



The Eagle's Nest

From the Principal's Desk

By: Sarah Lord

It is hard to believe that the 2015-16 school year is coming to an end. Over the past nine months, I have been moved by the strong partnerships that exist in our school between students, staff, and parents. This triangle of students, staff, and parents is more than a symbol that we use on our letterhead and on our spirit wear. It is the essence of what sets our school apart and makes us great. Working together, we are able to respect and consider all perspectives to make sound decisions and provide wonderful opportunities that benefit our children.

We have many opportunities for you to continue to be involved in our school this spring and next school year.

As always, parents are welcome to volunteer in the classroom. Your support is instrumental in helping students believe in themselves and enriching their learning.

In addition, we invite you to have a voice in our school by becoming involved in our SMPO, attending our monthly LSDMC meetings, or considering pursuing the opportunity to serve on our school's ILT (Instructional Leadership Team). If you are interested in serving on ILT, please contact Alex Linser at AlexLinser@gmail.com.

I look forward to see you at these exciting events!

May 11th Kindergarten Night 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 12th for our Spring Concert 7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 13th SMPO Coffee 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 14th Go Cincinnati Gardening Event 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 14th SMPO Black & White Gala 5:30 pm

Tuesday, May 17th SMPO Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 19th for International Night 6:00 p.m.

Join us for International Night—May 19– 6:00-8:00 pm

Hosted by the Diversity Committee, International Night is a family-friendly event that showcases the rich and unique cultures represented in the Sands community. This year's event will take place on **Thursday, May 19, from 6-8pm.**

From 6-7pm, parents and students can tour student projects representing countries from around the world. In the cafeteria, food provided by Sands parents

and donated by local restaurants can be enjoyed. There will also be a Bake Sale sponsored by community 1002 and *Girls on the Run* to raise money for a local orphanage.

At 7:15pm, everyone is invited into the gym where Napoleon Maddux will perform and explain how being a creative hip-hop performer has enhanced his critical thinking abilities. If you are able to attend, it is strongly encouraged you

bring a cultural dish to share that can feed 20-30 people. A green sign-up sheet went home the week of April 18, and you can download it at www.sandsparents.org.

If you are interested in hosting a booth, providing food or volunteering to help, please return the form to your child's teacher.

Please contact Karen Huneke at hunekek@cpsboe.k12.oh.us with any questions.

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Sands Volunteer Appreciation Celebration

May 13, 2016 at 9:30 am Sands Cafeteria

Please join us as we show our gratitude for all you have done for the students and staff this year!

NEWS FROM THE ENRICHMENT DEPARTMENT

The Sands Montessori Gifted Program, led by Annette Delaney, is rolling out a new acronym and tag line: **Scholars Of Academic Rigor**. After months of brainstorming, they have decided that SOAR best characterizes Sands gifted program. Fourth and fifth grade students will be working on creating an icon for the Sands Montessori SOAR Program that is in harmony with our school theme and mascot.



Third Grade Enrichment students are having a blast as they prepare for their *Invention Convention* to be held on May 13th. These eager inventors are challenged to use their imaginations to make an adaptation, create a board or video game, create a new sport, make our environment better or design a new toy. The students will be working on their inventions in Enrichment Class and will create a prototype or detailed drawing to share at the Invention Convention.

The BFG is the third grade Literature

Circle selection! Literature Circle is very similar to adult book club but is geared towards elementary students. Each week students take turns being the discussion leader, word wizard, illustrator, story connector, or summarizer for their small group. It is rewarding to see the level of maturity demonstrated as the participants become more and more astute at conducting their own groups. Look for *The BFG* movie coming summer 2016.

Students in fourth grade are working in small teams to create a civilization. Each team is responsible for establishing the government, transportation, clothing, shelter, language, flora and fauna of their new civilization. The newly created civilizations will be shared in May.

Fifth Grade Genius Hour is modeled after Google's idea to allow some of their engineers to spend a portion of their work week engaged in thinking of new ideas. In the enrichment classroom, the students were given time to think and be creative about a topic of which they are passionate.

Project ideas range from *designing an Improved Smart Home* to *Examining How Cats React to Different Smells*. Presentations were held during the week of April 25th.



