

HEARTWOOD

MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept 2: NO SCHOOL

Happy Labor Day!

Sept 4: Pizza Wednesdays begin

Upper Elementary's popular lunchtime fundraiser is back! Email Tammy@heartwoodmontessori.com to sign up.

Sept 23: Chicken and Pasta Mondays begin

The UE fundraiser expands your hot lunch choices with chicken tenders and fries or baked ziti with garlic knots. Email Tammy@heartwoodmontessori.com to sign up.

Sept 24: PSG Planning Meeting (9:00am and 6:30pm)

Join us for the Fall meeting of our Parent Support Group (PSG). We'll cover important school events and committee sign-ups, brainstorm social events topics for our Parent Education Program (PEP), and answer any and all questions you may have.

This meeting is offered in the morning at 9:00am and in the evening at 6:30pm. The same content is covered at both meetings: there is NO NEED TO ATTEND BOTH. Childcare available for ages 3+ at the evening meeting: [RSVP!](#)

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

Save the Date: PSG Meeting!

When you come to Heartwood Montessori School, you are truly part of a community of parents, students and teachers! One of the best ways to get involved in our school community is the Parent Support Group (PSG), which meets annually each September to set our course for the year.

On **Tuesday, September 24th**, we'll meet to choose topics for our parent education programs, decide on fundraising activities for the year, get up to speed on any special or social events, and share ideas for school improvements. We hold the meeting twice so more parents have an opportunity to be involved: at 9:00am and then again at 6:30pm with childcare provided: [RSVP here](#).

We hope you can join us to find out more about getting involved, learn more about our community, and

have your suggestions heard. What programs would you like to see? Is there something fun you want us to do do? Got a talent, hobby or passion you'd like to share? We're all ears!

So many projects over the years have begun with the enthusiasm of our community and our PSG—from our Darden House and 25th Anniversary Celebration to a multitude of indoor and outdoor enhancements. We are so thankful for everyone who shares their time, efforts, gifts and talents with our school.



Snack Shoppers?

Shoppers needed on Mondays between 9:00am - 2:00pm. We supply the list, the BJ's card, and the cash. To volunteer, sign up on the office door or [email Ms. Mary](#).

Thank you!

Use Them if You've Got Them!

Boxtops for Education is changing their program, phasing out the clippable tops in favor of an electronic system.

Our last shipment of boxtops will be due on **October 15, 2019**. If you have any tops lingering in your house that expire AFTER November 1, 2019, please consider adding them to the glass jar on the lobby bookcase.

Thank you for supporting Heartwood!



Now Registering: Fall Semester Clubs and Camps

Check the [Fall Program Guide](#) for flyers, registration details, and more!

Baking Workshops

Learn baking skills or enhance your repertoire with monthly workshops held at Ms. Rebecca P's house. Topics include knife safety, cinnamon rolls, bread, and holiday treats such as pies, cookies, and gingerbread houses.

Who: Ages 8+, 4 students max.

When: Saturdays, 10:00am-2:00pm

Where: 511 Kildaire Farm Rd.

Dates: **Sept 21, Oct 26, Nov 23, Dec 14**

Fee: \$60 per workshop (includes all supplies plus lunch)

Register: Email [Rebecca Porter](mailto:Rebecca.Porter@trianglechess.com)

Board Game Fridays

This NEW club is led by Ms. Rebecca B's husband, Ian, who facilitated last year's student-led Dungeons & Dragons club.

Mr. Ian offers a curated collection of games, designed to promote cooperative play, group problem-solving skills, healthy competition, and fun! Depending on interest, titles may include Pokemon TCG, Ticket to Ride, Settlers of Catan, Magic: The Gathering, or Monopoly, plus more.

Who: Grades 4+

When: Fridays, 3:15-4:30pm

Where: Main School Building

Session: **Oct 4 - Dec 13**

Fee: \$40 (9 meetings and all supplies)

Register: [Online](#); fee payable to Ian Bloom at first meeting.

Chess Team

Triangle Chess teaches fundamentals and strategies that build confidence while enhancing students' learning skills and critical thinking. Participants have the option to compete against other local schools. Novice students and experienced players are encouraged to sign up as we will have two levels.

Who: Grades 2+

When: Wednesdays, 3:15-4:40pm

Where: Main School Building

Session: **Sept 18-Nov 13**

Fee: \$120 (9 meetings)

Register: [Online](#), or by contacting (919) 272-8017/ Improve@TriangleChess.com. Checks payable to Triangle Chess.

Coding with Scratch

Scratch, the MIT Media Lab project, lays the foundation for exploratory learning in computer science. Led by Coder Kids, participants learn foundational programming concepts through the completion of individual projects: creating a dance party, writing a story, creating user quizzes and making their own video games.

Who: Grades 2+

When: Mondays, 3:30-4:30pm

Where: Main School Building

Session: **Sept 23 - Nov 11**

Fee: \$119 (8 meetings)

Register: [Sign up online](#) to be emailed when registration opens.

