

From the Principal's Desk

By: Sarah Lord



SANDS MONTESSORI

The Eagle's Nest

At Sands Montessori, we take great pride in creating a wonderful place for students to learn and grow. We recognize that in order to become the best school we can be, it is important for all stakeholders to have a voice. Thank you for your participation in the Spring 2016 Parent Feedback Survey. We value your thoughts! I'd like to share some key points from the survey below and how as a school we're addressing them.

The survey results clearly indicate that parents choose Sands for the Montessori philosophy, quality teachers, and academic rigor. Surveyed parents believe Sands is best defined by Montessori, strong teacher-student relationships and a peaceful, welcoming environment. Of the surveyed parents, 94% believe that their child is receiving a high quality academic experience at Sands and 88% feel their family's experience at Sands has been better than or as expected. In addition, 92% of surveyed parents feel welcome to participate in their child's classroom.

Comments from the survey reveal that parents value communication and consistency. Our Team Leaders and Communication Committee are working establish consistent practices among the staff. Survey results also indicate that parents value rigor. Our

Innovation and Rigor Committee will be developing an action plan to develop and share strategies throughout the year to enrich learning for our students. We strive to ensure that students are continually being challenged to think critically and problem solve so that they will be successful in the real world. Our ILT (Instructional Leadership Team) is working hard to revise goals for our 2016-17 school improvement plan, the One Plan.

Survey feedback demonstrated that parents want to ensure that we promote and celebrate diversity. Likewise, our Positive School Culture Committee will continue to seek strategies to support our belief that our differences are what make us great as well as to continue to find ways to support and involve all families. During the opening weeks, I had the pleasure of reading to every classroom and sharing the importance of empathy and valuing our differences.

Survey comments also illustrate that parents value our focus on the whole child. We take pride in fulfilling our school mission of educating "...the whole child to be a lifelong learner and a responsible contributor to our global economy..." We have partnered with Beech Acres and Children Inc. to begin

teaching all of our students about important character strengths in the classroom and through three school-wide assemblies. The first assembly occurred Friday, September 23rd for all classrooms. Students worked in groups to generate ideas for being kind. Please see the Kindness Challenge paper that came home this week with your children and encourage them to complete kind acts.

Another way that we support the whole child is through our continued efforts to help children develop a "growth mindset" to persevere through challenges. In addition, our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) Committee continues to work on how we can ensure that all students understand and follow our school expectations to be caring, productive citizens.

Our staff appreciates the strong partnership that we have with our families and the community.

If you would like to be involved in any of the committees described above, please contact me at lordsar@cps-k12.org or 513-363-5000. We are stronger together. Sands Montessori has a rich history of all stakeholders working together to create tremendous opportunities for our students.

I look forward to continuing this tradition with you!

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Stay & Play on Wednesdays

All Sands Montessori families who have younger siblings are invited to join Stay & Play every Wednesday in the Parent Center (in the lobby area, across from the front office). The group meets after morning drop off, and play with new and returning friends until about 11:30 a.m. Participants are asked to take turns bringing a small healthy snack to share.

For more information, please contact Lisa Moreland at lisamoreland3@yahoo.com.

SCHOOL GIFTED PROGRAM: SOAR (SCHOLARS OF ACADEMIC RIGOR)

How are Gifted Children Identified in Cincinnati Public Schools?

Using the results of the Terra Nova and In-View tests that are administered in 2nd grade, students are identified gifted in Superior Cognition (score of 128 or >), and/or Academic Subjects (95th percentile or > in Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies). Students identified gifted in Superior Cognition, Mathematics and/or Reading are serviced directly by the Gifted Intervention Specialist, Annette Delaney, in cluster groups. Students identified gifted in Science and Social Studies receive differentiation in the general education classroom.

September 26th-October 14th is the Gifted testing window. Students who scored in the 90th-94th percentiles on the Terra-Nova Test or scored between 118-127 on the In-View Test will automatically be re-screened. Also, students new to our school district will be tested during this testing period. Parent, teachers, or students may request that a student be tested by writing a message to the classroom teacher or Annette Delaney.

All second and sixth grade students will be taking the Terra Nova and the In-View Tests during the Gifted Testing Weeks of October 3rd-14th. One use of the results of these tests is to identify students for the Sands Montessori Gifted Program.

