

HEARTWOOD MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 6: Spring Cleaning Day

Help us beautify our school inside and out by volunteering to aid with the annual Spring Clean-up Day! [Join us](#) from 8:00am - 12:00pm to check off a variety of indoor and outdoor to-do's.

April 8 - 12: TESTING (grades 3+)

Students in grade 3 and higher will take the Iowa Basic Skills standardized test, which fulfills our requirement under NC law. (Please plan to be in school if this affects your class!)

Learn more about our approach to testing on our blog ([Faculty Focus: Standardized Testing and Montessori](#))

April 11: PEP Talk: Online Conflict

6:30-7:00pm: Conflict resolution workshop with Licensed Professional Counselor Elizabeth Worley. More p.2.

April 15-22: SPRING BREAK

Classes will resume on Tuesday, 4/23.

April 26: Yearbook Deadline

Early Bird [yearbook discount](#) (\$20/book) ends today. Beginning April 27, the price per book rises to \$25.

April 30-March 3: Portraits

See the box at right for class schedules and more information. Christina will take individual portraits for all students; sibling portraits are by request only.

May 2: PEP Workout

6:00-7:00pm: [FREE workout](#) for all skill levels and physical abilities. [RSVP here](#).

May 4: Spring Fling

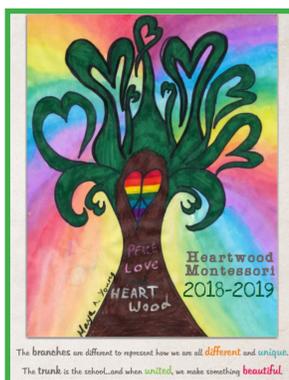
3:00-5:00pm. Stay tuned for details!

Yearbooks For Sale

It was the best-kept secret in last month's newsletter, wasn't it? If you didn't make it all the way to the back page, you might not have noticed that [yearbook reservations](#) are (drumroll...) now open!

Copies of the yearbook can be reserved [online](#) or in the lobby.

During Early Bird ordering, your cost is only \$20, but hurry -- once the pre-sale period ends on **Friday, April 26**, supplies will become extremely limited. The yearbook sells out every year, and we're already on track for a strong season -- despite the page 4 obscurity.



The branches are different to represent how we are all different and unique. The trunk is the school, and when united, we make something beautiful.

April-May Clubs

Monday: Chemworks

From the creators of Brixology comes Chemworks, a program for ages 7+ that explores the chemistry of everyday life with glow-in-the-dark technology, super-sticky stuff, potions, and slime. Club meets Mondays, April 1 - May 20, 3:15-4:45 pm. Cost is \$90 for 6 classes. [Register online](#) or call (919) 858-8988.

Saturday: Baking Workshops

Ms. Rebecca offers an encore series of baking workshops for ages 8+, featuring tarts, layer cake, donuts, and more! Meets 12:00-3:00pm; \$45 per class. View [dates and sign up](#) here.

Spring Portraits at a Glance

Christina Rose will be here April 30 through May 3 for Spring portraits. See the schedule below for details; please contact Christina directly with questions or to arrange a sibling portrait.

Portrait FAQ

- Portraits are taken outdoors in a natural setting. In the event of inclement weather, portraits will be rescheduled.
- Portraits are taken in the morning - please be on time!
- 10% of the proceeds benefit HW.

Portrait Schedule

Tuesday, April 30

- CH 1- Ms. Liz & Ms. Jody
- LE 1- Ms. Bridget & Ms. Rebecca

Wednesday, May 1

- Toddler House
- CH 2- Ms. Becki & Ms. Lynda

Thursday, May 2

- CH 3- Ms. Tanya & Ms. Tracy
- LE 2- Mr. Jay & Ms. Fernanda

Friday, May 3

- K/EL Transition
- Upper Elementary
- Middle School & High School

Contact Christina For...

- Sibling Portraits (by request only)
- Student Absence/Schedule Change

Christina Rose Photography
919-225-2568
christina@christinarosestudios.com

BULLETIN BOARD

Ms. Ruthie leads Music Together

[Ruthie Haugh](#) will offer Music Together classes starting this month at Infinity Ballet in Apex.

Classes are Tuesdays or Fridays at 9:30 and 10:30 AM. The first session is **April 2 - June 14**; fees are \$190 for returning families and \$210 for new families. Ask about sibling discounts, and bring siblings under 10 months old for free.

Register at www.sproutsongsmusic.com or schedule a free demo class by calling (919) 348-7412.

Art Show Features Ms. Jeny

Jeny Brill will be a [featured artist](#) in the RAW:Raleigh art show, an event which supports emerging local artists, on **April 10** from 7-11pm. It will be an evening of art, photography, music, and fashion.

Jeny says, "I am reaching out to my Heartwood family to ask for your support. If you can make it, I would love to see some familiar faces. However, even if you can't make it, you can still show your support by purchasing a ticket. The tickets cover the cost of this one-night event so that all proceeds can go to the artists should they sell any work."

