



HEARTWOOD

MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Parent Orientation Sessions

New families, please attend!

Aug 12 6:00pm: Middle School

7:00pm: High School
Students welcome!

Aug 13 6:30pm: Lower Elem 1

Sorry, childcare not available

Aug 15 6:30pm: Lower Elem 2

Sorry, childcare not available

Aug 19 6:30pm: Toddler House

Sorry, childcare not available

Aug 22 6:30pm: Children's House

Sorry, childcare not available

Dates vary Upper Elementary 1 & 2
Check email for individual conference sign-ups

August 14: FIRST DAY OF CLASS for Elementary & Upper School only

First day of regular schedule (8:30am-3:00pm) for Lower and Upper Elementary, Middle and High School.

Other classes, see schedule below.

August 20: OPEN HOUSE

for *all* Toddlers, Children's House, and Kindergarten (new & returning). Drop in between 9:00am - 11:00am to meet your teachers, drop off supplies, and say hello to friends.

August 21-23: PHASE-IN

for *new* Toddlers, Children's House, and Kindergarten only (9:00-11:00am). See classroom emails and the parent orientation meeting for details.

August 27: FIRST DAY OF CLASS

Toddlers, Children's House, and Kindergarten begin regular schedule.

Welcome to 2019-2020!

As the sweltering days of summer come to a close, we at Heartwood are gearing up for another great year. We're looking forward to seeing our returning friends and excited to get to know our incoming families. Whether you're brand new or a Heartwood old-timer, welcome!

While this issue will contain general news, schedules, and tips for a smooth back-to-school, please keep an eye on your email for important class-specific information coming directly from your teachers. You can also find help on our [website](#), or by [emailing](#) any of the office staff.

Especially if you're new to Heartwood, we encourage you to attend your class's parent orientation session (schedule at left). These meetings are for adults only unless otherwise noted; please plan for a babysitter. We'll cover important information that will facilitate your child's transition to their new class, as well as answer any questions you may have along the way.

Later in the Fall, each class will hold a Curriculum Open House to showcase Montessori in action. Stay tuned for details and dates on these and other parent involvement opportunities!

Intros and Updates

If you were around last year, or if you browsed our newsletter archives this summer, you probably already know there are some exciting developments in the works. See page 3 for details on those. In the meantime...

Office (Re-) Arrangements

You might notice a few changes around the office, mostly to who sits where. Ms. Sue is now queen of the lobby, while Ms. Ginny joins Ms. Mary and our Associate Director, MS. Lynda, in the main office. Feel free to stop by and say hello!

Same Faces, New Spaces

This summer, the Middle & High School's beloved Ms. Missy received an offer that will allow her to advance in her Montessori journey. While we will miss her greatly, we're excited to welcome Ms. Rebecca Bloom (formerly LE1's assistant teacher) as the new lead Middle School teacher.

Rebecca trained as a middle grades

teacher before coming to us, so this transition is a natural fit. At the same time, Ms. Rebecca Porter is moving from the Middle School to take up position as the new LE1 assistant. Both Rebeccas -- as well as the rest of us -- are excited for their new roles.

Welcome, Ms. Ashley!

Ashley Blevins will take Ms. Rebecca P.'s place as Middle and High teacher, assisting Rebecca B. and Mr. Ray. We're thrilled to have her on board.



LOOKING AHEAD

Sept 2: NO SCHOOL

Happy Labor Day!

Sept 27: HALF DAY

Toddlers and Children’s House release at 11:30am, followed by the rest of the school at 11:45am. (Older siblings release with their younger sibs). All students should be picked up by noon.

Sept 30: NO SCHOOL

Teacher Workday



OFFICE NOTES

Lunchbox Alert!

Children’s House families, please bring **standard-sized** lunch boxes or bags, not the larger “personal coolers.” There is limited room in our fridge, which has to house up to 75 lunches!

Reminder: NO peanut or tree nut products at school, please.

Label, Label, Label...Everything!

Lunchbox, water bottle, coat, gloves, shoes...if it’s something your child could take off or forget somewhere, PLEASE put a label on it! We make every effort to return lost items if we know who their owners are.

