

Annual Report

Cornerspring Montessori School

18 Hatley Road, Belfast, Me 04915

207-338-5800

www.cornerspringmontessori.com

2009-2010



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- ~Scott Kelley, Treasurer
- ~Paula Johnson, Officer

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- ~Betsy Bradley, Head Teacher Preschool and Kindergarten
- ~Monique Roy-Whitcomb, Head Teacher Preschool
- ~Susan Therio, Assistant Elementary Teacher
- ~Jennifer Ellis, Assistant Preschool Teacher
- ~Sarah Rosencrantz, Assistant Preschool Teacher
- ~Scott Smith, Assistant Preschool/after care Teacher
- ~Lori Pearson, Assistant Preschool/after care Teacher
- ~Emma Seekins, Assistant Preschool/after care Teacher
- ~Rachel Littlefield, Art Teacher

Office Staff:

- ~Anna Johnson, Business Manager/Co-director
- ~Christine Kelley, Administrative Assistant

Cornerspring is committed to individualized education, allowing children freedom to develop at their own pace. We strive to satisfy a child's need to know, to belong, to feel safe and secure, and to develop self-esteem.

From the President

Looking back over this last school year, it is amazing to observe the changes that have taken place at the Cornerspring Montessori School. Three years ago, Cornerspring only had the capacity to serve the early educational needs of thirty children. As a result of the size limitations of our Congress Street location, many families were put on a waiting list to join the school. We also heard from many families whose children had attended Cornerspring, that they would have liked to continue the Montessori method of teaching beyond the pre-school and kindergarten programs available at that time. Now, with our new Hatley Road location, we are providing an alternative educational opportunity to over seventy children in the Waldo County area. This incredible growth happened because of the amazing support and dedication of the Cornerspring Montessori staff, families and community.

As we are mid way through our third year as an expanded school, we are pleased to note that the school is standing on solid financial footing and enrollment is steady. Behind the success of this school has been the Founder and Executive Director Paula Johnson, whose vision and dedication has enabled the school to grow into the valuable educational resource that it has become. The growth of the school has not only been in the number of students enrolled, but in our ability to expand the programs offered, including an elementary program, a variety of enrichment programs, before and after school activities and summer camp programs available to Cornerspring students as well as other children in the community.

Looking ahead, we are excited about what the future holds for the school and all the children's lives it enriches. Our goals are to continue to expand our programs and enrichment activities, increase the amount of financial aid to make this early learning experience available to those families who desire it and further support the dedicated teachers and staff with additional training, benefits and classroom support. All of these goals are possible through the continued support and dedication of the Cornerspring families and the community.

As we move through this school year and look to the next, we are grateful to be in this position of improving the learning experience of so many children.

Sincerely,

Matthew O'Malia

CORNERSPRING'S MISSION

Cornerspring Montessori Strives to:

- Provide rich and nurturing environments where students' develop skills to become self motivated and confident learners.
- Provide programs for ages 2 1/2 through 12 years, using a modified approach to the methods, philosophy, and teachings of Maria Montessori.
- Provide children with a learning experience that allows them to learn independently in an environment that stimulates, fosters, and nurtures the love for learning that will continue throughout life.

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From the Director

I am so blessed to be part of such an amazing school and community. As we approach our 10th year as a school, I can't help but reflect on all the wonderful families, events, and growth I have witnessed over this time. The love and commitment to children is endless and it is through this that we have been able to develop and maintain our wonderful programs.

Over the past ten years we have served many families in our community by developing preschool and elementary programs that provide active and individualized techniques with a very hands on approach to learning. We enjoy introducing our students to different cultures as part of our school curriculum by choosing an all school country of study. Last year we were introduced to Japan and this year we will explore Russia.

We are proud to teach our students the meaning of community as part of their educational experience. We learn about community through a variety of activities in the classroom and throughout the year students share in helping with local and global charities. Last year the school participated in the charity called the "Wells of Love" a service learning program of Amman Imman: Water is Life, helping bring water and hope to the 500,000 people of the Azawak of West Africa. This year our school will support local organizations in need, such as our local food bank and broadreach program.

We have also designed educational, inspiring and fun summer camp programs open to any child ages 3-12. Along with our normal science and art studies where campers explore local parks, ponds, and forests this past summer older campers were introduced to technology with clay animation and video production, puppet making and drama. They also enjoyed wood working and building. All campers enjoyed visitors from local preserves and produced, participated and displayed their art in gallery form during an art show.

None of the success or continued growth in our school programs would have been possible without key individuals, groups and supporters. It is through the efforts of the board of directors, who graciously volunteer their time to uphold our schools mission and keep the school financially viable, and the amazing staff and faculty who go above and beyond their call of duty to create and maintain an environment for children where they can feel safe, loved, nurtured, appropriately challenged, and honored for their curiosity, that we have been able to create such a special place. However, it is the parents, children and the outside community that glue us all together. Without your continued support and words of encouragement we would not be where we are today.