Girls on the Run (Spring)

Two coaches needed so we can offer Girls On The Run this spring! Session will run Feb-April (75-min meetings, twice a week; meeting days flexible), with the 5k on April 25. Email [Marizol Martinez](mailto:Marizol.Martinez@trianglechess.com) by **Sept 30** for info or to volunteer.

Mystery Science

Mr. Jay's popular club offers two sections to accommodate grades 1-8.

Each week, participants are presented with a new science mystery. This Fall, we'll focus on biology, studying the living world around us. Each lesson begins with a mystery which hooks the students, who explore the topic through interesting stories with stunning images and videos, then concludes with hands-on activities.

Who: Current LE and UE+ students

When: 3:15-4:15pm. UE+ meets on Tuesdays; LE meets on Thursdays

Where: UE2 Classroom

Session: **UE+: Sept 10-Oct 15;**

LE: Sept 12-Oct 17

Fee: \$120 (8 meetings and all supplies)

Register: Email [Jay Batman](mailto:Jay.Batman@trianglechess.com)

Pretwinkle Suzuki Violin

Ms. Dana Friedli returns for her ninth year at Heartwood, offering small-group lessons in beginning Suzuki violin. Classes perform at Spring Fling.

Who: Ages 3-6

When: Tuesdays or Thursdays, 11:00-11:45am

Where: Heartwood campus

Session: **Ongoing, starting Sept 17/19**

Fee: \$22/class, billed monthly

Register: Email Dana@tristrings.com.

Violins may be rented from [Triangle Strings](#): (919) 858-0429

Private Piano Lessons

[Mr. James Catton](#) still has a few spots open for individual piano lessons. Mr. James teaches his students to sight-read notation via traditional methods along with learning how to play by ear.

Who: Ages 5+

When: Mondays/Tuesdays, 2:40pm on

Where: Heartwood campus

Session: **Ongoing**

Fee: Contact James for details and a free trial assessment

Register: Call (919) 889-1995 or email Jamescatton3@yahoo.com

Sewing Club

Upper Elementary student Mia's popular sewing club returns! Beginning to intermediate students hone hand-sewing skills with projects such as a bookmark, bean bags, and ice pack.

Who: Grades LE+

When: Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15pm

Where: Main School Building

Session: **Sept 25-Oct 30**

Fee: \$90 (6 meetings and all supplies)

Register: [Online](#)

Spanish Immersion Camp

Ms. Isabel now offers half-day Spanish immersion camps at her house! Participants cook, create, play, and practice their Spanish in an atmosphere of warmth and fun.

Who: Ages 3+

When: Saturdays 8:00am-12:00pm OR 9:00am-1:00pm (your choice!)

Where: 509 Kildaire Farm Rd.

Session: **Ongoing, starting Sept 7**

Fee: \$40 per 4-hour camp

Register: Ms. Isabel: (919) 320-6916

PERSPECTIVES From HW to Yale, via Madagascar

By Colin Peterson ('05)

I'll always remember the first time I saw a classroom in Madagascar. The school was in a rural village of about 1,000 inhabitants on the east coast of the African island nation, and I had been living as a part of the community there for a few months when the school director invited me to visit.

I prepared an icebreaker game, a lesson with some basic English greetings and expressions, and some practice time for the kids to speak to each other. Walking inside the building, the crumbling walls weren't an issue, and the extreme heat didn't even phase me by that point. You can't do much about those factors, I knew, but what really ended up throwing me for a loop were the learning conditions that were normalized for the children...

But how did I get to in that classroom, so far from my North Carolina roots? I believe my Montessori education at Heartwood was responsible for fostering many of the qualities that drew me to a life of service, qualities I now value most in myself.

In Ms. Sue's third grade class, those who were grasping the material well got to move on to more advanced topics like long division (lucky, right?), helping us recognize the joy of striving to meet challenges that fit with our potential.

Our teachers helped us balance valuing creative endeavors with effective time-management. I always worked extra hard on mornings that had free time scheduled, so I could write and draw comic books with my good friend Jared.

And perhaps most crucially for my future, I distinctly recall at every level – Children's House, Lower Elementary, and Upper Elementary – my gratitude when helped by older peers, as well as my eagerness to pay the mentorship forward to younger classmates.

We all served one another from places of privilege, leaned on one another when we needed help, and grew alongside one another in our wonderfully unique and distinct directions. That camaraderie foreshadowed an important lesson to be learned in life – nobody goes through it alone; we need each other as much as we need oxygen.

I applied to serve in the Peace Corps because of a deeply human desire

to connect with other people and a strong belief in reducing the suffering of vulnerable populations. I looked forward to the exciting cultural exploration too (another important link to my Heartwood days, where my class celebrated Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Diwali, and the Feast of Saint Lucy, among other holidays).