SOAR

Superior Cognitive, Mathematics and Reading students meet with Ms. Delaney weekly by grade level. Gifted classes have already begun meeting. Here's what we're currently working on: Tuesdays 4th Grade: Peace Book Project, Place Value and Zearn; Wednesdays 5th Grade: 1000 Paper Cranes Project, writing exponential numbers and Zearn; Thursdays 6th Grade: Analysis of the Square and Test Prep: Terra Nova & In-View; Fridays 3rd Grade: Deductive Reasoning and Zearn.

Enrichment for All is an effort to include as many Sands Montessori students as possible in the SOAR program. All third grade students complete a novel study

with the Gifted Intervention Specialist. Fourth, fifth, and sixth grade mathematics and reading students who have not been identified Gifted but who show promise are given the opportunity to join Gifted Classes. Chess for Recess has been a huge hit with students of all academic ability levels. We will continue the Chess for Recess Program this school year on Fridays in December and January. We are



already off to a good start! If you have questions or comments please contact Annette Delaney, Sands Montessori Gifted Intervention Specialist at deanea@cpsboe.k12.oh.us or 513-363-5022.

9-12 classes

The sixth graders in Room 2010 are excited to begin getting to know and work with their "Reading Buddies" in Kathryn Yunker's 3-6 classroom. Every two weeks the older and younger students meet with their partners to read, write, and talk. The sixth graders prepare carefully by selecting books and creating special spaces for each small group to get cozy. Entering its third year, the students, teachers, and parents involved in this partnership have all noted how much both the older and younger students look forward to spending time together. New this year will be the inclusion of pre-school students rather than just the kindergarten students.



Keep your eyes out for the annual Gerald and Piggie Day Celebration!



On Thursday, October 6th, Sands Montessori will join hundreds of schools across the nation to participate in the National Walk-In to show our support for public schools. We encourage you to help your children make signs that demonstrate love for our school and pride in being the first public

Montessori in the nation.

Students, staff, families, and community members will gather outside of Sands from 9-9:15 a.m. to celebrate. Mr. Barkley and the choir will perform and new song and dance. We hope you will join us for this exciting event!



Learning is Cool Assembly

On Tuesday, September 20th, first through sixth graders enjoyed the Marvin Lewis "Learning is Cool" assembly.

This program is sponsored by the Marvin Lewis Community Fund to promote academic success to young students. Special guests Shawn Williams from the Cincinnati Bengals and executive Bre Romeo of Fifth Third Bank shared their personal stories of how hard work and perseverance helped them achieve success.

Students enjoyed various games as Channel 5's Richard Dyer emceed the event. **One hundred students were selected to enjoy a special lunch** compliments of LaRosas, Frito Lay, Pepsi and Kroger



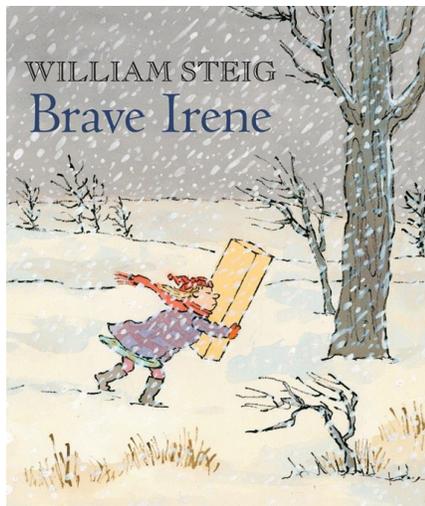
based upon their leadership in modeling our new school expectations. It was an exciting day for all involved!



6-9 LEVEL FOCUS

6-9 Teachers have been focused on building community within their environments and helping students understand our quarterly theme of Adversity. This theme helps students to learn about facing challenges through the use of great story characters. Throughout the building you will see students reading and discussing books that help them to understand characters and the challenges that they face. Some of the great books being studied are *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *The One and Only Ivan* and *Brave Irene*. Lessons to teach mindfulness and activities that help our students handle adversity are also being taught and discussed in classrooms. One of the great books being used in several communities that help

promote mindfulness is *Master of Mindfulness: How to Be Your Own Superhero in Times of Stress*. Mindfulness can help our children face a world of challenges with clarity and focus!



The October SMPO Meeting will be **Tuesday, October 18, at 7 p.m.** in the Media Center.

