

HEARTWOOD MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Quality Montessori education in the heart of Cary for ages 18 months to 18 years

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 2-6: Spring Break

Classes resume on Monday, April 9

April 11-12: Spring Portraits

See article for more info!

April 16-20: Testing Week

Grades 3 and up. Learn more on p. 4

April 17: Teacher Luncheon

Hosted by Ruthie's class. Playground help needed: [email Colleen](#).

April 21: HW Day of Service

Help beautify Heartwood inside and out! [Sign up here](#). (8:00am - 1:00pm)

April 24: Early Bird Orders End

This is the last day to get your year-book for \$20! [Reserve a copy here](#).



May 5: Spring Fling (2-5pm)

Volunteers will be needed: check with your teacher. Rain date: May 6

May 25: HALF DAY

Noon dismissal for all classes!

May 28: NO SCHOOL

Memorial Day holiday

June 1: Talent Show - HALF DAY

Last day of school! Talent show begins at 10:30 am and all classes dismiss by noon. Join us!

Say "Montessori!"

Portrait Makers Photography will be on campus Wednesday, April 11, and Thursday, April 12, for spring portraits, beginning at 8:30am. They will do individual portraits and class groups for everyone; sibling portraits are by request only.

If you want sibling shots, there are two ways to sign up: at the hallway bulletin board, or by [emailing Ginny](#) with the children's names and your preferred date (Wednesday or Thursday). Both the sibling shot and individual portraits will be done the same day.

The deadline for sibling portrait sign-ups is 3pm on Tuesday, April 10.

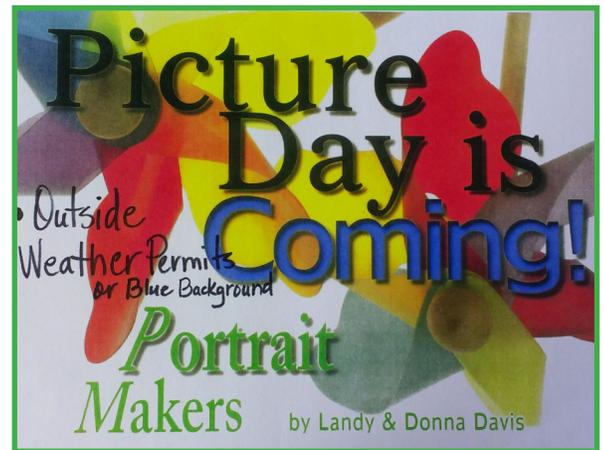
Classes are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, April 11

CH1 (Liz), CH2 (Becki), KEL, LE1 (Ruthie), and LE2 (Jeny).

Thursday, April 12

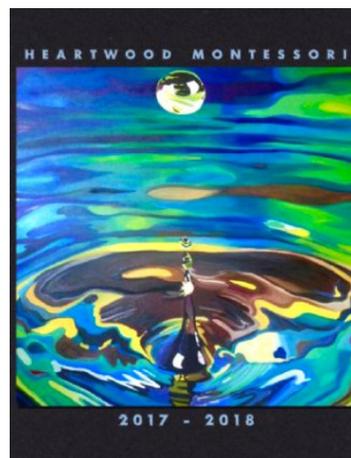
Toddler House, CH3 (Kathryn), UE1 (Mary), UE2 (Ms. Ryan), and the Middle & High Schools



Yearbooks Are Coming Soon

Which toddler wants to be a firetruck when she grows up? How do the LE students envision the future 100 years from now? Who wrote her entry in verse?

The Heartwood Yearbook holds answers to these



questions and many more. [Reserve your copy](#) today, and find out why Heartwood kids read their yearbooks over... and over...and over.

Early bird pricing (\$20 per book) is available until Tuesday, April 24.

SAVE THE DATE!

Red Molly Concert

Who: Award-winning Americana trio ([Listen here!](#))

When: September 21, 2018

Where: Garner Performing Arts Center ([20 min](#) from Heartwood)

What's Needed: [Volunteers](#) to help organize concessions and to promote within the community



SUMMER CAMP

Heartwood Camps

A Montessori experience for ages 3-5! Our popular summer program is filling fast, so make sure you reserve your spot!

[Click for more information](#)

Red Molly is Coming!

Mark your calendar! Thanks to the generosity of Jonathan, Ever, and Reagan Owens, folk trio [Red Molly](#) is going to play a concert for family and friends of Heartwood on September 21, 2018 at the historic [Garner Performing Arts Center](#).

“Reagan’s first concert was when she was six weeks old to see Red Molly in Durham,” Ever says. “We had fallen in love with their music the previous year when we fell back into ‘roots’ music in our hometown at MerleFest. They signed her cloth diaper that night

and she’s been their biggest littlest fan ever since.”



Red Molly combines the talents of Abbie (Dobro), Laurie (bass), and Molly (guitar). They took a break in 2015 when Molly had her son, but began touring again in 2018.

Proceeds from the concert will benefit Heartwood’s building fund, to update and improve

infrastructure around the campus. **Volunteers are needed to help bring this amazing experience together** -- [sign up now](#) if you’d like to help!

Chess Club Returns

Triangle Chess is coming back to Heartwood for a special Spring session. Meetings will be held on Fridays from April 13 through May 25, 3:15-4:30pm.

This time, the club will be open to first graders as well. Why introduce your child to chess?