My Peace Corps assignment sent me to Madagascar, a country I knew only from an animated children's film (which didn't even have any Malagasy characters). My three very luminous years of service ended up being the most life-affirming decision of my life. My work ranged from distributing vaccines in remote villages to teaching lemur conservation

nobody goes through it alone. we need each other as much as we need oxygen

for populations living in rainforests and educating pregnant women to prevent malaria. I can't think of a better way to expand the mind, touch the heart, and satiate the adventurous spirit.

At Yale, I'll complete a Master's degree focusing on climate change and human rights. I'm fortunate in this opportunity, both because of critical financial assistance tied to my Peace Corps service, and for the distinction of the institution that will develop me professionally and personally to be the best version of myself.

It's a lot to look forward to, but as I enter this new phase, I can't help but think back to that primary school in my Madagascar community. As I stood in front of those fifty second graders sitting wall-to-wall, I realized that everything I'd valued about my own formative schooling years – individual attention, critical thinking, freedom to

ask questions, metacognition, intrinsic motivation, peer support – was absent.

Don't get me wrong – I'm not criticizing the school, nor the teachers or students for this deprivation – neo-colonialism, deep-rooted corruption, and rampant poverty are obvious contributing factors. What the moment elucidated for me was the deep appreciation I have for those opportunities which were provided at a very important time in my life.

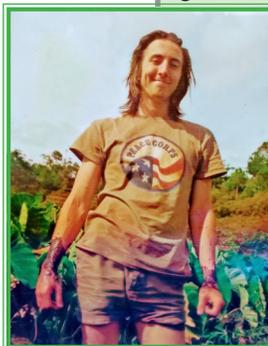
From preschool to fifth grade, Montessori gave me a plethora of treasures, both intangible, like a love of learning and an independently-oriented work ethic, and tangible, like lifelong friends (including my angelic preschool teacher, who may or may not still be at Heartwood...). The communal style of education is underappreciated, and I sorely missed it as a middle and high school student in the Wake County Public School System.

I believe that at Heartwood, the systemic approach and impassioned teachers provide all students the greatest chance to flourish as their true selves.

Themes of peace, love for the earth, and understanding that our differences are our greatest strengths underpinned my education, all of which I've found most important in living this one life we have, and continue to preach wherever I may roam, be it Madagascar or Yale or good ol' Cary, North Carolina.

Ed. Note: Visit our [blog](#) for more photos from Colin's Heartwood experience.

Colin Peterson is the son of beloved Children's House teacher Ms. Becki. He attended Heartwood from 1997 to 2005. In 2015, he obtained a B.S. in Environmental Science from UNC Chapel Hill. After graduation, he served with Americorps in



Montana, protecting National Forests and Wilderness Areas. From 2016 to 2019, he lived and worked in Madagascar with the US Peace Corps, implementing projects focusing on public health and biodiversity conservation. In August, he began a Master's Degree in Global Affairs at Yale University related to climate change, Africa, and human rights.

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?

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CREDITS

[Christina Rose Studios](#)

Portrait of Mack Wilson-Leigh

Going Somewhere?

It seems like the school year has barely started, but our elementary and upper school classes are already planning field trips, including excursions to [Morehead](#) Planetarium, [Meymandi](#) Concert Hall, the [Scrap Exchange](#), and [Agape](#) nature center.

So how to prepare?

First, keep an eye on your class emails for important updates and info regarding upcoming field trips.

Second, if your child will be eating lunch out in the world, remember to include an ice pack and make sure they have a water bottle with them.

Third, be on time! Departure times are carefully planned, so if you're running late, your teacher might ask you to meet the group at their destination.

If you're planning to drive on any of these amazing trips, THANK YOU!!! We so appreciate your help! Before field trip day, please drop your [chaperone form](#) by the office, or email it along with a photo of driver's license and insurance to office@heartwoodmontessori.com. (And if you've already done so, thank you!!)

Lastly, take pictures! Share your favorites with your class or send to the [yearbook](#). *Bon voyage!*

Welcome, Mr. Mack!

Please help us welcome UE2 Assistant Mack Wilson-Leigh to Heartwood!

Mack grew up in Chicago, where, he warns, "frostbite isn't just a wife's tale." He studied at The American Academy of Art in Chicago where he received a BFA in Illustration and taught art for various afterschool programs which integrated math, science and history lessons into their curriculum.

Mack moved to North Carolina in 2018, where he fell in love with the warmer climate and sunny days.

"I was in Montessori until the age of seven," Mack says. "I fully believe that this is one of the best ways to encourage the growth and development of children."



In addition to his work with Mr. Jay in UE2, Mack also joins Ms. Isabel for aftercare with the Children's House.



Please Re-Link Your VIC Card!

Supporting your school with the shopping you'd be doing anyway -- what could be easier?

Visit www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education to re-up, or ask your Harris Teeter cashier to link you to our TIE code (2026. Thank you for supporting Heartwood!