

HEARTWOOD

MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec 4: New NASA Club Begins

[Register now](#) for the Wednesday session of this new LE and UE-level club (details page 3).

Dec 4: NO PIZZA WEDNESDAY

Please **pack lunch** as normal today!

Dec 6: Parents' Night Out

Support the Children's House and UE2 classes, AND get a night out in the process! See details at right, and [sign up](#) to be part of this fun tradition.

Dec 19: Yule Log and HALF DAY

Join us at 11:00am for our annual [Yule Log Celebration](#). Classes will perform and we will release directly from the assembly by 12:00pm.

Please have your child shake hands with their teacher before leaving!



Dec 20- Jan 3: NO SCHOOL

Happy Holidays!

Jan 17: HALF DAY

CH and Toddlers, pick up at 11:30am. All other classes pick up at 11:45am.

Jan 20: NO SCHOOL

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Parents' Night Out: Dec 6!

Do you want a night out to get some holiday shopping done? Or a date night while your children enjoy time with their friends and teachers at school?

Then sign up for the Parents' Night Out, open to ages 3 and up!

Hosted by CH classes and UE2

Pizza will be served and a movie will be shown. Children can come in their PJs.

The Children's House team will use their proceeds to purchase new wagons and ride-on toys for the playground, while UE2 will purchase classroom materials.

Event Details

- **Friday, December 6, 5:00-8:00pm**
- **Ages 3-6** will be in the CH3 room with Children's House teachers
- **Ages 7+** will be in the UE2 room with Mr. Jay and class volunteers

\$20 for one child/\$30 for two children. Please note, this event is open to Heartwood students only.

Save Your Spot!

[Sign up here](#) to reserve your space for this fun evening. Thank you for supporting Heartwood's classrooms!

American Montessori Society Pathway Recognition

It's official! The American Montessori Society has recognized Heartwood's ongoing commitment to educational excellence, [confirming us](#) at step 6 on their Pathway of Continuous School Improvement.

The Pathway is a 10-step program that supports Montessori school quality. Step 6 is the highest level at which a school can enter the Pathway process.

What does this mean?

100% of Heartwood's lead teachers hold Montessori credentials. Our school demonstrates commitment to the principles in the [AMS Code of Ethics](#) and provides the core components

AMS has identified as essential to a Montessori environment, including:



- Multi-age classrooms
- A full complement of Montessori materials across grade levels
- Child-directed work
- Uninterrupted work periods

Many thanks to all who contributed their time and effort to receiving this recognition. We're proud to have AMS confirm what we already know: that Heartwood embraces Montessori in all that we do.

OFFICE NOTES

Save the Earth, Pack a Fork!

To help cut down on our plastic use, **please include a spoon or fork** if your child's lunch needs one. We've been going through a lot of disposables lately. Thanks!



QUESTIONS?

Main Office

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What Happens In Winter?

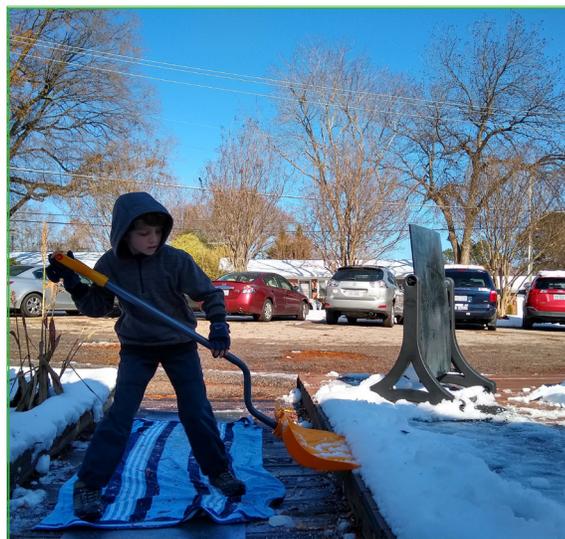
Stay warm, make cocoa, build a pillow fort, and we'll see you when it warms back up. But seriously...

Dress For Outdoor Play

The outdoor environment is one of the fundamental pillars of Montessori. We eat and play outside every day if at all possible, so please be sure to **send appropriate outerwear** for your child, and LABEL it with their name!

Winter Weather Policy

We do not necessarily close when Wake County Public Schools do, but since our students and staff come from all over the Triangle, we know that everyone's commute is different. If you feel that your drive will not be safe, please stay home. You are best equipped to evaluate the conditions near you, and we respect your judgment.



Watch Email For Updates

We publicize closures and delays before 7:00am on the affected day. Early release info is emailed with as much notice as possible.

Alerts are emailed to families, posted on our [website](#), shared to the private [HW Families](#) Facebook group, and listed on local TV channels 5 and 11.

