bring in over \$7,000 as well as get our little scholars excited about reading!

The best part of the Read-a-Thon is that 100% the money raised will be used at our school for our children. SMPO uses all the profits made each year to directly support

our teachers and classrooms. We pay for field trip busses, special presenters in the classrooms, and extra supplies for the classrooms.

Students started collecting pledges on Friday, January 29. Friends and family can sponsor your child's reading either as a "flat rate" or "per minute."

**Reading officially began on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.** Students have 15 days to read as many minutes as they can. Prizes will be awarded for fundraising efforts as well as minutes read.

### What Minutes Count??

**THESE MINUTES DO COUNT!**  
 Reading at home.  
 Reading on the bus.  
 Being read to by a parent, teacher, or friend.

Reading the cereal box at breakfast.  
 Reading at school (during times designated by your teacher).  
 Reading with a silly hat on your head.  
 Reading to a pet.  
 Reading before bed.  
 Reading after bedtime, under the covers, with a flashlight. (If your parents say it is ok!)

**THESE MINUTES DO NOT COUNT!**  
 Reading before February 5.  
 Reading after February 19.  
 Reading when you are supposed to be doing your math work.

*For more details go to:*  
<http://sandsparents.org/fundraisers/read-a-thon/>

The Girls on the Run program is coming to Sands in spring 2016! Its mission is to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum, which creatively integrates running. It's not about running fast, it's about moving with confidence!



**WHEN:** Registration begins January 11, 2016; Spring Season is February 8-May 7, 2016

**WHERE:** Sands Montessori School

**QUESTIONS:** [npopegeorge@starone.com](mailto:npopegeorge@starone.com) or [khuneke@gmail.com](mailto:khuneke@gmail.com)

**PROGRAM FEE:** \$160 – Financial assistance is available; we want every girl to be able to participate! Discounts are offered on an income-based sliding scale. Registration and more information -visit [www.gotrcincinnati.org](http://www.gotrcincinnati.org) or call 513-321-1056

## Five Minutes of Fame

Sands Student Council has brought back the tradition of "Five Minutes of Fame" during lunch for students in 6-9 and 9-12. Students sign up to sing, dance, give words of wisdom, or share another talent during the last five minutes of lunch on Fridays.

# THE SANDS BOX

 *A children's consignment sale benefiting Sands Montessori*

Do you have clothes and gear piling up with no place to go? Consider selling with the SMPO during our first annual SandsBox consignment sale **Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

We're looking for gently-used baby and kids items like toys, clothes and gear for a consignment sale to benefit the school. Sell your items with us – you keep 75% of the sale and 25% goes to the SMPO to benefit Sands Montessori.

For more information, visit [www.sandsparents.org/announcing-the-sandsbox-consignment-sale/](http://www.sandsparents.org/announcing-the-sandsbox-consignment-sale/). If you're interested in becoming a seller, please sign up by March 1 by contacting Jana Stark and Joie Linser at [thesandsboxsale@gmail.com](mailto:thesandsboxsale@gmail.com).

## Sands Garden Program

The core Garden Program team has been busy meeting with Sands staff to assess next steps for the Garden Program. This is the most exciting time in garden program history to get involved. We have positive momentum and many opportunities to take the program to the next level.

We'll meet **9-10 a.m. on Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup>** at Starbucks Skytop (bottom of Beechmont Hill by Remke's), we will hold a 60 minute meeting to provide a recap of 2015 and share plans for 2016. We will be seeking input, volunteers and new committee members.

If you've been seeking a way to volunteer at school that aligns with your personal interests and talents (gardening, building, teaching), then this is YOUR opportunity!

If you can't attend but would like to volunteer or become a member, please email Jackie Roberto at [jackie.roberto@me.com](mailto:jackie.roberto@me.com)



## YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW

Yearbook time is right around the corner! **Order online by February 26<sup>th</sup>** at [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com) and use the school ID code 3590216.

## National "Walk In" for Public Education

Help show your support for public education and Sands Montessori on **Wednesday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.**

The school and local community will gather in front of the building at 9 a.m. and walk in together to celebrate public education. Feel free to have your students make signs or posters to show how much we love our school. *The Walk In will take place during car line so please be sure to be mindful of traffic and use the cross walk when approaching the school.*

### Dress for the Weather:

Please dress your child appropriately for the weather and label all clothing items. Recess will be outdoors as long as the weather.com "feels like" temperature is 28 degrees or higher. If your child is missing a clothing item, please feel free to check the Lost and Found that is located in the cafetorium on the stage.

### Help Us Be a Good Neighbor

During dismissal, please do not block the driveway of Mount Washington United Methodist Church. Please allow traffic that is attempting to enter and exit the parking lot to proceed when our car line extends onto Corbly.



**SANDS MONTESSORI**

6421 Corbly Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45230

Phone: 513-363-5000

Fax: 513-363-5020

*Preparing Students  
For Life*



**Spelling Bee Champion!**

With this win, **Makandian Doumbia** qualified for participation in the WCPO 9 On Your Side Region II Spelling Bee on March 12, 2016 at Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy. Congratulations on this wonderful accomplishment!

Visit our new website:  
<http://sandsmontessori.cps-k12.org/>

---

**Overcomers: Each month Teachers nominate students who have overcome an obstacle**

---

**January Overcomers:**

**Aiden  
LeCates**



**Aniyah  
Bell**



**Makandian  
Doumbia**



**Alex  
Gilchrist**