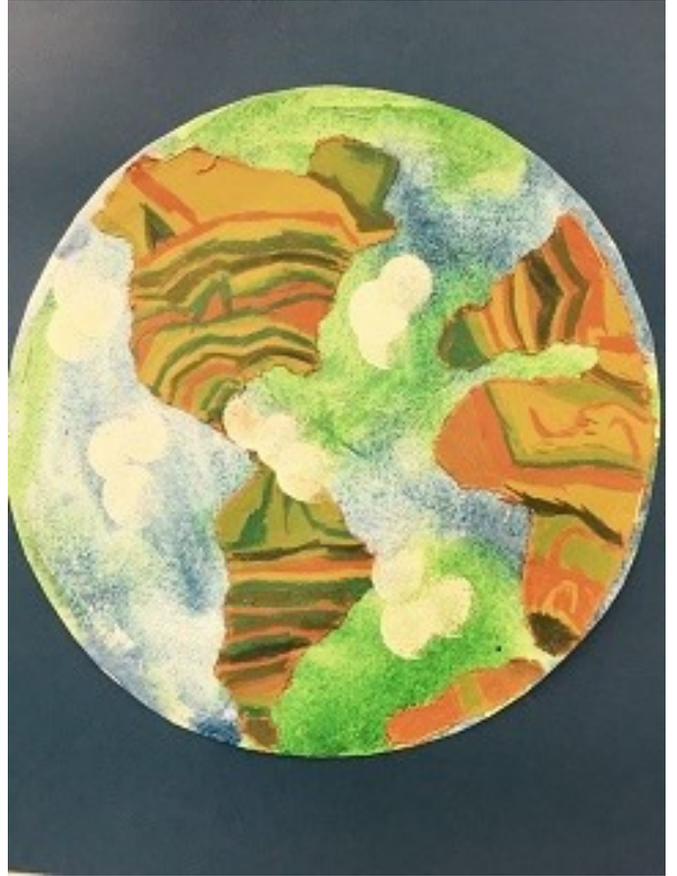
Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend!!

3-6 Classrooms: Exploring Land, Air and Water

The children in our 3-6 classrooms have begun their exploration of our world through the study of land, air, and water. Geography is an integral part of the 3-6 curriculum. The first lesson helps children gain an understanding that the Earth is composed of three elements: land, air, and water. Using the land and water globe, children can see as well as feel the rough land masses (continents) and smooth water areas (oceans). The beginning lesson, using the land and water globe, land, air, and water containers, as well as pictures of land, air, and water, builds the foundation for more detailed studies of continents in later months.

The land, air, and water lessons foster a sense of wonder about our world. The children in our classrooms are using a variety of engaging materials to further explore the topic. Some of the many land, air, and water works the children may be doing include land, air, and water booklet making, picture or object matching, journal drawing/writing, sorting, land and water maps using playdoh, travel by land, air, and water, and so many more!

Some of the 3-6 classrooms also have included land, air, and water projects for the children to do. These projects help the children to internalize the concept of land, air, and water while also providing a means for creativity and self-expression, coordination, and concentration. Some of the classrooms have students make land, air, and water beads from Fimo clay and later use the beads to make a beautiful necklace. Some classrooms also have the students make a



mixed media Earth featuring the oceans painted with watercolors, land punched from construction paper and glued to the watercolor ocean surface, and then adding clouds with paint or cotton balls. Children have a wonderful sense of satisfaction once they have completed the projects and take pride in their beautiful work.



Intervention Team News

The Intervention team is thrilled to be back to school and working hard. We, in collaboration with other staff members, have successfully administered the Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) as a fall benchmark assessment in Reading to all students in grades K through six.

again, in the winter and in spring as an ongoing measure of academic progress. Vicki Spector will serve as the Literacy Support Paraprofessional this year. It is with great pleasure that we welcome her to the Sands' team. Vicki graduated from Northern Kentucky University with a Bachelor's

who is a 3rd grader at Sands. She has been a proud Sands parent for ten years and is very excited to be a part of the staff now. She enjoys teaching preschoolers at Sunday School, doing Zumba, and spending time with her family and hiking in the woods with them and her dog, Cali. We are fortunate to have her support! As the weather cools down, take time to enjoy Fall and create opportunities that encourage reading, in and out of your home.

Here are some ideas:

- model your interest in reading/ talk about what you are reading
- take a trip to the library and let your child choose the books
- give books as gifts and make special 1:1 time to read them
- use content specific books to reinforce trips you take or experiences you share (for example: after a special celebration, share a story on celebrations in other cultures talk about how they compare or differ from your celebration)
- create stories together, have him/ her illustrate the story

For additional ideas or online resources/programs, contact your child's teacher or Tara Litmer, the Intervention team Leader (363-5078).



