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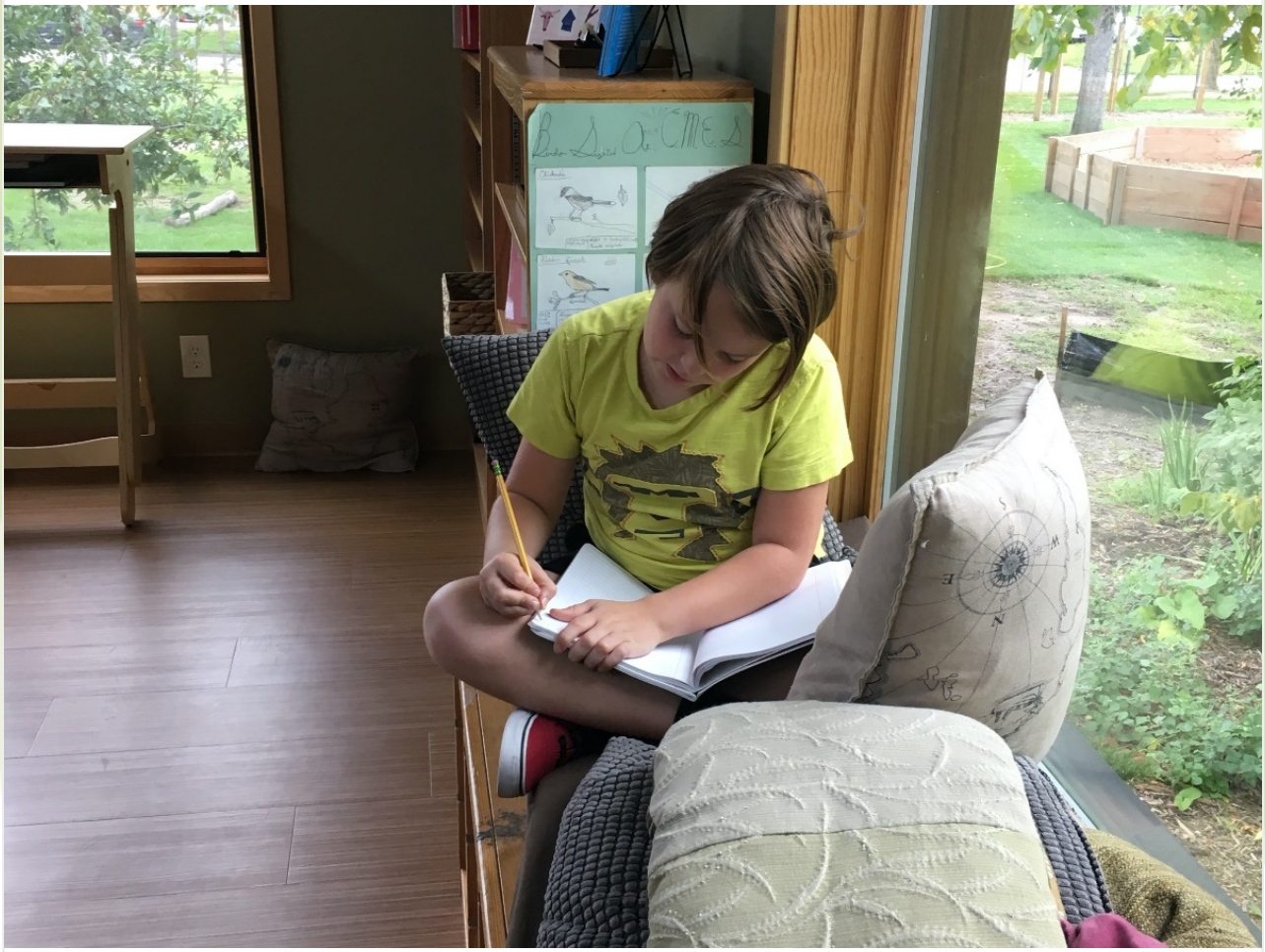
CORNERSTONE
MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Fall 2019 Newsletter

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In this Newsletter:

- Cornerstone Celebrates International Peace Day
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- Donate to Cornerstone

Mission Statement

Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School's mission is to support children from culturally and economically diverse backgrounds living in or near St. Paul's East Side through a rigorous and high-impact Montessori program that empowers them to make positive decisions, develop self-discipline, and create a true sense of responsibility for themselves and others in their community.

Cornerstone Celebrates United Nations International Day of Peace

On September 20, Cornerstone's 1st-6th graders celebrated the 3rd annual International Day of Peace. This event was organized and emceed by the children; we were delighted to be joined by parents, CMES staff, and community members. The two Lower Elementary classes sang songs about peace, while the Upper Elementary children shared information about climate change and the importance of collaboration. The celebration was capped off by a dramatic reading of Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I a Woman" speech. It was truly an inspiring and thought-provoking morning, highlighting the thoughtfulness that Cornerstone's children bring to all of their work. We look forward to celebrating the International Day of Peace next September!

CMES Wins Innovation Award

CMES received an Innovation Award from the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools this spring. Our school-based mental health program was recognized for the important work we do in supporting all children in experiencing mindfulness, developing coping skills, and establishing healthy relationships. Click here to watch the video!