In the sixth grade Young Writer's Workshop, Student creative writing pieces included themes of a sci-fi dystopian society, a comedic tale of a sock separated from its twin, and a uniquely descriptive tale of woe. Many of the writers demonstrated a level of sophistication that includes complex story development and mature sentencing and paragraphing.

WatchWriteNow the afterschool film club for creative thinkers is in full swing. Twenty-three eager sixth grade students meet with Mr. TT Stern-Enzi after school on Wednesdays to explore films. The free program runs through May 11th.

Peas, Radishes and Students in 9-12

End of the year testing (EOY) is up and under way and continues through the first several weeks of May. Hats off to our testing coordinators, Kris Spurgeon and Kim Heath! Using our limited number of computers they were able to work out a testing schedule to accommodate our student population. The most important testing advice we ask you to share with students is to take the time and effort to read each question carefully. Test stress causes many students to rush and miss important details. Often during daily assignments we observe students completing a work before devoting time to understanding the exact question. Understanding the exact question usually leads to a better outcome. Also, please remind students to receive plenty of sleep, eat a good breakfast, and bring a snack. We have high expectations for our test takers and are looking forward to positive results.

All students are soon to be moving up to the next grade level! We wish our 6th level the best as they move on to their new school and want them to know we will miss them and ask them to remember to visit Sands. During the week of May 9th-May 13th our 9-12 community will welcome 3rd level students and teachers for a tour of the 9-12 learning environment. School years pass by so quickly and we strive to make the 9-12 experience a positive adventure. During the tour students will meet 9-12 staff, tour classrooms, hallways, locate bathrooms, and receive an overview of the daily schedule and routine of 4th level. Students will be given information to take home and share about their visit plus a sticker to wear announcing to everyone they are on their way to 4th level. Our hope is to lessen some of the concerns of transitioning to a new learning environment and to support the excitement of moving up!

How does the amount of water a plant receives impact its growth? Well, the fourth grade science classes could tell you it's all about the VARIABLE. All three class sessions planted pea, radish, and cucumber seeds. All of the seeds CONSTANT-ly received the same type and amount of soil, light, and air. Within each class, there were five different directions for watering the containers of seeds: group A-50ml of water daily; group B-25 ml of water daily; group C -50 ml every other day; group D-50ml once a week; group E-no water. As you might expect, there were varying results; what you might not expect is that all types germinated-if only for a brief period. After two weeks some plants have drowned, some are bone dry, and others are thriving. One of the pea plants is standing a proud 11" tall! If you are up for a challenge, see if you are as smart as a fourth grader, and try to figure out which plants were most successful.

BLACK & WHITE

Gala

Silent Auction & Dinner
An evening of great food & friends
to benefit Sands Montessori

On Saturday, May 14th, the SMPO is hosting our annual Silent Auction to raise money to support the students and educators!

Visit sandsparents.org for more information and to purchase your tickets. If you're planning to attend this event, please register now. Join the Sands Montessori community for this adults-only event with dinner, drinks, and both a silent and live auction. Our goal is to raise \$10,000! We hope to provide \$5,375 to classrooms, specials, intervention and more. Funds over and above will be put toward field-trip bussing, school-wide assemblies, International Night, Grandparents/Special Friends Day, Wellness Night and more!

How You Can Help -Donate an item for one of our eight Raffle Baskets. Individual classrooms will not be creating classroom baskets this year, instead we are collecting as a whole school community. The basket themes are: Toys for Girls/ Toys for Boys/Family Game Night Family Movie Night/Lego Fun Father's Day/Baking/Cheers

Need ideas? [Sign up here](#) and select an item or items to donate for the Baskets.

Donate gift cards, merchandise, or services to be auctioned off.

Host a party. You provide the party and supplies and donate the funds raised to the auction. Possible party themes include: Margaritas for Moms, Father & Son Camping, Bike Overnight, etc.

Purchase a ticket to donate for a staff member to attend. Volunteer your time.

Sign up to volunteer to help before, during or after the event. Shifts are broken up into hour time slots so you can still have plenty of time to enjoy the event with your family and friends!