Missing something? Check the Lost and Found bins in the lobby cubbies (next to the front door).

Carpool and Other FAQs

Once all our classes are in session, more than 125 cars will move through the carpool line in the span of half an hour. To keep things moving, please remember the following tips:

Park In Spaces, Not The Lane

Morning carpool runs from **8:15-8:45am**. If you arrive outside that time, please park in a space and walk your child to their class. **Please do not leave your car unattended in the carpool lane at any time.**

Afternoon carpool begins at 2:45pm for Children’s House and Elementary students, but the Middle and High School remains in class until 3:00pm. If you arrive before your child’s class releases, please park in a space so that you don’t block other carpoolers.

Make It a Cell-Free Zone

Carpool is a time of many distractions. Please avoid using cell phones and make sure you’re watching for people crossing through the carpool line from the parking spaces.

Where Can I Find Info on...?

You can find up-to-date resources, including this newsletter, the parent handbook, and school calendar, in the “For Parents” section of our [website](#).

Check the lobby bulletin board for clubs and organization flyers.

Email is our primary form of communication; please read and retain school messages and let us know ASAP if you have any questions.



Toddler House families and those who are parking, use the outer carpool lane (closest to Byrum) to avoid waiting in line. Toddler drop-off and pick-up takes place at the Toddler House (right side).

Right In, Right Out

Turning left on Byrum can be a real hassle. Follow the red arrows in the diagram above to get in and out safely.

We’ll Come To You

Half-day parents should plan to park and walk up to get their child, but for morning and afternoon carpool, it’s faster and more efficient -- not to mention safer -- for you to remain in your vehicle while we bring your child to you and assist with buckling. If you need to exit your vehicle, please pull through the line and park in a space.

How Can I Reach You?

For immediate assistance, or to reach a teacher during the school day, please call the office at (919) 465-2113. Otherwise, the best way to reach us is usually via email.

What’s the Door Code?

For security, our front door remains locked outside of high-traffic times. **Check your email for the entry code and be sure to save it for easy access.** Contact the office with any questions or if you haven’t received the code.

PERSPECTIVES

Lynda Dawson: “What Montessori Means To Me”

To me, the Montessori classroom is a carefully prepared environment in which each child can grow to his or her full potential with the guidance of teachers, fellow classmates and the school community.

The method respects each child’s innate ability to learn and fosters curiosity, intrinsic motivation and connection with the works at hand.

One of my favorite aspects of Montessori learning is the mixed-ages classroom. It’s so wonderful to watch the children develop

strong relationships, provide peer mentoring, inspire and help each other, teach through example and share their knowledge and enthusiasm for learning.

I also find the curriculum at each level to be comprehensive and inspiring. The carefully curated materials and lessons truly meet the developmental needs of children in each plane of development. And because Dr. Maria Montessori understood the hand to be the instrument of the mind, the children are encouraged to discover knowledge through direct experience with their work, so teaching in a Montessori classroom becomes a joyful dialog, rather than a monologue; a fascinating conversation instead of a directive.

Montessori was also acutely aware of the connection of all things, or “cosmic purpose” as she called it. She considered the whole child -- physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Whether child or adult, what Montessori means to me is that we are encouraged to be aware of, and connected to, each other’s purpose and to the human experience we all share.



Update from Ms. Sue

For those of you who do not yet know, the founders of Heartwood, Mary McKinney and Sue Daniel, are thinking about retirement and are transitioning the leadership of the school to Lynda Dawson, our Associate Director. This will be a process. Sue will remain full time Head of School and Director for the 2019-20 school year. After that, Sue may want to teach again! Mary will be in the office Tuesday through Thursday, continuing her work with the billing and financials.

Lynda has spent a good deal of her summer at the Center of Montessori Teacher Education doing

the Administration Course. Her certification will be complete after this year, during the summer of 2020. She is also focusing on the American Montessori Association’s accreditation process for the school. This is something we have wanted to do for years, but now the right person has stepped up to complete the long and detailed process.

