

# Grizzly Bear Class Information

**Lead Teacher: Ms. Paula    Assistant: Ms. Michelle**

**Curriculum:** An integrated curriculum of history, geography, biology, and physical sciences is the heart and soul of the Montessori elementary classroom. Montessori has developed very effective, hands-on materials for learning math and language studies and the "cultural curriculum" (the mixture of history, science, story and study).

**Teachers:** Traditional education leads us to think of teachers as the dispensers of all information. Montessori education tells us that the teachers are only "guides" to the students own learning. We are here to follow and challenge each child in our care. Please partner with us so that we can really get to know your child and inspire their love of learning.

**Snacks/Lunch:** Please send healthy lunches and snacks (two if in club M) every day with your child; healthy meals help kids do better at school. Hot lunches are available at school. Look at the CMP website for information about school lunches.

**Fabulous food Choices (lunch and snack from home)** - 1. *Cut up fruits and vegetables (number one healthy choice!)* 2. *Nuts (no hydrogenated oils added)* 3. *Edamame* 4. *Dried fruit (no sugar added)* 5. *Trail mix (no sugar, corn syrup, HFCS, or artificial ingredients added)* 6. *Sliced cheese (cheese sticks create a lot of plastic trash)* 7. *Crackers (no sugar, corn syrup, partially hydrogenated oils, or artificial ingredients)* 8. *Anything homemade and low sugar* 9. *Hormone free lunch meat* 10. *Hard boiled free range eggs*

**Please avoid these unhealthy foods** - 1. *Gogurts (so much trash, mess, and sugar)* 2. *Quaker granola bars (read the ingredients on those things, yikes!)* 3. *Fruit roll ups* 4. *Goldfish crackers (esp. colored goldfish)* 5. *Un crustables or anything that looks like them* 6. *Cookies* 7. *Sugary, spongy muffins made from very refined ingredients* 8. *Candy* 9. *Part of a Lunchable* 10. *Juice of any kind (water only in class)*

**Daily Sharing Circle:** The students can share once a week this year; they have a great need to share at this age. Signup sheets will be available after morning circle. Any child who signs up can share (if they haven't already shared that week). If we run out of time, they will be put on the following day's list. Sharing cannot be a toy unless it is something they worked really hard on building. We will go over ideas for sharing with the students. Sharing will start on the second week of school.

**Birthdays:** The students can participate in a birthday walk on their birthday or half birthday (if in summer) at school. They will need to prepare a timeline, which they can make at school. They will need to bring in **ONE** picture for every year they have been alive (if pictures are unavailable, we can modify this part of the celebration). Something new this year! The birthday student can bring in ingredients to make a special treat in our school kitchen with an adult and several friends. The birthday walk will take place at 11:30am on the decided day (parents are very welcome to come); the treat can be prepared that morning during independent work time. Your child can also be the "giver", rather than always the "receiver" on his/her special day and donate a book or new material to our classroom after his/her birthday walk. **Students need to do their b-day walks on or very near their actual day or half day (we can't accommodate too many birthday walks at the end of the year).**

**Learning Logs:** These are individual work plans/charts that the students will gradually adopt to help them meet their learning goals. These provide the students freedom of choice with responsibility. I will go over them more in detail with each parent during the first conference. By conference time the students will be using them more regularly.

**Friendship Tea:** Once a month, parents will be invited to come to school for tea and to see/listen to work that the students have prepared. This work can include research projects, poetry, stories, artwork, or any other work that they are proud of. I do realize that most parents do work and won't be able to visit, but come if you can. The tea party will probably take place around 2:00pm near the end of each month. This event will hopefully **start** in October, more to come on that.

**Newsletters:** Please be sure to check our class page on Fridays for the newsletter of the week. You can find out about current lessons, work, upcoming fieldtrips and other important dates. We'll also have classroom needs posted there.

## **Parent Communications**

Communication folder sent home daily

Use school voice-mail for quick messages.

Formal Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled in October and March.

Informal conferences can be scheduled as often as needed.

E-mail: pthackaberry@cacmp.org

**Volunteers:** We will need regular classroom volunteers to help out in the classroom to read with our early readers, to do facts practice with all the students, to help our budding writers edit their work, and much more. We will also need parents to bring things home to cut, organize, and other things like that. We would like parents with special talents to share their talent with us. This could include arts and crafts, sewing, knitting, woodworking, forms of exercise, art, music, gardening, you name it! Let us know if you have the time and skills to help out in any way. Allow 6 weeks before starting your in-class volunteering. **Please get all your paperwork in to the office, very important!!**

## **Typical Daily schedule: (after the 6 week normalization period)**

8:30 - arrive at school, come in and do morning mini (quick language/math activity)

8:40-9:00 - morning circle (attendance, calendar, news, song)

9:00-11:30 - work time (small group lessons and independent work)

11:30 - 12:00 - sharing circle

12:00-1:00 - lunch/recess

1:00-1:30 - silent reading and buddy reading (2x/week)

1:30-2:30 - whole group cultural lesson (art, music, PE, history, geology, geography, zoology, botany)

2:30-2:45- classroom responsibilities (clean-up)

2:45-3:00- closing circle (Friday classroom meeting circle, student led)

**Field trips:** We will need 5 parent volunteers for each field trip we go on. The permission slips will need to be in 2 weeks prior to event or the students cannot go. Many factors are considered when planning a trip, so please get those slips in ASAP so all students can attend. The student will be put in a different classroom for the day if they aren't able to come, **SORRY - no exceptions on this!!!!** Field trips are currently being scheduled and we will let you know what our plans are as soon as they are finalized.

**HOMEWORK:** Read 20 min. (at least) every night and practice math facts. In addition, this year we will be assigning Monthly "fun" homework, checks taking place at the end of each month. Every month has a different "theme" that will hopefully provide ways for families to connect and de-stress with each other, rather than creating more stress. The students will eventually have weekly spelling homework which they may work on in class if needed. The third graders will need to memorize their multiplication facts by the end of the year as well; we will let you know if your child needs the extra support from you at home.

**\*\*\*\*\*Please feel free to ask any questions that come up at any time during the school year, you don't need to wait for conferences.**