WHEN: Saturday, May 14, 2016

WHERE: [Eastgate Receptions](#)

ATTIRE: Black and White [Business Casual Attire Recommended](#)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

5:30pm - Hors D'oeuvres Hour and Silent Auction Opens

Peruse a great selection of items donated from many of your favorite Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky businesses. Grab a Gift Card Tag from our Grub Grab wall and pay 75% of its value. Purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win a Raffle Basket: Toys for Girls, Toys for Boys, Family Game Night, Family Movie Night, Lego Fun, Father's Day, Baking, and Cheers. Raffle Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

6:30pm - Elegant Buffet Dinner Begins

Slow Roasted Top Round of Beef with Red Wine Demi Glaze & Horseradish, Chicken Monterey, Potatoes, Fresh Vegetables, Spring Greens Salad and Fresh Baked Rolls. Vegetarian Dinner available upon request.

9pm - Live Auction and Presentation

Unique opportunities to spend half days with your favorite staff members will be auctioned off live!



SPOTLIGHT ON...KAREN HUNEKE

Karen has worked at Sands for two years and prior to Sands she taught at Stephens Elementary School in Boone, Ky. She loves to cook, bake and spend time with her family. Karen is a teacher and parent at Sands Montessori. She is a coach for the 2016 Girls on the Run and is looking forward to the race and running beside her students. Also, she is actively involved and spearheading the International Night that will take place on Thursday, May 19th at Sands. Karen loves the following things about Sands: her teammates, how everyone really loves their students and cares about each child. Oftentimes, you will find Karen baking special treats for the staff and students at Sands!!!

Continued...

TICKETS: \$35 per ticket for Dinner, Beer & Wine; \$25 per ticket for Dinner with Cash Bar (in advance). Tickets will cost an additional \$5 at the door.

For donations, you may contact us to make pick-up arrangements or send directly to the school: Attention Silent Auction. Be sure to label your donation with your name and email address. All donations are tax deductible. Upon receipt of your donation, we will send a thank you confirmation, which will include our tax identification number as receipt for tax purposes.



Are you looking for a way to easily provide educational activities for your child this summer? Look no further! **Learning.com** is an engaging learning platform provided by the district that teaches a wide range of digital literacy skills for all levels. It is important that children become familiar with the keyboard and word processing skills. They are required to type responses as early as third grade during online testing sessions. Practicing at home will help ease test anxiety by increasing their typing fluency. **A class from each level (K, 6-9, 9-12) will be rewarded for completing the most learning.com lessons this summer.** To log in, students use their computer username and password then enter "Cincinnati City Public Schools" under district. For assistance see the parent resource guides at <http://support.learning.com/community/parents/>



BOOK FAIR

Thanks to your support we earned over 6000 Scholastic dollars from the fall book fair. So far we have added a new reading corner, much needed shelving, and over 100 new titles. Our year end book fair will be held May 16th-20th with family shopping night on Thursday, May 19th.

READERS THEATER

Students in 6-9 as well as 4th and 5th level will be hard at work the next few weeks during library class preparing a reader's theater based on various multicultural tales. If all goes according to plan, their performances will be broadcast during International Night.

MATERIALS DUE

We had our last book check out the week of April of 25th. All materials are due back to the library no later than Friday, May 13th. If you know a book is lost, fines may be paid to Ms. Robyn. Otherwise they will be posted to PowerSchool.

♥ Welcome to Kindergarten

For current parents of the 2016-17 kindergarten class, parents will have the opportunity to meet each other and become more familiar with Sands Montessori,

kindergarten expectations and the Montessori Method at **Kindergarten Night, set for 6:00-7:30 p.m. on May 11.** Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to Mrs. Maura O'Keefe at okeefem@cpsboe.k12.oh.us.

This event is for parents only if their child currently attends preschool at Sands. Families new to the school are also invited, and they are being asked to bring their children so the kids have a chance to see the school, interact with the staff and learn a bit about their new school.