Children Teach Parents

Children Teach Parents is annually a favorite Parent Partnership event at Cornerstone. This year we are offering the opportunity twice to families, so that children can show their progress from fall to spring. This October children gave lessons to their parents on a wide range of work, from apple washing in the Children's House to division with fractions in Upper Elementary. Nearly 40 families joined us to learn what children do in their classrooms each day and to better understand the power of the Montessori environment!

Equity Consulting with Sun Yung Shin

As part of Cornerstone's commitment to racial equity, and with the support of the Minnesota Humanities Center, we welcomed Sun Yung Shin to CMES this fall for a conversation about equity, representation, and literature. Sun Yung is a poet and educational consultant, and her insights into the ways literature can impact young children of color helped us to begin the year with thoughtful consideration of our literacy program and school library. We are thrilled that Sun Yung will join us again later this year for a discussion of her book, *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*.

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Your support of Cornerstone allows us to provide:

- Continued **support** of our **successful literacy program**, which has already resulted in strong gains; most notably, **100% of 3rd Grade children are now reading at grade level.**

- **Focused efforts** on improving **math proficiency scores** through **teacher mentoring and support**, specialized math practice materials, and a **math specialist** providing direct instruction to children.
- School-based mental health services for individuals and groups of children directed toward **self-care and healthy relationships**.

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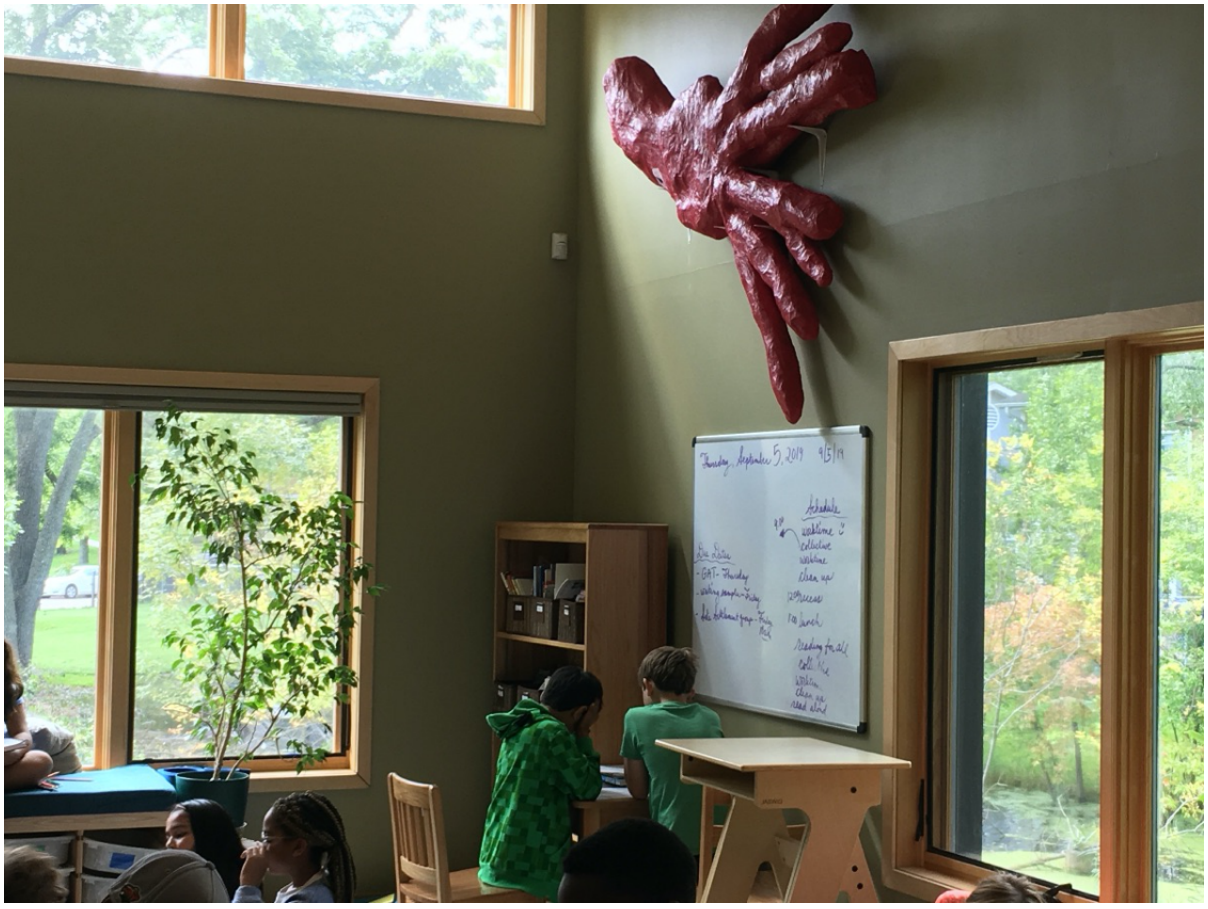

Children hard at work under their hand-made giant octopus!

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