

COASTAL EMPIRE MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL & ACADEMY

October Edition, Issue #2



Calendar of Events

We have begun to enter new dates in the website's calendar. The Special Events Committee will be meeting soon and more dates will be added; please continue to check the website. Also check your students' newsletters for important dates.

November: No school 11/11 and 11/21 – 11/25.

December: Usborne Book Fair 12/6 – 12/9, no school 12/19 – 12/31.

MORE READING, READING, READING!!!

Ways to involve your children in reading:

- ❖ Get your child a free library card.
- ❖ Spread books out in locations around the house where your child normal plays.
- ❖ Read aloud to your child and make connections to things that your family has done. For example, when reading about a child who went to a farm, talk about farm animals you have seen or a farm that you have visited.
- ❖ Collect books related to holidays or special events.
- ❖ Go online with your child and read about interesting places or animals. National Geographic Kids is a good site.
- ❖ Get books on tape when you don't have enough time to read. Listen to them in the car, in the kitchen, or at bedtime.
- ❖ Find books with repetitious text and have your child chorus it when the text repeats.

Matching Grants

We have found a program to bring grants to the school. If you know of any local businesses or donors who would like to donate \$200 or more to

the school, Usborne Books will match their grant by 50%. So for every \$200 donated, we will get \$300 in free books. We are hopeful that we can get a few of these matching grants to help build a school library. If you know of anyone who is interested in donating, please get more information from the office.

Reach for the Stars

Reach for the Stars is a pledge-based reading incentive program. The students read (non readers/young children will be read to) and collect pledges from friends, neighbors, and relatives. This program works much like sponsoring a participant in a walk-a-thon-type program, except with *Reach for the Stars* you are sponsoring a child to read. Information is coming home today and the program will go until November 30th.

Most reading experts recommend 30 minutes of reading a day, and one of the goals of the *Reach for the Stars* program is to establish routine reading habits.

Usborne Book Fair

The *Reach for the Stars* program will culminate in a schoolwide Book Fair.

Students will have the opportunity to visit the fair and look at and purchase books from December 6 – 9th, 2011. This benefits our school because Usborne Books will match purchase amounts in free books for CEMCS. On Friday December 9th we will sponsor a family reading night. Come join us in your PJs and listen to some stories read by our very own Ms. Tina. Festivities will start at 6 pm; more information will be coming home soon.

CEMCS Charter

Dr. Lockamy has given his approval to the one-year Renewal Charter Petition that was submitted to him on October 14, 2011. The petition is now in the hands of the SCCPSS Board Attorney and will be forwarded to the State of GA in the near future. The CEMCO Board is planning for the submission of the next five-year charter within the next few months.



Lunch Money

CEMCS's account with MyLunchMoney.com is finally up and running! It is the most convenient and secure way to pay for your student's meals. All you will need is your child's Student Number, which can be gotten by calling the school or emailing Stephanie at Stephanie.cemco@gmail.com. Then visit www.mylunchmoney.com to register.

ORGANIC FARM BOX

Organic fruits and vegetables delivered to you at CEMCS! Feed your family well at home & at school!

CEMCS has partnered with FarmBox Savannah for an extraordinary opportunity benefitting your family and CEMCS!

For more information visit www.farmboxsavannah.com.

Our school coordinator is Katherine Durkin; email her at thedurkinfamily@yahoo.com.

Volunteer Hours Recording Form

Please keep your eyes out for information coming home on the rollout – finally! – of the recording forms for volunteer hours and monetary donations. All families will be given a choice to track their hours and donations online or in hard copy.

Attendance

Please note that children should be in school every day from 9:00 to 3:15.



Please make it a habit to have your student attend school daily.

It is understandable if a student is not in attendance because s/he has an illness, doctor's appointment, or family emergency, but we hope that these instances are infrequent. These are excused absences if a note is provided, but SCCPSS policy states that no more than seven are allowed each semester. Also please note that no more than five absences per year can be excused with parent notes per SCCPSS policy.

If a child is consistently unexcused for being tardy, leaving early, or absent, we will need to meet to discuss ways in which we can keep consistent attendance.

Medicine at School

SCCPSS policy states that all medicine must be contained behind 2 locks. This includes over-the-counter (OTC) products), EpiPens, inhalers and prescriptions. We must have a permission slip signed by a parent/guardian to administer any medication. Prescriptions must be in original containers and labeled with a pharmacy's label. We do not need a

prescription for OTC drugs but we still must have them in original containers with a signed permission slip signed. This even includes things like cough drops, Chap Stick and lotion. Children are not allowed to transport these medicines to or from home; a parent/guardian must personally bring in the medicine and sign all documentation. Each child that has a medicine in the office now has a Clinic File and all administering of medication will be logged.

Teacher Qualifications

The *No Child Left Behind* statute provides that parents have a right to know the qualifications of their child's teacher and assistant. You may submit a request in writing in order to be informed of the certification and educational backgrounds of those who teach your child(ren).

For Small Hands Catalog

All students are bringing home a *For Small Hands* Catalog today. Any order you place from this catalog will result in a donation to the school of 20% of the order purchase price.