Special Education Spotlight

As we complete the final rounds of building-wide, district and state assessments, we are careful to provide all students with a testing environment that allows them to perform their best and adequately demonstrate growth. We are grateful to our lunch room manager, Ms. Stephanie Neal, for supplying the whole school with snacks to ensure our students are well fed and ready to work during this potentially



stressful time. As the intervention team leader, I cannot say enough about the flexibility of our staff in allowing us to manage the crazy schedule that is required during these few weeks. It is truly an "all-hands-on-deck" endeavor that goes off without (much of!) a hitch. Our very own Kris Spurgeon, and her testing coordinator co-workers, did a fabulous job of problem solving and working through the quirks of the new state format, making it a nearly seamless process for the students.

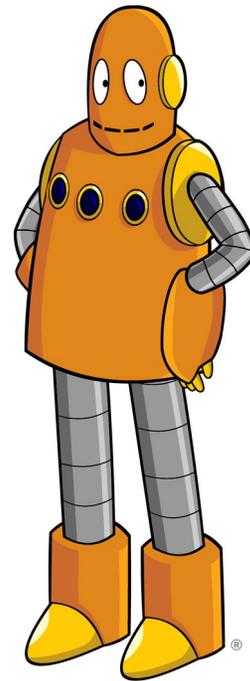
As we look at each student and work to meet his/her needs in the coming grades, it is truly a collaborative effort to confirm placement plans. Sands is fortunate to have such a caring and talented group of educators who continue to look at the whole child. Our 9-12 teachers and intervention specialists work hard to prepare our graduating sixth graders for their big transition to junior high. Time is spent visiting schools, preparing visual supports and social stories, and meeting with parents to discuss what's to come. While we will miss our sixth graders immensely, we feel they are well prepared to face the challenges and adventures to lie ahead. We are equally as excited to witness the excitement of the third grade and kindergarten students as they continue to mature and solidify concepts in preparation for their big move.

The intervention team frequently and systematically works with the general education teachers to review the needs of all students, not just those that have been identified. As we plan for the 2016-2017 school year, we are careful to reflect upon the supports that were in place this year and discuss progress monitoring data before making

suggestions for future supports. Through the generosity of the SMPO, we were able to secure continued, building-wide access to a great, on-line intervention program that allows students to engage with direct instruction in areas of weakness across the curriculum, both at school and at home. Ask your child if they have tried RunMoby and encourage them to request a log in from their teacher if they are not familiar with the program and could

use a little extra practice in math or language over the summer.

The intervention team is looking forward to recharging in June and July and can't wait to see all those smiling faces upon our return in August! - Tara Litmer



Be a Germ-Buster

WASH YOUR HANDS



End of the year greetings from the Health Clinic. It's been an overall healthy year! Great job, parents and students, remembering that the number one way to be healthy and germ free is to wash your hands regularly. With spring time also comes the chance to be stung by bees and wasps. Make sure when you come to school, if you are wearing sandals or open toe shoes, to be very careful when you are out on the playground and in the grassy areas. No one knows if they are allergic to insect stings unless they have been stung first! So, be careful out there. I hope everyone has a great summer! Don't forget the sunscreen! See you in August!

Teacher Sarah Lytle named 2016 Fund for Teachers Fellow

Sarah Lytle, was recently named a 2016 Fund for Teachers (FFT) Fellow the only recipient from Cincinnati Public Schools. With her \$3,600 FFT grant, Lytle will embark on a two-week study tour of Indonesia, learning about the beliefs and practices of ancient and modern Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists, to increase students' understanding and appreciation of other cultures.

"In general, teaching gives me a context for satisfying my unquenchable thirst for knowledge," said Lytle. "My FFT fellowship allows me to experience life in a Muslim country, hear for myself the call to prayer issued from mosques and take part in the observances connected to the holy month of Ramadan. Knowing

I have students with whom to share my new insights into Islam, Hinduism,



and Buddhism gives great purpose to this work."

Throughout her fellowship, Lytle plans to dialogue with individuals and

families from urban and rural areas of Bali and Java, as well as document historic sites, such as largest Buddhist temple in the world in Borobudur, Java, and the carved Hindu temples of Prambanan. She will also observe the role the arts plays in the religious lives of Hindus by attending the annual Bali Arts Festival in Denpasar, Bali.

