

The Cornerstone Courier

Frank Leto Performs at Cornerstone Montessori

March 15, Cornerstone teachers attended Cincinnati Montessori Society’s annual conference where we had the opportunity to listen to the key note presenter Frank Leto, an award winning composer of multi-cultural songs and dances for young children. Cornerstone Montessori school was honored to have Mr. Leto come to our school on Friday, March 14 and perform a special concert for our preprimary and lower elementary students and parents. Rachel, one of our 5th grade students writes that Frank Leto played various instruments and encouraged the students to guess which instrument he was playing. He also entertained the students with *Itsy Bitsy Spider* and *I’m Little Teacup*.

Cornerstone Summer Camps are just around the corner.

There is still time to sign up for Cornerstone’s Summer Camp! Join us this summer as we explore and discover science, art, pirates, sports, swimming, cooking, drama, and music. Our camps are designed to enhance the curiosity, creativity, and imagination of every child from preprimary to 6th grade. Camp information and registration forms are available in our front hallway. You can also download brochures and forms on our website www.cornerstonemontessori.org *Our summer camps are open to public so invite your friends!*

Lost and Found - “Lost and Found” – Please check the lost items on the long desk in the activity room! Hats, mittens, slippers, notebooks, water bottles, lunch tools and containers, and more missing items can be found there.

March and April Birthdays

Emma	March 16	Mr. Paul	April 4
Gwenie	March 16	Meg	April 8
Mary Beth	March 18	Addie	April 14
Miss Nancy	March 18	Alex	April 14
Mr. Christopher	March 18	Brendan	April 18
Leila	March 23	Rachel	April 28
		Piper	April 30



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

New Faces at Cornerstone Montessori School by Kaitlin

Jacob has joined our pre-primary class. He is three years old, and his favorite food is yogurt. He says that his favorite color is blue, and he likes watching Tom and Jerry. He enjoys riding his bike and playing ball with his friend Brendan.

Cornerstone Preprimary March News

Reading Fever

This time of year in the Montessori classroom always brings on reading fever. Children who have worked with the sound box series and begun to blend sounds together are now reading the B-1 series. Some children sound out the letters and blend them with ease. These children are thrilled to read. They can read once a day with each teacher. Once they read their book they mark off another box on their reading chart. When a chart comes home make a big deal out of it in a simple way! Light a candle on the dinner table. Let the child blow it out! Or offer them a choice for dinner- beans or peas. Some children sound out the letters slower than others. The teacher will sound out the word with this child. Both repeat it a little faster until it is a word. Each time blending is done it is understood a little bit better. This work of reading requires patience and offering what is needed at just the right moment.

Birds

In the area of science we are working with birds. These amazing vertebrates have a backbone, are warm-blooded, breathe with lungs, have beaks, wings and feathers and lay eggs. There are about 9,000 species of birds in the world. Some are on the endangered animal list and others have vanished. We are matching birds, playing bird bingo and making parts of the bird books, among other things. We have learned that red birds are really cardinals, hummingbirds are fast and peacocks have beautiful feathers. Our ring-necked dove in the classroom is growing up. She is no longer a baby. Columbus Montessori is giving us another baby bird- a white ring-necked dove so we will have two. These birds are not related and may someday lay eggs and have baby birdies in our classroom!

Snack

We still enjoy soup in snack but not quite as much! As the snow melts our soup pot cools. When we return from our spring break we will learn about eggs and the ways to cook them.

Art

Art is a favorite area of our classroom. In our watercolor work we now have three primary colors to paint with. Children discover how two colors become one new color. They are learning how to use the brush to blend the colors. Coloring, painting and cutting have all changed from the hearts of valentines day to the eggs of spring!

Conference Time For Teachers

This is the time of year that teachers go to conferences. They bring back some wonderful new materials for the classroom and new ideas for work. The Cincinnati Montessori Society hosts its annual conference this weekend. The guest presenter, Frank Leto will be coming to our school for a special concert for students and their parents.

Parent Child Visits

We will soon invite you to our first parent-child visiting night. Your child brings one relative to this special event. It is a shorter version of our school day. Children arrive, hang up coats (and moms purse) and go to work. After our work period ends we have a singing circle. Experience the classroom with your child! (Next year we will have a fall visit and a spring visit so that both mom and dad get a turn coming to this event.). Some parents let the child pick who comes. Some parents have even flipped a coin to see who comes! As a parent this was my favorite school event.

