

HEARTWOOD

MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec 20- Jan 3: NO SCHOOL

Happy Holidays! Welcome back Jan 6.

Jan 9 - 10: Elem Open Houses

9:00-11:00am: Visit Lower and Upper Elementary classrooms to observe the work cycles and learn about Montessori materials and methods at each level.

Jan 14: PEP Talk: K/Extended Day

6:30-8:00pm: [RSVP here](#) for childcare!

Our Curriculum Night PEP series kicks off with a deep dive into Kindergarten. Learn how this rich program completes the CH 3-year cycle and readies students for entry into first grade.

Jan 17: HALF DAY / Staff Meeting

CH and Toddlers, pick up at **11:30am**.

All other classes pick up at **11:45am**.

All children must be picked up by **NOON**.

Jan 20: NO SCHOOL

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan 22 - 24: CH Open Houses

9:00-11:00am: Visit our Children's House classrooms to observe their work cycles and see how Kindergarten work integrates into a multi-age environment.

Jan 23: PEP Talk: Lower Elem.

6:30-8:00pm: [RSVP here](#) for childcare!

Our Curriculum Night PEP series continues with an exploration of the methods and materials that translate Lower Elementary's Great Lessons into 3 years of rich and vibrant education.

Jan 30 - 31: Middle & High School Open House Mornings

9:00-11:00am: Visit our Upper School classrooms to observe the work cycles at each level (see **PEP program** on Feb 4).

Open Houses and PEP Talks

Re-enrollment is right around the corner! Check the schedule at left for opportunities to find out what's next for your child, learn more about our programs, or simply expand your Montessori knowledge.

Open House Mornings

How do the works you see in Children's House prepare your child for Elementary? What does "racks and tubes" mean on your third grader's work plan? Can Montessori's concrete materials really make the transition to advanced math?

Come see for yourself what work cycle looks like at various ages and stages during Open Houses from 9:00-11:00am on these dates:

- Children's House: Jan 22-24
- Lower and Upper Elem: Jan 9-10
- Middle and High School: Jan 30-31

Curriculum Night PEP Talks

Join us for level-specific deep dives into Kindergarten, Lower, and Upper Elementary curricula. Learn what comes after the Great Lessons of our cosmic curriculum, and get your questions answered with plenty of Q&A.

- Kindergarten: Jan 14
- Lower Elementary: Jan 23
- Upper Elementary: Feb 13
- Middle and High School: Feb 4

Childcare Provided for PEP

[Sign up here](#) to reserve your space for childcare during the Curriculum Night programs (6:30-8:00pm). Childcare is available for ages 3 and up.



Dempsey Comes to Heartwood

Certified therapy dog Dempsey and his mom, Kim, will help us get back in the swing of things after break with visits to the Children's House and Elementary classes this month.

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

Dempsey and Kim will visit the following classes starting at 9:00am: **CH classes:** Jan 7; **LE classes:** Jan 14; **UE1:** Jan 28 and **UE2:** Jan 30.



LOOKING AHEAD

Feb 4: PEP Talk: Upper School

*6:00-8:00pm: [RSVP here](#) for childcare!

Join the Upper School teaching team from 6:00-7:00pm for a discussion of Heartwood's Middle School program, then stay for a deep dive into our individualized college-prep High School program from 7:00-8:00pm.

Note earlier start time!

Feb 13: PEP Talk: Upper Elem.

6:30-8:00pm: [RSVP here](#) for childcare!

What does the 4th through 6th grade's integrated curriculum look like? How do Montessori materials facilitate complex calculations? Find out here!

Feb 17-18: NO SCHOOL

Teacher Workdays

Mar 6: HALF DAY / Conferences

CH and Toddlers, pick up at 11:30am.

All other classes pick up at 11:45am.

All children must be picked up by noon.

Staff meeting at 12:00pm; parent-teacher conferences in the afternoon.

Childcare not available during conferences

Mar 9: NO SCHOOL: Conferences

Check with your teacher for scheduling.

Childcare not available during conferences

QUESTIONS?

Main Office

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Parents' Night Out Success!

Many thanks to all who participated in the Parents' Night Out fundraiser on December 6!

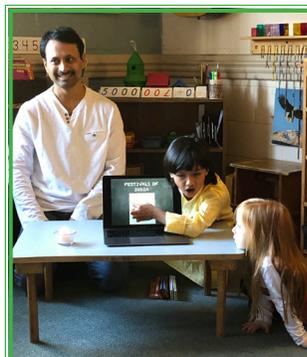
We're grateful to the wonderful volunteers who pitched in to make this such a fun evening, and to all who brought their children to the event. We hope you had a good time on your evening out, because we sure did.

Combined, Children's House and Upper Elementary 2 raised nearly \$800 to enhance their programs.

Thank you again, and have a peaceful holiday!



Today's Special Guest is...You!



It's always a big deal when we get to enjoy a parent presentation. Here at Heartwood, we're fortunate to have many talented families and diverse professions within our classes, and this means we get to enjoy some awesome special guests.

