



**HAGERSTOWN**  
**CHILDREN'S SCHOOL**  
EDUCATION FOR LIFE

October 2018

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## New year - New look!

We have made some changes to our newsletter format and we think you'll like the new look.

### Director News

by **Heather Tosten, Director**

Everyone at Hagerstown Children's School is preparing to say goodbye to September and hello to October. September was packed full of initial lessons and adjusting to the classroom routines. I am always amazed at the amount of progress that is made in the first 4 weeks of school. All the children are excited to show off their new skills when I visit the classrooms.

Learning how to solve a problem with a friend is a life long lesson that the children begin working on when they enter a classroom setting. The Peace Rose is a tool that we use to help the students navigate peer conflicts, refine listening skills and teach empathy. This tool is used frequently in the Primary classrooms. The students use the "Peace Rose" as a physical reminder to listen to the person holding the rose. All parties get a chance to express their feelings about the situation, in the end the students "declare peace" and move on. This is sometimes facilitated by an adult but the goal is to eventually have the children use the Peace Rose independently and ultimately be able to solve issues without the help of a physical tool. Watching the children practice these conflict resolution skills is fascinating (and entertaining at times).

We held our first Parent Association Meeting on Thursday, September 27. Parents were able to talk with staff and take home some tips and ideas on how to increase their child's independence at home using a Montessori approach. If you would like to pick up the handouts from the meeting the extras are on the shelf under the information board in the front hallway.

Happy Fall!

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# October @ HCS

## Pre-Primary

The pre-primary classrooms had a wonderful start to the new school year. We welcome the fall weather and hopefully the dry weather. In October our lessons will focus on the seven continents, land, Jazz music and the artist will be Thomas Cole. We will explore animals and people of the seven continents. We will also learn where the continents are located on the globe by incorporating our continent song. As for our land lessons we will be learning about transportation and animals. To go along with the transportation lesson we will do a art project using vehicles. During the month of October Jazz music will be playing throughout our work time. We will discuss and learn about Thomas Cole and make our own landscape design. We are looking forward to our fall festivities. Please watch for our fall party sign up coming soon. Please continue to check your child's mailbox located outside of the pre-primary classrooms.

## Primary

Happy Fall, everyone! We had a great start to the year learning about Grace and Courtesy, manners and parts of the classroom. We are so excited for next month's topics. We will be learning about the 7 continents and their location on a globe and a map. In addition, we will be learning about land, focusing on landforms, soil and transportation. We will also be learning about landscape art with a focus on Thomas Cole paintings. In October we will be exploring Jazz music and listening to different Jazz artists and the types of instruments you can hear in Jazz music.

Next month we will be having our fall parties which is a great opportunity for parents to volunteer and help out in the classroom.

## Kindergarten

Kindergarten will be doing some extension activities this month to go along with our topics. They will be creating their own maps and looking at some of the different animals you can find on each continent. They will also be learning more about the land through science experiments exploring different types of rocks, as well as, discovering what the soil is made of. In September the kindergartners made some delicious applesauce and next month they will be making pumpkin bread.

# Smiles @ HCS



## Board of Directors

Community service co-chairs met recently and have decided the October project will be donating to [It's a Blessing to be a Blessing](#). This is a local woman who provides home cooked meals and a bagged lunch (for a later meal) to those in need in the Hagerstown area. We will be starting a sign-up genius for donations toward the bagged lunch supplies and other items the coordinator needs.

Who:	Open to public
What:	BOD Meetings
When:	2nd Tuesdays @6:30pm
Where:	HCS Office
Why:	Be involved!

Fundraising is an ongoing effort at HCS. Don't forget we have several ways that you can help all year long with little effort. Use the following links to show your support for the school:

[Martin's A+ Rewards](#), [Amazon Smile](#), [Box Tops for Education](#) and of course we are in the planning stages for two biggest fundraisers - Raffle/Silent Auction and Day of Giving. We have extended the date for donation letters for the Raffle/Silent Auction to October 5th and we will be sending information home soon regarding Day of Giving.

Your support is appreciated and please be watching for updates and emails from our Fundraising Committee.

## Office News

by **Ms. Brenda**

The year is off to a great start and I appreciate all of our families working so quickly to turn in all your paperwork. If we are still missing anything I will be in touch with you soon. Please be sure to sign up for our Remind app as we will begin using it more frequently. If you are unsure of how to do that, stop by the office for information. We will be sending Sign-Up emails for our fall parties, if you don't receive an email, please check with me.

### Fall Festival Information

Our fall parties and costume parades will be held on October 31 and November 1. We do not permit costumes with face masks or weapons of any kind.

Class parades will be as follows:

11:10AM - Pre-Primary, Primary 1, Primary 4,  
Kindergarten

3:10PM - Primary 2, Primary 3, Kindergarten

Information will be sent home regarding snack donations for the class parties.



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