



Parents, Teachers and Friends of Capitol Hill Montessori,

On behalf of the CHML Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO), welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! I'm excited to serve for my third year on the PTSO Board and second year as President. I look forward to working with you throughout the year to support CHML. As always, please email me or anyone on the Board with questions or to get involved in the PTSO.

The CHML PTSO partners with parents, faculty, staff, students, as well as businesses and city leaders, to support our school. Through our efforts, we provide our students, families and staff with an experience above and beyond what DCPS provides. PTSO volunteers work with the school to support fundraising opportunities and events, coordinate advocacy efforts, host family fun nights, support school celebrations, organize staff and parent night outs, assist with open houses, lead our teacher appreciation events, and much more.

All CHML parents are members of the PTSO. There are no annual dues. **We ask that each person with a child at CHML donate time to volunteer at the school and make a monetary donation at whatever level you are able.** The volunteer hours and monetary donations allow the PTSO to support the school.

I look forward to meeting many of you and reconnecting with others at three informative and fun events coming up soon. The first event is our **Back to School Garden Work Day on Saturday, August 27, from 9am to 1pm at the school.** The second event is our **Back to School Night on Thursday, September 8, from 6-7:30 pm in the school multipurpose room.** At that event, parents will hear information about the school and have an opportunity to visit their child's classroom and teacher to learn about classroom expectations for the school year. The PTSO will provide babysitting, a movie, and pizza for kids in the nap room free of charge.

The third event is the **PTSO Open House, on Thursday, September 15, from 6:30-7:30 pm.** This event is an informal opportunity for parents to meet and ask questions of the PTSO Board, other families, and some staff. Kids are welcome at the PTSO Open House.

On the next pages you will find some helpful information from the PTSO. Looking forward to a successful year!

Erika Hoppes,  
President, CHM PTSO

**HOW WILL THE PTSO and SCHOOL SHARE INFORMATION WITH YOU?** Regular and clear communication is a priority. The following avenues of communication are available to you:

- SIGN UP** for our Friends of Montessori listserv. To sign up, go to [https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/friends\\_of\\_montessori/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/friends_of_montessori/info)
- ASK** your child's teacher or classroom parent about your classroom listserv or email list
- READ** the "Principal Post" that is sent out regularly by Principal Eatman
- LOOK OUT** for our school newsletter "Monarch Minutes" in your child's backpack
- CHECK OUT** the School Information Bulletin Board in the front lobby of the building
- KEEP AN EYE OUT** for posters/flyers posted on classroom doors and in hallways
- VISIT** the school website at [www.capitolhillmontessorischool.org](http://www.capitolhillmontessorischool.org)
- LIKE** us on Facebook: *Capitol Hill Montessori at Logan*
- FOLLOW** us on Twitter: [http://twitter.com/CH\\_Montessori](http://twitter.com/CH_Montessori)
- SUBSCRIBE** to the school calendar: <http://capitolhillmontessorischool.org/calendar-3/>

### **WHEN ARE PTSO MEETINGS?**

PTSO meetings take place monthly except for December and January. PTSO meetings have typically been held on Thursdays, but we are moving two meetings to Wednesdays this year. The meetings are in the school multi-purpose room from 6:30-7:30 pm. The PTSO provides free babysitting, pizza and a movie to CHML students. Each PTSO meeting has a major agenda item and at the end of each PTSO meeting, there is an open Q&A session where you can raise any topic or issue for discussion. PTSO meetings are currently scheduled as follows:

- Thursday, September 15: PTSO Open House
- Wednesday, October 5: Discussion of Upper Elementary & Middle School Vision
- Thursday, November 3: PARCC Results
- Wednesday, February 1: Analysis and Discussion of Student Achievement Results
- Thursday, March 2: FY16 School Operations Budget Overview and Discussion
- Thursday, April 6: Auction Night Out
- Thursday, May 4: CHML State of the School Address
- Thursday, June 1: PTSO 15-16 Budget Discussion & Approval and Board Elections

### **WHAT DOES THE PTSO DO?**

The PTSO efforts support many community building events this school year. These events include our Haunted Harvest Festival, Family Fun Night, International Days, Family Fitness Night, Movie Night, Teacher Appreciation Week, Parent and Staff Nights Out, Open Houses, Online Auction, End of the Year Celebration, and Field Day. In addition to these community building events, the PTSO connects parents, teachers, staff, and classrooms through general PTSO meetings, content-specific meetings, office hours held throughout the school year, and regular electronic and hardcopy communications. The PTSO also facilitates the purchase of classroom materials, provides support for professional development for teachers and teacher assistants, and offers programming support for our students to enjoy additional activities than what is provided by the school.

## WHY VOLUNTEER?

The many volunteer hours from PTSO parents and staff make these events possible and successful! As a member of the PTSO, you can help in important ways: (1) participate in PTSO meetings; (2) volunteer to support events; (3) attend school events; (4) make monetary donations; (5) connect the PTSO to partners/funders; and (6) ask questions and provide feedback. If you have volunteered in the past, we appreciate your time and efforts, and please continue your efforts! If you have not volunteered in the past, now is the time to do so! **Please see the school's committee listing in the school lobby to find an area where you want to be involved or email me to talk about who you can get involved.**

**HOW DOES THE PTSO FUNDRAISE?** The PTSO runs 3 major fundraising efforts during the year:

- (1) Haunted Harvest Festival – This event has a haunted house, ghoulish games, zombie dance party, pumpkin painting, mad scientist experiments and much more! There is entertainment for all ages, a chili contest and food served. Funds are raised from admission, food tickets and donations;
- (2) Donation Drive - Starting in the fall through December, the PTSO asks for donations to the PTSO general fund to support the following school year.
- (3) Online Auction – Each Spring, the PTSO hosts an Online Auction that auctions off items that have been secured via donations from businesses. Teachers and classrooms also create items for parents to bid on. The Online Auction is open to the public.

**WHO IS THE PTSO?** Contact the Board members with questions or feedback.

### Elected Representatives

Erika Hoppes, President  
*president@capitolhillmontessorischool.org*

Todd Cochran, Vice President  
*vicepresident@capitolhillmontessorischool.org*

Jolie Schwartz, Secretary  
*secretary@capitolhillmontessorischool.org*

Katherine Weishaar, Co-Treasurer  
*treasurer1@capitolhillmontessorischool.org*

Whitney Louchheim, Co-Treasurer  
*treasurer2@capitolhillmontessorischool.org*

Shelby Reitz, At-Large member  
*atlarge1@capitolhillmontessorischool.org*

Catrina Jones, At-Large member  
*atlarge2@capitolhillmontessorischool.org*

### School Representatives

Mr. Eatman, Principal  
*brandon.eatman@dc.gov*

Ms. Nashid, Assistant Principal  
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Mr. Steinberg, Adolescent  
*benjamin.Steinberg@dc.gov*

Ms. Kimboko, Upper Elementary  
*rachel.kimboko@dc.gov*

Ms. Lowery, Lower Elementary  
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Ms. Sanchez, Primary  
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