[Jeny's work](http://www.jenybrill.com) is at www.jenybrill.com.

To show her appreciation, **Jeny will give an 8"x10" print from her portfolio to the first 20 people who purchase tickets.** Tickets [available online](#); pre-order discount ends April 3.



featuring
Jeny Brill

04.10.19
Wednesday @ 7:00PM

RAW:Raleigh, NC presents
IMPACT
The Ritz
3800 Industrial Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina 27606
rawartists.org/jenybrill

Elementary News

Owing to the consistent growth of our Elementary program, a second Upper Elementary class (UE2) will be offered for 2019-20, and the Lower Elementary program will be re-organized to better accommodate everyone.

Mr. Jay will return to his UE roots, leading the UE2 class along with Ms. Fernanda, and Mr. Ryan will take Jay's place in LE2, assisted by Ms. Lindsey.

UE2 will take over the current KEL space (the white house next to the bus), so KEL won't be offered next year; however, Ms. Sue has hinted she might return to teach it after she steps down as Director.

Energy Kits

Last month, we talked about HW's green goals. There is still time to add your name to the My Energy Kit Challenge from Duke Energy, helping us reach our goal of saving 20,000 kilowatt-hours of energy.

The free kits contain items like LED bulbs, faucet aerators and more to help reduce our residential footprints. If 100 or more families sign up, Heartwood will receive \$250 from Duke Energy.

To participate, visit MyEnergyKit.org and sign up for your free kit. Please also feel free to share the link with anyone else who might be interested.

Upcoming PEP Events

Helping Pre-teens and Teens Navigate Online Conflict

When: **Thursday, April 11 at 6:30pm**

With: [Elizabeth Worley](#), LPC, RPT

What: How to help our children manage online interactions, especially those that cause hurt, anger, or fear, and how to keep online conflict from spilling over into other parts of their lives.

This talk will give caregivers and teachers tools to help students outside of school, and language so that students can hear us as we help them work through the feelings that come with these interactions.

Childcare is not available so that HW staff can attend the program as well.

Fitting in Fitness with Marisa

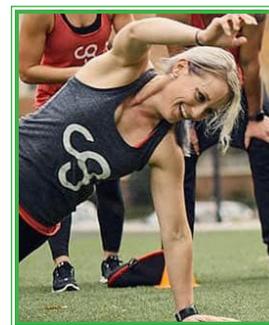
When: **Thursday, May 2 at 6:00pm**

With: [Marisa Park](#), certified personal trainer with Camp Gladiator

What: Fun and effective workout featuring cardio, strength-training, and stress-management strategies for all ages and skill levels. [More details](#) on our website.

Cost: FREE!

Ages 7+ are welcome to participate in the workout!
[RSVP here.](#)



Red Molly Proceeds At Work

Thanks to the generosity of our music-loving community, September's [Red Molly](#) concert raised over \$5,600 to enhance Heartwood's classrooms.

The Children's House has purchased a set of Montessori Bells, plus materials for music theory works. See Lynda Dawson's [blog article](#) for more details of how Montessori teaches music.

A collection of Chromebooks have expanded research capabilities for our Upper Elementary, Middle and High School. Prior to this purchase,

students needed to bring in their own devices, which -- while providing a great opportunity for lessons on responsible device use and cyber-security -- left a potential gap in terms of accessibility and device capability.

With the Red Molly proceeds, our UE, MS, and HS classes can offer a consistent online experience, enhancing our already strong research curriculum.

Special thanks and much gratitude to Ever and Jonathan Owens for sponsoring the Red Molly concert!

Cosmic Curriculum: Life, the Universe, and Everything

In their book *Children of the Universe*, Montessorians Michael and D'Neil Duffy sum up the purpose of Cosmic Education neatly: "This six-year Montessori experience gives elementary students opportunities to appreciate their roots in the universe, to sense their place in its context, and to embrace the role this defines for their lives."

Sowing Seeds of Knowledge

We lay the groundwork for Cosmic Education in our Early Childhood classrooms by helping children feel close to and connected with nature and the natural world. Children spend time outside, which connects them in a physical way to life itself as it grows all around them.

Inside, materials incorporate the natural world as much as possible with rocks, plants, flowers, water, wood and even sand. We explore the origins of these materials and connect them to the Earth. The natural world is part of the sensorial experience -- tracing flowers, creating maps, and learning about Earth's place in the universe, through becoming the planets and stars in a living solar system.

All of this serves to prepare the child for the elementary classroom, where the experiences they have absorbed will become part of their growing imaginations, as they wonder about the part they play.

Big Questions, Big Answers

Children come into the elementary classroom ready to learn and acquire a cultural understanding of their world. Developmentally, they want to know the reasons why things happen, and they apply the answers they find to the world and universe around them. We supply them with as much information as possible, providing repeated experiences to explore and the space to acquire what they can, as well as plant seeds for later cultivation.