The results for this assessment were used to determine individual student needs based on data from each key indicator as it relates to reading readiness. In conjunction with other current data points (Measure of Academic Performance scores, classroom performance, etc.), decisions were made regarding who would benefit from school wide reading intervention supports at the tier 2 level. If your child was selected to receive this service, you would have been notified through the office, via a backpack mailer, in mid-September. The DIBELS benchmark assessment will be administered,

Degree in Elementary Education and from the University of Cincinnati with a Master's Degree in Special Education. She has an Ohio teaching license for Kindergarten- Eighth Grade in Ohio. She also has been trained in the Orton-Gillingham reading approach. Vicki taught Kindergarten, first grade and second grade for eight years in Ohio, Kentucky and in Johannesburg, South Africa, where her husband grew up. She has tutored reading for the Madeira City School District. She has three children, Ben a sophomore at Walnut Hills High School, Sean a 7th grader at Walnut Hills and Katie,

Every Friday is
SPIRIT Day!

Encourage your child to wear Red or Black to show school spirit. Sands spirit wear is available at many school sponsored activities and now online!



<http://www.rokkitwear.com/school/23810-sands-montessori-school>

Health Screenings will be on Thursday, October 20 for kindergarten, 1st, 3rd and 5th grades. These screenings include, hearing, muscle balance, BMI and dental checks and they will be given by student nurses from Good Samaritan Hospital in the health clinic. A form was sent home in case you want to opt out of the dental and BMI screenings. The others are mandated by the state. The first day of Autumn was Thursday, September 22. Be sure to dress in layers as the mornings are usually a little cooler than the afternoons. Have a healthy day!

First Quarter General Music News

General music students are demonstrating kinesthetic awareness by moving to the modern music of Richard Strauss. Also sprach Zarathustra – Till Eulenspiegel merry pranks - Dance of the 7 Veils – Electra are just a few of his works students are experiencing. Their awareness and ability to remain flexible is incredible! Strauss’s music demands concentration, flexibility and plasticity. General music students are developing ability to change shape, tempo and dynamic quality instantaneously or show gradual crescendos to a dramatic climax. Students are also learning about spatial awareness and how to move in close environments creativity without disrupting others. Students show with gestures and movement in general – personal and self-spaces how the music is moving them – it’s bringing to life classical music in the most exciting way.

Students are also learning “the Hustle” a dance from the 70’s! Students are learning to count/move in rhythmic sequences which are athletic in nature. They are also creating 40 counts of small group work which facilitates creativity and team building! Students must also develop listening skills so that their work fits into the section of music. When the whole 6-12 level performs at the fuel up

for 60 assembly in October, there will be a massive dance demonstration like none other!

Finally, students are learning two pop

highest potential! It’s my goal to have every student at Sands be musically literate and unafraid to express themselves instrumentally/ vocally! Music



songs “Welcome to my House” & “Hall of Fame”. Students use proper singing technique, breath support and tonal awareness to present music that is inspires and moving on varied levels. It’s my goal to develop their singing voice to its highest potential while they are attending Sands! Every child can sing – it’s a matter of cultivating the voice to its

is a reflection of civilization’s progress and students need to appreciate that and the work of the musician is important for everyone.

Lessons are posted outside along with standards and grading rubrics. Come check it out and ask your child to show you what they are learning in music! - Mr. Barkley

TOWER GARDEN PROGRAM

Thanks to Adrienne Mayne and Meghan Fronduti and a grant by the Cincy Good Food Fund, Sands is part of a 3-school CPS pilot program leading the way for aeroponic classroom gardening. These innovative gardens can be grown outside, or inside with grow lights. Students will plant seeds, monitor growth, and harvest food with hands-on lessons about environmental science, sustainability and healthy eating! You may have noticed the towers all set up on

the second level of school at Open House.

If you or someone you know would like to grow a Tower Gardens too, please contact our garden expert Adrienne Mayne through her website at adriannemayne.towergarden.com or call 513-219-0923. These referrals help to fund and grow our school garden program. Thank you!



Grandparents/Special Friends Day

KINDNESS ASSEMBLY

One of the most popular events in the fall at Sands Montessori is Grandparents & Special Friends Day. Each student may invite his or her grandparent(s) or a special adult friend to visit the school on this day.

What: Grandparents & Special Friends Day
When: 9-11 a.m. Friday, November 18, 2016.