Upon her return, Lytle plans to develop an inter-disciplinary unit called "Indonesia: Connecting Art & Religion" which will culminate in a community wide International Night for students to demonstrate their new knowledge and develop presentation skills. Projects will include 3D models of a mosque, temple or shrine they design, shadow puppetry common in Java and modern dance.



Annette Delaney (LEFT) has been chosen to be a summer of 2016 participant in the National Endowment for Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop: The Most Southern Place on Earth.



Kris Spurgeon (RIGHT) achieved Lead/Master teacher credentialing.



EVERYBODY COUNTS ASSEMBLY ON MAY 13TH

Disability awareness programs are influential to the overall environment of a school. Disability awareness in schools is extremely important because it educates students so they may become better citizens. Including disability and ableism understanding into a multicultural education will benefit student's long term by guiding them through the process and providing them with tools they need to be more understanding of diversity. Inclusion is important and supports understanding because contact between majority and minority groups is an effective way to eliminate prejudice and support tolerance for differences. In regards to any type of diversity, education and involvement is important to developing understanding and acceptance. Researchers have found awareness programs to be essential because they lead to positive attitudes towards students with disabilities. When students are educated on the topic of diversity or specifically disability, they are likely to develop a more positive attitude towards differences. Negative attitudes towards students with disabilities develop out of ignorance. As a solution to end ignorance, disability awareness programs educate students, foster and nourish positive the topic of diversity or specifically disability, they are likely to develop a more positive attitude attitudes in typically developing peers towards students with disabilities. Researchers believe that negative attitudes towards

individuals with disabilities begin to form early in the developmental process therefore, it is important to educate students while they are of primary school age so they can carry their positive attitude with them through their schooling and through life. Awareness programs are a way to promote acceptance, understanding and increase knowledge about different disabilities, which as a result, leads to the decline of negative attitudes towards individuals with disabilities. The decline of negative attitudes is key to the development of an accepting school environment.



The Disability Awareness Program is a unique presentation that dispels myths about persons who have a disability and shows students how they can be successful in and out of the classroom. World class wheelchair basketball athlete, Jacob Counts, who happens to have a disability, will come to our school to "tell it like it is" about life with a disability. This program consists of three parts: First, Jacob will share his

successes he has experienced both on and off the basketball court, and show how these experiences have benefited his overall lifestyle. Second, will be a "no holds barred" question and answer period during which the audience (students and faculty) will have the opportunity to gain knowledge about disabilities. The third part of the interactive presentation will be a demonstration of fundamental wheelchair basketball skills, which is sure to thrill and amaze your students and faculty. This program will provide motivation to all students and faculty, as well as point out how overcoming obstacles in life can provide the tools needed for success.

<https://youtu.be/iJhTY21JfpA>

SkoolAids "Ethan Project" is based on the book Ethan the Brave. Sara Bitter is a Cincinnati mother on a mission to change the way people perceive and welcome differences, one person at a time. The mother of a son who has a developmental disability, she is a tireless advocate working to educate young people and adults, bridging gaps where understanding and communication break down, so that everyone is ultimately included and appreciated for who they are as individuals. SkoolAid uses the video "Ethan the Great" as a segue to their presentation about how we can celebrate our differences and commonalities - Jennifer Toebbe



Jennifer Toebbe has been nominated by Superintendent Mary Ronan for the 2016 Rotary Club of Cincinnati "Community Service of the Year Award."

PARENT SURVEY: TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

The *Sands Montessori Instructional Leadership Team (ILT)*, made up of administrators, teachers, staff, and parents, invite you to take part in a short survey about your experiences and opinions of *Sands Montessori*. As a primary stakeholder group, we greatly value your input as we work to strengthen *Sands Montessori* for current and future students. Your input is anonymous and answers will be used in aggregate. As such, please be as honest as possible - there are no right or wrong answers. We appreciate your sincere feedback. This survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/68G9DVS>



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*Preparing Students
For Life*

Abigail Rhodus



Chas Evans

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

**Overcomers—Each month Teachers
nominate students who have overcome an
obstacle—Congratulations to each of you!**

Sofia Smith



Tamya Bryant



Finola Stowe



Miguel Townsend