Recently in our CH classes, we learned about Indian celebrations, got a lesson in phlebotomy, and made a succulent

garden out of a miniature pumpkin.

Not a fan of the spotlight? Volunteers also make a huge impact, enabling field trips, gingerbread houses, and more.

Big thanks to these parents and all who share their time, talent, heritage, hobbies, and expertise with our students. We are so grateful for the many ways you enrich our school.



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



Spring 2020 Baking Club

Registration is [now open](#) for Ms. Rebecca's baking club, which meets monthly at her house on Saturdays from 10:00am - 2:00pm.

For this session, participants will hone savory as well as sweet skills, preparing and enjoying some "real food" along with their other treats.

Registration is \$60 per class and includes lunch and take-homes. Space is limited; [sign up now!](#)



- **January 25:** Basic Bread and Veggie Chili
- **February 22:** Sandwich Cookies (like Oreos) and Lentil Tacos
- **March 14:** Hand Pies (like pop-tarts) and Veggie Pizza
- **April 25:** Cake & Cake Decorating and Spaghetti
- **May 16:** Thumbprint Cookies and Mac & Cheese

Hoodies, Totes, and Tees

Did you miss out on the spiritwear order last month? Well, you *might* be in luck. We have a limited stock of totes, t-shirts, and hoodies (both pullover and zip) available.

All stock is first-come, first-served, so stop by the office and claim yours!

The next spiritwear opportunity will take place in April, offering white HW t-shirts for end-of-year tie-dye.



Editor's Note: This article reprinted with permission from AMSHQ.

Go to [Student Life > News & Posts](#) on our website to find more perspectives on Montessori education, transition, and philosophy from Heartwood's own families and educators.

There's No Such Thing as the Real World

By Peter Piché

Last spring, I attended the Spring Chorus Concert at C. E. Jordan High in Durham, NC, the public high school that both my children attended after they'd gone from the Toddler program through eighth grade at Montessori Community School, also in Durham. My daughter and son, both accomplished musicians, collaborated to sing a duet. They chose the song "No Such Thing" by pop icon John Mayer, which can be seen as a teenage lament about how adults "love to tell you [to] stay inside the lines." The line from the song that has stuck with me is "there's no such thing as the real world—just a lie you've got to rise above."

Many parents who send their children to Montessori schools secretly wonder when they should transition them to a "real school," which will toughen them up so that they can compete in the "real world" of winners and losers (a paradigm reinforced as the political and societal operating system of the United States during our last presidential election). In particular, I've seen fathers worrying and wondering whether all this nurturing in Montessori schools is inherently good for their children, especially their boys.

Somehow, we've been enculturated to believe that school ought to be somewhat painful and a bit of a slog if it is to prepare children for the real world of winners and losers. As both a Montessori dad and a career Montessori teacher, this notion always makes me cringe. I insist to parents that the reason to keep children enrolled in quality Montessori schools for as long as possible is because of the real world itself. That is to say, I personally am not very satisfied with the status quo that generally manifests itself as the real world. I kept my own children in Montessori programs as long as I could because I believe Montessori has the potential to help young people create a *new* world, of which we are so desperately in need.

And precisely how does Montessori education do this? Despite what some may believe, it isn't about superior academic achievement. It is true that the unique Montessori aspect of auto-education allows for children's innate gifts to emerge and enables them to pursue those gifts as they also gain competence in basic skills. But most essential is the simulation of community through a multiage environment, where "softer" skills like leadership, collaboration, creativity, empathy, and exploration are cultivated by design and with intention. The "lie we've got to rise above" is the idea that these gifts can be cultivated in an educational setting where conformity and

compliance are the norm. Being conditioned to do what you're told only leads to preservation of the status quo. Montessori education was never designed for that. In fact, Montessori herself wrote (2007, p. 69): "We must help the child to act for himself, will for himself, think for himself; this is the art of those who aspire to serve the spirit."

When I look at my own two Montessori alums, one now about to enter her second year at the University of North Carolina, and the other going into his senior year in high school, I see two very different, diverse persons who possess one important trait in common, cultivated through their years in a Montessori setting: conviction. Both my kids know how to lead and how to speak up and act. So when they sing more lines from "No Such Thing" with that same conviction—"I am invincible, as long as I'm alive"—I believe them, and I am hopeful for our collective future.

PETER PICHÉ is Montessori-credentialed (Primary, Elementary I-II). He also has experience teaching at the Secondary level. He founded the Adolescent Community at Montessori Community School in Durham, NC. He serves as a consultant to schools participating in the AMS Pathway of Continuous School Improvement and is a professional leadership coach to school leaders. Contact him at peter@growwisecoaching.com.

References

- Cook, C. & Mayer, J. (2002). No Such Thing [Recorded by John Mayer]. *On Room for Squares*. Duluth, Georgia: Columbia.
- Montessori, M. (2007). *Education for a new world*. Amsterdam: Montessori-Pierson Company.