Please do not arrive early. Due to safety concerns, no one will be able to enter the building until 8:50 a.m. Grandparents and Special Friends will join children in their classrooms and enjoy refreshments in the cafeteria (by child's last name). There will be photo opportunities, so don't forget your camera! Keep an eye out for a detailed schedule on sandsparents.org



On Friday, September 23rd students in grades kindergarten through sixth grade gathered for The Kindness Assembly. Stacy Sims kicked off the assembly with an introduction to mindful music. Students practiced resting their bodies and minds while a classical selection of music played. Afterwards, students discussed the meaning of kindness.

Students then separated into groups where students from all grade levels were represented. In every group, two sixth grade leaders read a book on kindness and led a discussion on examples of kind acts. Each group wrote examples of kind acts on a feather and then attached the feather to a large eagle that was posted in the gym. Students will continue to add feathers to the eagle this week as they share about the kind deeds they do throughout the Sands Kindness Challenge. Beech Acres and Children Inc. partnered with Sands to create the assembly and promote the Kindness Challenge. You should have received a yellow Sands Kindness Challenge paper last week that was sent home with your child. Please encourage your child to participate. Working together, we can make the world a better place one kind act at a time.

Sands Enrichment Program (SEP)

Supported by Sands Montessori Parent Organization (SMPO), the SEP places an emphasis on unique learning opportunities, Montessori principles, language, culture, and critical thinking. Class sizes are limited. Spots are filled first-come, first-served, as completed enrollment materials (including payment) are received. Scholarships are available while funds last. For these classes, students will be dismissed directly to their SEP classroom and Instructors are responsible for children until a parent and picks them up. SEP classes are considered a change in dismissal. You must inform your child's Sands classroom teacher of the specific SEP class dates prior to the first class. For more info on these great opportunities—visit: <http://sandsparents.org/>

MONTESSORI PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT!

Presented by LSDMC : Parent Education Night. Sands teachers from all grade levels will present information on

The Planes of Development and Montessori Mathematics in the Elementary Levels

Wednesday September 28, 2016

6:30—8:00 pm

Sands Cafetorium

For more information contact:

Annette Delaney -deanea@cpsboe.k12.oh.us or 513-363-5022



SANDS MONTESSORI

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Cincinnati, OH 45230

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*Preparing Students
For Life*



SMPO has some amazing family activities planned for this year! Take a look below and mark your calendar. Family involvement is key to our success at Sands!

Mother/Daughter PJ night, 5-8 pm, Saturday, October 8

Father/Son Game night, 5-8pm, Saturday, October 15

Fall Carnival, 11-4 pm, Saturday, October 29 (inside activity)

Grandparent's/Special Friends Day, 9-11am, Friday,

November 18. More details coming soon.

Stay up-to-date by subscribing on the bottom of the site to our email list: <http://sandsparents.org/>

Visit our new website:

<http://sandsmontessori.cps-k12.org/>

Library purchases Makerspace By: Alyssa Brandt

As the media specialist at Sands Montessori in Mt. Washington, Robyn Appino's back-to-school shopping list included some unusual items this year: green screen, digital photo printer, sewing machine, and an electronic die cutter, all of which are available for teachers and students to use at Sands' new mini makerspace.

"It's project-based, twenty-first-century learning," Appino said. Across the country, makerspaces - public

areas that support do-it-yourself creativity and invention - are fast becoming popular features in public libraries, but they're less common in public schools, especially at the elementary level. Sands' makerspace is one of only two in the Cincinnati Public School district. Hays-Porter Elementary School in the West End also has a makerspace as part of its Innovation Lab.

Thanks to a \$1,500 grant from Sands' parent organization, Appino purchased the equipment she needed to transform an underutilized storage room in the media center into a makerspace. "I had read a lot of articles about makerspaces and it seemed like it fit really well with the Montessori philosophy," Appino said. The students in Danielle Presley's sixth-grade class at Sands got their first exposure to the makerspace materials earlier this

month with some students learning to use the die cutter, some collaborating on projects using Snap Circuit electric-circuitry kits, and others who acted as a documentary film crew, videoing and interviewing students while they worked.

"I pulled all the books we have in the collection on circuitry and electricity, the idea being they would explore the non-fiction and take it further," said Appino, who was inspired, in part, by the makerspaces she saw at the St. Bernard and Downtown branches of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. "When I set up the (activity) stations, they just ran with it and were so excited."

The main branch of the library unveiled its own expansive new makerspace in 2015. It features a 3D printer, sound-recording booth and an Espresso book-publishing machine, laser cutter and button maker.

This story originally appeared on WCPO.com