Sick? Rest and Feel Better... At Home, Please!

It's that time of year, when it seems like we're doomed to drip, shiver, and cough our way from one virus to the next until allergies take over in the Spring. But there ARE ways to minimize our seasonal sniffles! Please read on to help us keep Heartwood healthy.

Infection Outlasts Symptoms

Per our Health Policy, children who are experiencing fevers, upset stomachs, or diarrhea must stay at home for 24 hours after their symptoms clear, in order to cut down on the risk of infecting others.

Resting Speeds Recovery

If your child is unwell enough that he or she has to be picked up during the

school day, please consider allowing him/her to rest the following day. Contagion issues aside, it's hard for a child who is recuperating to participate in the full school day -- including outside lunch and/or play -- if they are still under the weather.

Sharing Is Healthy

Alerting us to potentially contagious germs such as flu or strep can give staff and other parents a much-appreciated heads-up. Don't worry, we don't share personal details, but just knowing that other children might have been unknowingly exposed to a bug can help parents treat any early symptoms more effectively.



NASA Club

Take a voyage of discovery into the atmosphere and beyond! Explore planets, moons and other space phenomena in our solar system. Discover the difficulties of space travel, the challenges of living in space and try assembling a satellite while training to be an astronaut. Build your own Mad Science rocket and launch several with the group.

Students will have lots of projects to make and to take home. All material developed by Mad Science and NASA.

[Register online](#) for this great **NEW** club for **Lower and Upper Elementary**.

Club meets Dec 4 - Feb 5, 3:15-4:45pm.

Mystery Science for LE & UE

Mr. Jay's popular Mystery Science Club continues for LE (Thursdays) and UE (Tuesdays). Each session meets from 3:15-4:15pm in the UE2 classroom.

Each week, participants are presented with a new science mystery. 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 conclude with hands-on activities.

UE meets on Tuesdays, Jan 7-Feb 11 and Feb 25-March 31. **LE meets on Thursdays**, Jan 9- Feb 13 and Feb 27-April 2. Registration for each session is \$120.

Email Jay@heartwoodmontessori.com.

Winter-Spring Club Guide

Board Game Fridays

Mr. Ian's Friday Board Game club returns with new titles, including Smallworld, 7 Wonders, Ticket to Ride, Forbidden Island, Flash Point, Settlers of Catan, Marvel Code Names, El Dorado, Pokemon TCG, Magic: The Gathering, and more.

Mr Ian focuses on creating a curated experience that promotes cooperative play, group problem-solving, healthy competition, and always, lots of fun.

Club is open to grades 4 and up and meets Feb 7 - April 24. Session fee is \$40. [Register online](#) and pay at first class (cash or check made out to Ian Bloom).

Chess Club

Triangle Chess returns for a Spring session running Wednesdays March 25-May 27, 3:15-4:25pm, for all skill levels in grades LE and up. Session cost is \$110; [register online](#) here or email improve@trianglechess.com for more details.

Baking Workshops

Ms. Rebecca P. offers a series of fun hands-on workshops with delicious take-homes, including hand pies, cookies, homemade bread, and a variety of savory treats.

Workshops meet 10:00am-2:00pm on select Saturdays at Ms. Rebecca's house, 511 Kildaire Farm Rd, and are open to ages 8+. \$60 per class includes lunch.

Spring semester dates are Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 14, April 25, and May 16; email Rebecca@heartwoodmontessori.com

Sewing (Student-Led)

Mia's popular Sewing Club will return after the holidays. To be notified regarding dates and details, [please sign up here](#).

Individual Piano Lessons

Mr. James Catton offers individual piano instruction on Monday afternoons beginning at 2:40pm on the Heartwood campus. Email Jamescatton3@yahoo.com for details or call (919) 889-1995 for your child's free assessment.

Spanish Immersion Camps

Ms. Isabel's Saturday Spanish camps offers students in Kindergarten and up a chance to cook, create, play, and practice Spanish in an atmosphere of warmth and fun.

Held at Ms. Isabel's house, 509 Kildaire Farm Rd, from 8:00am-12:00pm OR 9:00am-1:00pm; \$40 per 4-hour camp. Call or text Ms. Isabel at (919) 320-6916 to learn more or to register.

Coding Update

As of publication, we are currently in talks with a new provider for the Monday programming club. Stay tuned for updates and registration in the coming months.

Meet Therapy Dog Dempsey



Heartwood loves our four-legged friends too, so we're very excited to welcome certified therapy dog Dempsey and his mom, Kim, who will visit with various classes this month and in the Spring.

Dempsey is certified through [Dogs With A Purpose](#), which links volunteer therapy dog teams with schools, hospitals, and other facilities.

If you do NOT want your child to participate in this program, please be sure to email your teachers and the office staff by Dec 19 to opt out.