What's developing in the Lower Elementary Classroom?

In February and March, the students in the lower elementary class moved from the study of Asian cultures to the study of African cultures. The students' African plant and people projects have been quite interesting. We have all learned many new things about some of the people and plants of Africa.



Did you know?

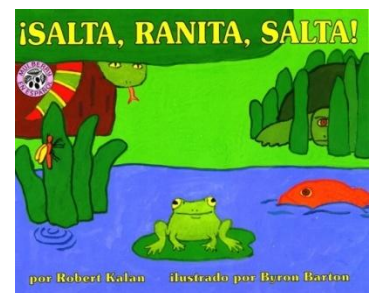
- The Samburu people of Africa drink milk and cow's blood mixed together. Most of the lives of the Samburu people revolve around caring for their cattle.
- The sundew is a carnivorous plant that survives by eating flies and other insects that happen to land upon it. The sundew is a plant that hibernates during the winter months.
- The Wolof people of Africa still deal in the trading of slaves. They work capturing, transporting, and selling slaves from a port in Dakar, Senegal.
- The Maasai people of Africa are extremely talented at making beads and that these beads have great meanings for their people. The Maasi wear many strands of beads that often become very heavy (necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and sometimes hats). The more strands of beads a Maasai woman wears, the higher her status is in the tribe.

Reminders

A few things to remember before we all take a break for the spring. First, remember to get those games in for the auction. We really need them before the break. That will give us time to get them ready to go for the auction. It's right around the corner. Next, when we come back from Spring Break, the students who have been taking addition math fact tests will be taking subtraction math fact test and the students who have been taking subtraction math fact tests will be taking multiplication math fact tests. Next, get those choices in for your Australian projects. The children get their choices on a first come first serve basis. Finally, remember to have a great and relaxing Spring Break!

Spanish

The lower elementary students have been reading *Jump Frog Jump* by Robert Kalan. This is a cumulative tale about a frog trying to escape a fish, snake, turtle, net, and a group of boys all while the frog is trying to catch a fly. The students learned Spanish vocabulary while substituting numerous Spanish words for English words.



Lower Elementary Writing Workshop

In writing workshop, the students have been working on autobiographical poems. These poems were beautifully written by all of the students in our class, so we thought everyone might like to share them.

Brooke

*Peaceful
Sister of Ally and Kristy
Lover of reading
I feel happy.
I need my house.
I give toys.
I fear snakes.
I would like to see Australia.
Resident of Morning View
Brooke*

Alex

*Funny, weird, happy
Brother of Sydney
Lover of electric guitars and electric drums
I am happy when I play my guitar.
I need my cat and dog and mom and dad.
I give my friendship, peace, laughter
I fear nothing.
I would like to see Star Wars 3, Revenge of
the Sith.
I live in Dayton, Kentucky
Alex*

Lucy

*Nice, on task, funny
Daughter of Patrick and Barbara
Lover of peace, learning new things, and
nature
I need peace for the world.
I give friendship and love.
I fear scary movies.
I would like to see Ghana.
I live in Ft. Thomas, KY.
Lucy*

Mitchell

*Funny, happy, puffy
Son of Michelle and David
Lover of darkness and electric guitars
I feel happy when I play with video games
and when I fell off my bike in the summer
and didn't feel any pain.
I need medicine and my cat.
I give jokes.
I fear nothing.
I would like to see Kings Island.
I live in Newport, Kentucky.
Mitchell*

Will

*Funny, weird, nice, kind
Son of Mom and Dad
Lover of swimming, running, discovering
I feel happy, funny, great!
I need love from my Mom and Dad.
I give friendship and kindness.
I fear Phantom of the Opera.
I would like to see the Lochness Monster.
Resident of Alexandria, KY
Will*

Devani

*Peaceful, loving, happy, patient
Sister of Jace
Lover of Hello Kitty
I feel happy when I am with Mommy!
I need pink.
I give love to Mommy!
I fear bugs.
I like to see Earth.
I live in Kentucky.
Devani*

Ethan

Silly, loving, peaceful
 Son of Scott and Mark
 Lover of my papas and flowers
 I feel happy when I get presents at
 Christmas.
 I need peace.
 I give love and I say, "I love you!"
 I fear storms and lightening!
 I would like to see China and Egypt.
 I live in Alexandria, KY.
 Ethan