I am proud to be part of the Cornerspring Montessori Community and all the lives it has touched over the last ten years. I look forward to continuing the learning, traditions and community building for years to come.

Paula Johnson, Director

Our Programs

Preschool and Kindergarten Programs

Cornerspring offers several choices for preschool programs based on the needs of the child. At the preschool/kindergarten age, students gain experience through many hands on materials and develop skills at their specific level of understanding preparing them for more complex lessons. The classroom environment is set up to allow for individualized and self explorative learning which stimulates, fosters and nurtures the love for learning that will continue throughout life. Our highly trained teachers observe the children through this environment and introduce them to developmentally challenging activities in practical life skills, sensorial, language, mathematics, cultural studies and social activities.



Elementary Programs

The Montessori approach is designed to assist the child in acquiring the social skills and self confidence that are needed to fulfill his or her own potential. This is accomplished by building on interests, nurturing enthusiasm and making activities available to fit individual needs. Students follow a written study plan jointly arrived at by the teacher and student where they are supported in planning and completing work.



Before and after care services

Cornerspring offers before care services for students within the community beginning at 7:30 a.m. during the normal school year. Public school students are bused to the local schools in the RSU 20 district. Before care services may be available during summer camp based on need.

Cornerspring also provides after care services for students within the community beginning at 3:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. during the normal school year. Public school students from CASS or Drinkwater are bused to the school.

Summer Camp Programs

Summer camp programs are offered within the community for two different age groupings. Cornerspring offers 8 separate one week sessions of summer camp for preschool or kindergarten age children (3 to 6 year olds) and elementary age children (6-12 years old).



Last year we were able to use our funding to provide fieldtrips to many different learning and explorative outings. Our children visited the State Museum in Augusta, the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland, Fort Knox and Moosepoint State park, and Belfast City Park. We also enjoyed exploring ponds, oceans, and forests as we learned about subject areas surrounding these habitats. Tony Sohns, a local naturalist visited our camp often to teach us about bugs, lizards and plants.

Enrichment Programs

Art, music, drama, foreign language and naturalists are among the added enrichments we offer at our school. We are fortunate to have an on staff art teacher who not only provides lessons and education on artist and their styles, but teaches techniques and explores art based on our cultural unit for the year. Music is incorporated in with many of our daily rituals and has expanded in years past to include chorus. The elementary students have enjoyed learning different drama techniques which become useful in their educational presentations throughout the school year. Elementary students are introduced to a foreign language of choice through a well known computerized curriculum. Younger students are introduced to the concept of different languages through our country of study and different nationalities within our community. Special enrichment programs happen throughout the school year. This past year the elementary students visited Tanglewood 4-H camp to learn about ecology as well as bond together for an overnight camping experience while the younger friends experienced ecology onsite.



Cultural Study

Ever year Cornerspring chooses a school wide country to study so that as a group we can learn different aspects of that country. Each classroom tailors their study based on age appropriate stories, music, geographical make up, language(s) cultural studies and artifacts. Towards the end of the year, the entire school participates in a celebration based on one of the countries rituals or celebrations. Last year we enjoyed studying Japan and its wonderful culture. This January we will begin our study Russia.

Peace Education

Cornerspring incorporate peace education in their curriculum by introducing students to different peace educators, reading poems, stories and singing songs surrounding peace. At the beginning of the year, the school joins together in a school wide peace celebration in recognition of the International Day of Peace.

Statement of Financial Position*
August 30, 2009 and August 30, 2010

ASSETS	8/30/10	8/30/09
Current assets	141,233	131,690
Notes and loans receivable	9,048	846
Prepaid expenses	7,303	5,419
Equipment	25,645	26,205
Total assets	<u>183,229</u>	<u>164,160</u>
 LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	1,298	4,671
Deferred revenue	27,841	32,689
Notes payable	93,857	97,444
Total Liabilities	<u>122,996</u>	<u>134,804</u>
 NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets	60,233	29,356
Total net assets	<u>60,233</u>	<u>29,356</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>183,229</u>	<u>164,160</u>

Statement of Activities
12 Months Ending 8/31/10

REVENUE	
Contributions and grants	20,229
Program Service Revenue	472,254
Investment Income	174
Other Revenue	30,512
Total Revenue	<u>523,169</u>
 EXPENSES	
Salaries, other compensation	340,833
Other Expenses	151,458
Total Expenses	<u>492,291</u>
 NET ASSETS OR FUND BALANCES	
Revenue less expenses	30,878
Total assets at end of year	183,229
Total liabilities at end of year	122,996
Net assets or fund balance at end of yr	60,233

*The financial statements are excerpts from our audited financial statements. Please contact the school for a copy of the audited financial statements.

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Thank You!



We are ever so grateful for your generosity