Day to day, you will still have the same experience as in previous years. Mary will help you with your billing questions and Sue will oversee school operations. Ginny will continue her role in communications and student data while Lynda puts her energy into learning the ropes and the aspects of the Director’s job and guiding our transition to a new campus. ~ Sue

One Step Closer to Our Future

Mary McKinney can’t remember just how many times she moved furniture before Heartwood Montessori settled down at 112 Byrum Street, but it was a lot. Until then, Heartwood had found space for 13 years in a series of churches and other rentable places, including several where the classrooms had to be set up on Monday mornings and broken down again on Friday afternoons so that the space could be used for Sunday services.

Since 2004, our Byrum St. location has allowed us to thrive and grow, expanding classes and age groups to our current cohort of “18 months to 18 years.” However, the building was built in the 1950s as a daycare (see page 4), and as with any older structure, there are challenges. Increasingly, we’ve had conversations regarding the benefits of a location that would be designed for our own specific Montessori needs.

Now, it looks like we’re one step closer to that goal. Jamie and Lynda Dawson have been looking for the perfect site for the school to build a new facility. They are working with the Town of Cary and site engineers on two potential locations, both within a five-mile radius of our current space.

This year will be devoted to permits and planning; next year, if all goes according to plan, construction will begin. Look for more details in the coming months as we confirm the location and move through these processes, but don’t expect to see any changes for a while yet: the beauty of this transition is that we can take the time we need to create a campus that will carry Heartwood forward -- a true “forever home.”

The “heart” of Heartwood has never been the building we inhabit; it’s been the spirit of our community, the passion of our teachers, and the enthusiasm of our students that have carried us through 28 years and six locations. We can’t wait to continue this journey with you.



LEARN MORE

[2019-2020 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

QUESTIONS?

Main Office

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Ms. Lindsey Comes Home

Ms. Lindsey Williams joined the Heartwood team as K-EL's assistant last year, but as you'll see, her history with the school goes back much further.

This month, she'll take on LE2 in the very classroom she had once enjoyed as a preschooler. What are the odds?

They say life comes full circle, and for me it definitely has. I'm a rare native of Cary, and my journey started at 112 Byrum Street in the Little Red School House -- now Heartwood Montessori -- in the same classroom where Ryan and I will be teaching this year. How cool is that?

After returning from Ashland, Oregon, I stumbled across Heartwood to find the perfect school for my son Kai. Having previous Montessori teaching experience, I was quite picky on where I wanted Kai to attend. Sue and I had an immediate connection. She asked me if I'd

be interested, should a job ever open up. Fast forward two years, and here I am!

It's a nostalgic feeling returning here. Really, it's a symbiosis of student to teacher and teacher to student. Cary has changed quite a bit, but walking the halls of Heartwood is like returning home. I'm grateful to be here, to serve, lead, teach, and inspire.

I'm excited for this new year and what it has in store. Thank you, Sue, for giving me this opportunity!



Lindsey and her teacher, 34 years ago

Don't Miss Out: Music Classes

Suzuki Pre-twinkle Violin

Suzuki of the Triangle presents two Pretwinkle group classes for children aged 3-6. Classes meet either Tuesdays or Thursdays, 11:00-11:45am, during recess on the Heartwood campus.

Children learn Suzuki violin in a small group setting. Parental attendance is wonderful but not required. Ms. Dana Friedli has taught Suzuki violin for 28 years. She was herself a Suzuki student, beginning studies at age 6. This will be her ninth year offering classes at Heartwood!

Enrollment opens Sept. 1 and classes begin the week of Sept. 16. Class fees are \$22/class and violins may be rented from [Triangle Strings](#). For inquiries or to register, email Dana@tristrings.com.



Private Piano Instruction

Pianist [James Catton](#) offers individual piano lessons for ages 6 and up on Mondays and Tuesdays, beginning at 2:40pm on the Heartwood campus.

Each 30-minute lesson incorporates music book reading skills with learning to play by ear or memory. Lessons are in blocks of 4 and start at \$160 per grouping. Parents are welcome to sit in on lessons.

Home visit sessions may be arranged if so preferred. No sign-up fee is

required, one may cancel at any time, and a second book is provided free of charge.

For more details or to register, call (919) 889-1995 or email James: JamesCatton3@yahoo.com.