



August 26, 2010

Good day, Parents/Guardians,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you and your children to a new school year, as the California Montessori Project (CMP) begins its tenth year of offering a high-quality, tuition-free, K-8 Montessori program to families in the greater Sacramento region.

Since the Fall of 2001, CMP has grown from an enrollment of 466 to a current enrollment of nearly 1700 students. In addition, on August 23rd we opened the doors of our sixth campus, located at the Coleman School in Orangevale. We are proud of the achievements of our students as reflected in their attitudes, ethics and productivity, as well as their STAR test scores. The collective staff of CMP fully expects great things of our students this year and beyond, as they prepare for their adult years and engage in their local, continental and global communities.

CMP is committed to offering a program of integrity and challenge to our students. We will continue to do this despite dramatic reductions in state revenue in recent years. While our finances are strong, it is becoming increasingly difficult to balance our budget while maintaining small class sizes and providing the low student-to-teacher ratios that we value.

On behalf of the California Montessori Project, I am asking for your help. First, our revenue is based primarily on student attendance. Every day your child is in school, CMP receives funding that provides for instructional materials, staff salaries and necessary operational expenses. CMP teachers are committed to providing foundational lessons to students on a daily basis. I am inviting every family to engage in this same level of commitment by bringing your child to school on a daily basis, and on time. Our collaborative efforts will certainly benefit every student and every class.

Second, I am asking for your additional support by providing donations to our program as you are able. The gifts you provide for your child's school are greatly appreciated. CMP also welcomes support in the form of "monthly pledges." Be assured that your gifts will be fully used to support the instructional program (including field trips), and will not be used for staff salaries or operational support. Please contact your school Principal to share your intent to pledge.

Last but not least, we are looking into programs that link CMP families with local vendors to provide funding to our schools. For example, eScrip is a 24/7 fundraiser that uses business and consumer relationships to earn donations for our schools. By partnering with eScrip and other similar programs, supporters of CMP can earn money for school projects by being intentional about how they shop. With minimal upfront time invested (five minutes to register on the safe and secure eScrip website), routine purchases at local grocery stores such as Safeway, SaveMart and Raley's/BelAir will generate needed funds for our schools. If you shop on-line, your purchases can also help our school by earning money from one of over a thousand eScrip on-line merchants: No unnecessary or unbudgeted expenditures, just intentional shopping. More information will be coming to your campus soon.

Thank you for choosing California Montessori Project, and thank you for your continued commitment to your child's education. Together we can accomplish great things.

Please, feel free to contact me via telephone or email as noted below. As always, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Gary

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