Sam

Funny, persistent, happy
 Brother of Anna Lee and Noah
 Lover of games
 I feel happy.
 I need Alex,
 I give laughter and donations.
 I fear my bedroom.
 I would like to see Yosemite.
 I live in Erlanger, KY.
 Sam

Molly

Nice, friendly, happy
 Sister of Aubrey and Sarah
 Lover of snakes
 I feel like playing Xbox 360.
 I need my dog.
 I give love.
 I fear my dog.
 I would like to see a king cobra.
 I live in Taylor Mill, KY.
 Molly

Leila

Kind, nice, sweet, active
 Sister of Sarah
 I love reading, swimming, horseback riding
 I feel kind when I with my friends.
 I need warm days.
 I give friendship, kindness, and love
 I fear bees and snakes
 I would like to see Asia, Italy, and Jordan.
 Resident of Taylor Mill, KY
 Leila

Aubrey

Nice, peaceful, funny, sporty, cool, patient
 Sister of Sarah and Molly
 Lover of animals my family and books
 I feel happy when I'm with my friends and
 family.
 I need books, family, food, water, and
 shelter.
 I give my toys, books, friendship, laughter,
 joy, and happiness.
 I feel danger.
 I would like to see the bottom of the ocean
 and a volcano.
 I live in Taylor Mill, KY.
 Aubrey

Teresa

Nice, kind, happy
 Sister of Travis, Tristan, and Trey
 Lover of nature, learning, and adventure
 I feel happy when I help the world.
 I need to save the world.
 I give the gift of helping the world.
 I fear vampires and scary movies.
 I would like to see the rainforest.
 I live in Independence, KY
 Teresa

Emma

Loving, peaceful, joyful
 Sister of Iris
 Lover of animals, reading, and my family
 I feel happy when I am reading.
 I need medicine.
 I give friendship and love.
 I fear spiders, the dark, lightning, and
 shots.
 I would like to see Italy.
 I live in Newport, KY.
 Emma

Mary Beth

Loving, kind, joyous, chatty, hyper
 Sister of Ian
 Lover of reading, chatting, and
 interrupting
 I feel happy when reading.
 I need chatting and reading.
 I give friendship and laughter.
 I fear spiders and darkness.
 I would like to see a Hawaiian Sunset.
 I live in Cincinnati, OH.
 Mary Beth

Mary Claire

Peaceful, sweet, kind
 Sister of Ben
 I love horse back riding, swimming, soccer,
 and learning.
 I feel happy when I go to the beach and
 when I am horse back riding.
 I need horse back riding and the beach.
 I give love, learning, happiness, kindness
 and friendship.
 I fear falling off of a horse.
 I would like to see a leprechaun and the
 Kentucky Derby.
 Resident of Cincinnati, OH
 Mary Claire

George

Crazy, nice, funny
 Son of Trish and Frank
 I love my cat, dog, and geckos.
 I feel happy when my dog goes crazy.
 I need Legos and fun.
 I give fun.
 I fear Aliens.
 I would like to see a tapir.
 Resident of Dayton, KY
 George

Noah

Peaceful, gentle, kind
 Brother of Faith Anne
 I love video games, Star Wars, and Battle
 Front 1.
 I feel crazy.
 I need play station.
 I give items.
 I fear tanks.
 I would like to see a real tank.
 I live in Newport, KY.
 Noah

Grace

Nice, funny, peaceful, creative
 Sister of Lily and Alexis
 I love reading, swimming, and my cats
 I feel happy, nice, and great.
 I need warm days, Nintendo, and love.
 I give kindness, joy, and happiness.
 I fear Goosebumps, mummies and snakes.
 I would like to see Hannah Montana, Asia,
 and the pyramids.
 I live in Newport, KY
 Grace

Hannah

Peaceful, loving, persistent
Daughter of Tina and Chris
Lover of Mama
I feel generous.
I need sunshine.
I give money to the poor.
I fear tigers.
I would like to see Kelly Patrick,
I live in Taylor Mill, KY.
Hannah

Jace

Good, weird, annoying, nice
Brother of Devani and Nick
Lover of my dad, my brother, toys
I feel happy when I am with my dad.
I need Xbox 360.
I give hugs and love.
I fear mice.
I would like to see a snake and frog.
Resident of Villa Hills
Jace

Ben

Funny, weird, happy
Son of Jeff
Lover of video games
I feel happy when I play video games.
I need my cat.
I give happiness.
I fear nothing.
I would like to see California.
I live in Ft. Thomas, KY.
Ben



Upper Elementary Happenings

Sick Days by Travis and Katie

In February, the flu flew through our school and we decided to close the school for a few days to give everyone a chance to get well. Channel 5 came and interviewed our office manager, Melissa, to see why we closed our school. Melissa said that we were advised that this would be the best way to get rid of the virus. Channel 5 showed our students working in their classrooms. They also reported that we are making sure we wash our hands a lot, and are making sure that we use tissues. Some students even got on the news showing the right way to do these things. Luckily, our planned worked and now things are now back to normal with healthy students working hard once again.

