

Dear CHMS Parent Community,

On behalf of the CHMS Board of Directors, I am writing to you, the parent community, following Whitney Blessing's resignation as the Head of School at CHMS. The CHMS Board has accepted Whitney's resignation and is beginning to plan for the departure of the school's founder and only Head of School this coming fall. Whitney has made CHMS her passion since the day she first had the idea of starting a Montessori preschool, and finding the next Head of School for CHMS will be no small task. To that end, the Board is starting that process so there is sufficient time to find a qualified person who will continue to foster an enriched Montessori learning environment for our children and build on the strategic vision for CHMS.

Before we focus on the transition, however, we would like to take the opportunity to recognize how CHMS came to this point and express our sincere gratitude to Whitney for her service over the years. Simply put, we as a Board would like to thank Whitney for the school. It is from Whitney's passion, dedication, and vision that CHMS has grown. She saw the opportunity to revitalize a property and create a beautiful learning environment for children; she worked tirelessly to attract a vibrant community of staff, teachers, and families to fill that space; and then took on the role of Head of School to help the community flourish. She has united us all in her vision of CHMS: the idea that CHMS is not just another preschool, but a community that provides a superior learning experience that truly shapes our children and enables them to thrive. It is within this context that we hope you will join us over the coming weeks and months in thanking Whitney for all that she has done, and in wishing her the very best in the pursuit of her next dream.

Head of School Search

Recognizing a deliberate and thoughtful hiring process takes time, the Board is already moving forward in the search for the next Head of School of CHMS. The Board recently formed a Head of School Search Task Force to coordinate the search process and find qualified candidates that will embrace the mission, vision, and values of CHMS. The Search Task Force is composed of Board members and staff representatives, and parent involvement is, as always, welcome. An official job announcement will be posted soon. We strongly encourage you to share the announcement with any qualified friends or family members and to invite them to apply. For questions regarding the search process or participating in the Search Task Force, please contact **Lara Bergman by email at lgbergman14@gmail.com**.

State of the School Meeting

As we have done in recent years, the Board will be hosting a State of the School meeting to highlight the accomplishments of the last year, share with you some of the exciting plans for the year ahead, and to hear from you any questions or concerns you may have, whether they be about the recent announcements or otherwise. We hope you can join us this coming **Monday, May 7, 2018 at 6 PM**. We look forward to seeing you then.

We thank you in advance for your continued support and contributions to the CHMS community as we transition to a new chapter at CHMS. Until that transition is complete, which is planned for the start of the new school year, Whitney will continue to serve as the Head of School, and the Board continues to support Whitney in that role.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Gibbons", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew J. Gibbons
Chair, CHMS Board of Directors