Cosmic Education isn't a curriculum itself, or sets of facts presented to a child, but rather it is made up of stories, called **Great Lessons**, which are impressionistic in

nature and told to excite and inspire the child. The traditional subjects, such as math, history, geography, biology, etc. [flow from them](#).

The Great Lessons, and the subjects that follow, are meant to help children find answers to their questions of what, why and where and help them begin to think about their place in the Universe, as individuals, and as part of humanity to help them examine the big questions: who am I and where do I come from? Through this examination of our universe, including life, nature and self, the child is presented with the possibility that he or she has a "cosmic task" or a purpose in life to pursue.

Lesson 1: The Universe

The First Great Lesson, **The Creation of the Universe**, is the foundation of all subject matter. We cannot talk about rocks, planets, stars or the sun without some understanding of the universe. The child learns that certain physical laws govern the universe, as well as man's place within it.

Lesson 2: Coming of Life

The Second Great Lesson, **The Coming of Life**, utilizes the Timeline of Life, which introduces children to the oldest life forms, single-celled organisms, and takes children through the different eras showing the evolution of life, the ice ages, and the way the continents have shifted over millions of years. The timeline begins in the Paleozoic Era and progresses through the changes and evolutions of the Cenozoic Era, ending with hominids.

Lesson 3: Humans

The Third Great Lesson, **The Coming of Humans**, focuses on the history of humans from early humans through time, including changes to their bodies, tools, and social progression. Children learn what makes humans special and different from other species: minds to imagine, hands to do work and hearts that can love (even people they have never met).

Lesson 4: Writing

The Fourth Great Lesson, **The Coming of Writing and Communication**, shows children how humans have the incredible ability to communicate and commit thoughts to anything from cave walls to paper to cell phones.

By Bridget Dickerson, LE Team Lead

Lesson 5: Numbers

The Fifth Great Lesson, **The Story of Numbers** or the **History of Mathematics**, begins with the earliest civilizations and their abilities to find ways to count and measure. Different numbering systems throughout time are discussed, ending with the decimal system.

These impressionistic stories serve to explain the origins of the world around us. They are told to inspire the child's imagination and to lead them to activities which meet their sensorial needs and tap into their abstract thinking. They will pursue the subjects that flow from these lessons as far as their interests take them.

To offer the child a "Cosmic Education" is to offer the child a choice, giving them a chance to pursue what interests them. Once you have captured that interest, the child's sense of curiosity and wonder is engaged. This is the beginning of a love for learning, which can stay with a child for the rest of their life.

A Cosmic Reading List

- *Children of the Universe: Cosmic Education in the Montessori Elementary Classroom* (Duffy)
- *Montessori for a Better World* (Wolf)
- *Deep Well of Time* (Dorer)
- *Education for Human Development* (Maria Montessori)
- *To Educate the Human Potential* (Maria Montessori)
- *The Universe is a Green Dragon: A Cosmic Creation Story* (Swimme)
- *The Universe Story: From the Primordial Flaring Forth to the Ecozoic Era -- A Celebration of the Unfolding of the Cosmos* (Swimme & Berry)
- *Born With a Bang: The Universe Tells Our Cosmic Story* (Morgan)
- *From Lava to Life* (Morgan)
- *Mammals Who Morph* (Morgan)

Check out this chart showing how **Great Lessons** foster endless academic exploration!

LEARN MORE

[2018-2019 School Calendar](#)

Also available as a PDF on our website

[Our Montessori Philosophy](#)

Or why we do what we do!

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



QUESTIONS?

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CREDITS

[Christina Rose Studios](#)

Selected photography

Thank You, Volunteers!

Heartwood was built (sometimes literally) by parent volunteers. We owe gardens, playground equipment, and art to our talented community.

This month kicks off with our annual [Spring Clean-Up](#), where yet again we'll rally with those amazing volunteers to beautify Heartwood inside and out.

Thank you to all who will sign up, turn out, and roll up your sleeves to reclaim the playground from the

gumballs, freshen the classrooms, and sweep away the winter doldrums.

Thanks as well to those who will join us in spirit, or who pitch in during the rest of the year, contributing to teacher luncheons, chaperoning field trips, donating needed supplies, supporting class projects, and filling any number of other roles, on campus and off.

You ARE Heartwood, and our school wouldn't be the same without you.



Second Chance for Hoodies, Tees

If we were counting votes for the spiritwear drive's Most Popular After The Fact item, adult and ladies hoodies would have won hands down.

The pictures really didn't do justice to these comfy jackets. Almost as soon as the orders were delivered, we began hearing from folks who wished they'd snagged one.

If you were one of those, here's your chance! In May, students will tie-dye t-shirts with their class (more details next issue); while you can send in any 100% cotton, pre-washed white shirt for this activity, many families choose to use a Heartwood shirt.

Thus, we're offering a [limited print run](#) for white T-shirts, plus an option for hoodies. Requests must be received by Sunday, May 5, to be counted; you can also check our lobby stash for youth hoodies and t-shirts. Happy tie-dyeing!



View available hoodie colors on the [order form](#).
 T-shirts only available in white at this time.