Cincinnati Museum Center Field Trip by Noah

Recently Cornerstone Lower and Upper Elementary students went to the Cincinnati Museum Center. We visited the Natural History Museum where we saw a bat show and then we walked and crawled through the cave. The Upper Elementary students explored the ice age. We all gathered for lunch together in the rotunda, then the 4th and 5th graders went to the OmniMax movie *The Human Body*.

Snow Day by Ben

March 7 we got off school at 12:00 because of a major snow storm that was headed our way. On the way home I heard that a lot of cars had gone off the road. At home I measured a 24 inch snow drift. My classmates all had a fun time in the snow that weekend. Faith Anne climbed a giant snow mound in the Newport shopping center. Kaitlin played with her dog in the snow. Noah built a ramp and jumped off it with a sled. Katie S. played with Sarafina in the snow. Lily went sledding with her family. Rachel went sledding with Emma. Sarah went sledding with her dog. Travis played with his family in the snow. Ian went sledding with his family. I took a walk with my family in the woods. Ms. Nancy went cross country skiing at Ault Park.

Our Peace Quilt by Faith Anne

In art class these past few weeks we have been making our class peace quilt for our silent auction. Each student in the Upper Elementary class has been working on an individual seven by seven inch square - each with a student's own design. We began making the peace quilt by drawing something we find peaceful on a seven inch square of paper. After that we chose our background fabric and cut out our square. Then we chose the fabric for our designs, cut it out, got an embroidery hoop from Miss Emily, and pinned on our designs. Then we appliquéd them on by hand. Karen Dansberry (the mother of Faith and Noah Dansberry) offered to piece our quilt together. Our quilt will be sold in the silent action - or will it?. Please come to our silent auction to see our beautiful work and bid on our quilt.

Enrichment News

Our Enrichment activities and schedule was affected by weather and the resulting snow and sick days. We enjoyed some outside time in the snow and more time now that the weather is getting mild. On our most beautiful days, homework time gives way to enjoying our first days of spring on the playground. We even had a "picnic snack" outside on our first afternoon over 60 degrees!

We had a lot of fun in **February** making and eating "Stone Soup". The children really enjoyed scrubbing the stones, then scrubbing, peeling, slicing and/or chopping carrots, mushrooms, potatoes, onions, celery and garlic to add to the soup pot. We used bullion cubes, pepper and marjoram to flavor our broth. Our stone soup cooked all the next day, and was so popular that we ate every drop!

Also in **February** we checked out the www.nasa.gov website to learn about the shuttle and the International Space Station, and then built edible space stations. It was so much fun, we hope to have time to do this again while the shuttle is at the space station in March. We celebrated Alexander Graham Bell's birthday on March 3 by making string-and-cup "telephones" to take home.

The weather cooperated so that we celebrated "Leap Day" by jumping as high and as far as we could outside on **February 29th**. In March, we had several opportunities to make play dough to take home, using flour, salt, water and food coloring (if desired). Some children participated in a new bead-making activity, using magazine pages rolled on a pencil, then cut into pieces as beads to be strung into necklaces. We also had a chance to watch a movie about Yellowstone National Park and a Magic School Bus video.

Making fruit kabobs has been the most popular snack. String games, books and building activities are now the most popular materials with all ages during Enrichment. Making paper airplanes are an often-chosen activity. We made a "tape town" - masking tape "roads" on the floor to use with the cars and make block "houses" and "buildings". Aiden named our town "Ingenea", and we enjoyed this building opportunity for a week.

Children from 3 to 9 years old spontaneously created and participated in wonderful fantasy play scenarios. Such spontaneous "play" helps develop "executive functions" in the brain. These child-created activities followed an interesting variety of "storylines", from using string to make "webs" to play "spider", to "wolf adventures" to "family life with triplets".