Learning and playing chess develops self-esteem and increases concentration. It encourages and promotes

pattern recognition, as well as enhancing logical deductive reasoning to solve problems.

According to Triangle Chess, the game “levels the playing field: age, gender, ethnic background, socioeconomic status, and spoken language are irrelevant factors when playing chess.

“Chess is known to be a smart person’s game, and kids who play chess believe they are smart.

Why is this important? Because what kids believe can be self-fulfilling.”

Email [Beth Manns](#) for more information, or [sign up here](#) to join the club.



BULLETIN BOARD

Got an Idea? Tell Us About It!

Got a great idea for a social outing, fundraiser, or project around school? Drop us a line! Want to get involved but not sure how? Watch this space for volunteer opportunities and upcoming events.



OFFICE NOTES

Enrollment Goes Digital

You might have noticed that the enrollment forms are a little different this time around. Sue and Ginny are working to bring Heartwood into the digital age. If your program supports it, you should be able to fill out your forms online, even including an electronic signature if you want. Please direct questions to [Ginny](#).

Spirit Wear Arriving This Month

Our spirit wear order is currently at the printer. It's scheduled to be delivered the week we get back from Spring Break, and then will be sorted and distributed to classes. The classes will tie-dye the week of May 21; details to come in May's newsletter.

Spring Has ****achoo**** Arrived

It might have been hard to recognize the season during those recent windy, cold days, but this week's warm weather, coupled with the buds and blooms that are starting to show themselves all over Heartwood's campus, serve as reminders that warm weather will soon be here to stay.

Not all the sniffles echoing through our halls are pollen-related, though. Illnesses including flu, strep, and stomach bugs have been taking their toll.

As a reminder, our health policy states that children should be kept home if they have any of the following conditions:

1. An above-normal temperature and for 24 hours thereafter
2. A cold with sore throat, cough, or runny nose
3. Discharge from nose or eyes
4. Not well enough to go outside

5. Any type of contagious disease

Please remind your children to wash hands often and practice the "chicken wing" when they sneeze or cough.

When returning to school after an illness, remember to give us a number where you can be reached if it turns out that your little one runs out of steam partway through the day.

Prizes Needed!

Got Shopkins cluttering your house? Stepped on your child's Matchbox cars one too many times? Donate them to the Spring Fling (...and watch them come right home again, if last year is any guide!).

Happy Meal-sized toys or smaller, in working order, please! Sorry, no large items or coloring books.



LEARN MORE

[2018-2019 School Calendar](#)

Also available as a PDF on our website

[Our Montessori Philosophy](#)

Or why we do what we do!

LINK UP!

[Link Your VIC Card](#)

Re-link your card each year for Harris Teeter's Together In Education program

FIND US ONLINE

[HeartwoodMontessori.com](#)

Our official school website

[Heartwood on Facebook](#)

Our official page on Facebook

[HW Families on Facebook](#)

The unofficial community group for Heartwood families

[Heartwood on Twitter](#)

Heartwood's official account

QUESTIONS?

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Selected Newsletter Photography

Iowa Testing at Heartwood

By Bridget Dickerson

The days are longer, the temperatures are warmer and spring is here. Along with those markers that our school year is marching into our final two months, is the talk of our yearly Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS).

The ITBS exam is a nationally standardized, norm referenced test that is administered in many schools across the country to students from kindergarten through grade eight. At Heartwood, we administer the ITBS to children beginning in their third year (or last year of lower elementary) and the testing provides achievement scores for students, teachers, and parents to better understand how well students perform in Language Arts, Reading, Math, Science and Social Sciences.

We say that the ITBS is nationally standardized because each test is administered to the test-takers in the same way across all populations. Therefore, the score interpretations are based on a comparison of the test taker's performance to the performance of all other students in the nation (who are taking the same level test). This means that the test is norm-referenced because it compares students' abilities rather than comparing to some other criteria set by the test makers.

Many people ask why a Montessori school would administer a test like the ITBS, since we don't usually test our students? It is a North Carolina state requirement to administer a nationally standardized achievement test each year, like the ITBS.

However, we are constantly evaluating our students in our classrooms. Through observation of a child's mastery of concepts, we evaluate readiness to move on to new lessons. The Montessori approach incorporates the three-period lesson into our curriculum. Children are given a new lesson (1st period), they work individually, with other

students or with the guide to learn and internalize the new concept (2nd period) and show this internalization or mastery through a research paper, project, or other means (3rd period).

Our students are not given scores or grades because these, like other external rewards, have limited lasting effects on a child's efforts and don't serve to motivate. Montessori nurtures a motivation from within, which inspires a child's natural desire to learn. This approach creates a self-motivated learner, one that doesn't need reinforcement from the outside. Scores don't define our learners. So, we look further to see the positive benefits of testing.

The ITBS can be quite positive, when our students and families understand that one of the most positive outcomes is the ability for our students to practice the life skill of test taking. They will take many tests over the course of their lives and going through this experience helps them understand what it feels like. It's an important life skill. For our youngest test takers, it's a completely new experience and truly the goal is the experience in and of itself.

Most of the time, the students enjoy the change to their daily schedule that the ITBS brings. They enjoy it more when they are relaxed and they understand that the score does not define them or in any way affect their progress or standing.

The ITBS testing is the week of April 16th this year. The most important part of testing week is making sure all students are at school by 8:30 a.m. each day, so that they can take part in the social activity of eating a little something together, if they choose, before testing begins and aren't worried about being late.

