



GOVERNANCE BOARD NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VI, ISSUE 3 | 2018-2019



SPOTLIGHT ON THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Hello! I'm Amanda, the school counselor. This is my first year at Montessori and I wanted to introduce myself and what part I can play in your child's success. When asked to describe my role, I can almost immediately recite a professional statement, "I strive to meet all students' academic, career, and personal/social development needs through the delivery of a comprehensive school counseling program." While this is truly my aim, it doesn't provide a great deal of clarity about where my efforts are directed or what that work looks like.

Offering greater clarity frankly proves to be a challenge as meeting the unique needs of each child requires varied and individualized efforts.

While working with a child, I use educational, preventative, and intervention activities that could include:

- participation in a small group with targeted instruction on specific habits for academic success
- involvement in brief individual counseling to assist in coping with current life stressors
- attendance in school counseling classroom lessons targeting the development of perspective-taking and problem-solving skills
- referral to community resources, and/or collaboration with adults most influential to the child.

As you can see, my work is diverse with the fundamental goal of helping each child be successful academically, personally, socially, and departing with an awareness of and preparation for the career opportunities that lie ahead.

I am here to support your unique child's success while they are attending Montessori. If at any time you have questions or concerns about my work or the well-being of your child, please don't hesitate in contacting me. I would very much like to hear from you! adavis@ecasd.us, 715-852-3503



FILM FEST KICKOFF

On January 14th, all E1 and E2 students and staff gathered in the cafeteria to officially begin this year's film festival. Our 5th Annual Montessori Film Festival was kicked off with the short film "By the Book," which was written and produced by staff and parent volunteers, and starred student actors. The film festival is a special event at our school which showcases the talents and creativity of our students--as well as the efforts of the staff, parents, and volunteers who work so hard to put the event together each year.

New this year, classroom teachers are placing a high emphasis on developing students' collaboration skills by requiring all film groups to consist of at least two students--no more solo films! To this end, students are encouraged to form film teams based upon their skill sets rather than their peer groups. As with previous festivals, the staff will be focusing on helping students grow their creative writing and storytelling skills, and students must first submit their staff-approved story before film production may begin.

Read more about the film festival and watch the kick-off video (as well as previous years' films) on our school website: www.ecasd.us/CV-Montessori-Charter-School/Academics/Film-Festival

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The printing of this newsletter was donated by E.O. Johnson.

GOVERNANCE BOARD COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT: BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Much of the work of the Governance Board happens between board meetings, through committees. We're highlighting the Board Development Committee which is responsible for staffing and training the Governance Board including:

- Recruiting new board members in an effort to create a strong, diverse, and effective group.
- Orienting new board members to make sure they understand their roles and responsibilities as part of the Governance Board and have information about the school's charter contract, bylaws, and policies.
- Training the board. There is time set aside during each board meeting for board education which could range from a refresher on the charter contract to a focus on a Montessori education topic to highlighting some new initiative happening at the classroom level at CVMCS.
- Administering a self-assessment to Governance Board members to see how effective they think the board is that year.

The Board Development Committee is currently seeking new community representatives to serve on the board. If you know someone who you think would be a great addition to CVMCS, please pass their name along to Anna Rybicki at annarybicki@gmail.com or 715-828-6677.

GOVERNANCE BOARD

MEETINGS

Are held the first Monday of every month at noon in the school library. All meetings are open to the public.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

January 2019

- Board received Admissions Policy review by Board Development Committee Chair Anna Rybicki
- Mr. Todd gave Budget Process review and update
- Review of 2018-19 Strategic Plan

February 2019

- Mr. Kirk gave review of participation in Every Teacher a Leader
- Vote on budget
- Continued review of 2018-19 Strategic Plan

For review of full notes please visit CVMCS website under Governance Board

Wisconsin Fast Forward Teacher Training and Development Grant

In late November the Governance Board worked to submit a grant proposal to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development for teacher training and development to enhance student education. Our proposal was accepted and CVMCS is the proud recipient of a \$96,800 grant. We are one of 32 schools to receive money. The grant will allow for four CVMCS staff to complete a two year training program at UW River Falls as well as provide money for our eight para's to go to a three day Montessori Assistant Training. We are honored to receive this award and excited to continue to develop our Montessori Charter School with depth of training and understanding. Thank you to Todd Johnson, Elizabeth Harder, Shannon Paulus and Shelly Peters for their work and involvement in the writing of the proposal.



Hour of Code

December 7, 2018

The whole school participated in the third annual Hour of Code. Guest speakers presented in classrooms and then students broke into buddy groups and participated in several code activities.

Blankets

December 2018

Each year E1 students make baby blankets for a local hospital. Third graders travel to the fabric store and use math skills to pay for and measure the fabric. All of E1 then works as a team to create the blankets.

Poetry & Pancakes

December 20, 2019

Students in Mr. Kirk's E2 classroom continued a classroom tradition by spending the afternoon reciting poetry and eating pancakes before Winter Break.

Winterfest

February 8, 2019

This annual event gives families a chance to explore the school and participate in a variety of fun activities. The staff coordinate activities in almost every room to showcase student talent and give a glimpse into life at the school.