Our New Superintendent: Laura Mitchell

By Maddie Hutzel, 5th grade & Willow Shannon, 6th grade

On a lovely Wednesday afternoon, we had the pleasure of meeting the new superintendent, Laura Mitchell. Ms. Mitchell lifted our hearts by spending more than an hour of her busy, busy schedule with us. When Laura Mitchell served as Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer, she launched My Tomorrow, a comprehensive college and career readiness initiative. We learned that; even when she wasn’t superintendent, she still soared above all. Little did she know that her career would take off like a rocket.

Mitchell spent most of her life in CPS, teaching, learning, and exploring. She went to the School For Creative and Performing Arts. When she attended SCPA, she played the piano, flute, and clarinet. She also worked behind the scenes for the theater productions. Ms. Mitchell told us about the difficulty of transitions. She says, “I was a little nervous about being the youngest at the school, in terms of being a 7th grader.” Mitchell is a fan of the Montessori method. “Oh I love the Montessori Method!” I feel that when I come into a Montessori school it has a homey feel to it. Everyone seems connected… The kids seem connected to the teachers and the adults and so I love the Montessori philosophy. You guys are all friends.” CPS schools put her on the path of academic success. Afterwards, Mitchell graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Bennett College in 1991 and a masters degree in Education Administration from the University of Cincinnati in 1996, and earned Superintendent certification from Xavier in 2006. She has worked at CPS for 25 years. She taught at Central Fairmount and was the principal at Westwood School. When Mitchell was a child, she would gather the children in the neighborhood and they would play school. Mitchell says, she was always the teacher. “It’s what I always wanted to do, is be a teacher. Even as a principal I was still a teacher, because I would work with teachers and we would talk about teaching and learning.”

Her mother was a teacher. Mitchell says, sometimes she begged her mom to take her into her classroom, because she loved to watch her mother teach. She adds that she never pictured herself as a superintendent, when she was a kid, but when she got the chance, Mitchell decided to go for it. Here’s how she describes her new position compared to her last job. “As a deputy superintendent all my work was inside the district; so a lot of training for teachers and principals, a lot of curriculum work around textbooks and technology and digital curriculum. Now as a superintendent, most of my work is facing outward, facing the community; working with the Chamber and businesses, people, hospitals, churches and parents and community members.” Mitchell says that going from Deputy Superintendent to Superintendent is a HUGE jump.

We talked to Mitchell about her goals in her new position. She wishes to, “make sure that our kids are ready to go into a career pathway when they leave – either that’s college, the military, or into the world of work. She is working on a project that will do just that. Mitchell says, “That’s what Montessori is all about. How can I help you figure out how to get to where you want to go. So many times kids will ask in different ways, ‘How do I get from where I am to where you are?’ Well we want to be able to guide and help them get there.”

We think Laura Mitchell is faithful, determined and really kind. She is a very good choice for our new superintendent. Mitchell works so hard to come so far and she is just getting started!

Top Left: New Superintendent Laura Mitchell
Right: Mitchell with reporters: Jana, Willow, Drew, Maddie and Kenya.

Bottom Left: Ruby W., Grayson M.O. and Sarah M.
Middle: Ms. Emily and Ms. An- ge with their class.
Right: Rachel S. and Max K.

Gator Gives Back Pantry

By 4th graders, Spencer Pugh & Seth Washington

“Cincinnati has a massive problem with persistent pov- erty. According to U.S. Cen- sus data and the Ohio De- velopment Agency’s Ohio Poverty Report in 2015, 30.9% of Cincinnati live in poverty – that’s more than 86,000 individuals,” according to citylinkcenter.org. One classroom at Dater Montessori is working on a project that helps with poverty in Cincinnati which is really good because Cincin- nati has a really high pov- erty level, so come on and help out with Dater Gives Back Pantry. Read our interview with Ms. Emily Dennis, the teacher who’s class- room took on this project.

Why did you start the Ga- tor Gives Back Pantry? I wanted to continue our mis- sion, as a school, to support the whole child. I talk with friends and family a lot about how wonderful our Dater Community is and how we always support one another, from the teachers, to the parents, administra- tors, and the students. This project just really fit perfect with what we value at our school. I consider Dater part of my family and family sup- ports one another.

How did you start the Gator Gives Back Pantry? How are the students involved? I started with doing research on different food and clothing pantries online. I began writing a proposal, and iden- tified possible locations, who it would involve, and tried to answer any questions that I anticipated Mr. G and Ms. Ridley asking me. I also had a “backup” plan, if my original plan wasn’t ap- proved. Once it was ap- proved, we started identify- ing items that we could col- lect. My students and fami- lies started donating items before it even went pub- lic. Ms. McDonough donat- ed the big metal shelving unit and helped get it to- gether. Ms. Carpenter and other staff members brought in donations, Ms. Silletti helped with organiza- tion ideas, the coffee shop let us use a plastic shelving unit, I brought in things from home. The students have all been involved since day one. They are in charge of sorting the items, hanging and folding clothing, putting the room to- gether, making the door sign, the donation box and spreading the word! This is a true grassroots effort.”

See the rest of the story on page 3.
MARVIN LEWIS IS COOL
By Marley Henry, 2nd grade

Over the past three years that I’ve participated in the Learning Is Cool Program, it has been a lot of fun to experience the Cincinnati Zoo and meeting Marvin Lewis and some of the Bengals players. Sometimes when you’re in that big long line, you can hear the animals and people talking around you. It can be annoying, but the experience gets you excited to meet the Bengals Coach. When I met him, I felt a little anxious and then I walked up to him and I was like, “WOW! This is THE Marvin Lewis!” The Learning Is Cool Program is in its tenth year. Lewis says, “I like the fact that we are promoting and rewarding academic achievement. We started this program, because we want kids to know how important education is. They will use all that knowledge for their whole lives.” There were 4 school districts, 73 schools, and 7,701 students who got to go the celebration and 27,322 rewards distributed during the 2016-2017 school year.

Lewis explains that the Learning Is Cool Program motivates kids to get better grades and it helps with the education of kids. Any CPS kid in 1st grade, who can get on the A Honor Roll (at least a 3.51 grade average) twice a year will get invited to the Learning Is Cool Program at the Cincinnati Zoo.

Everybody knows Marvin Lewis is the coach of the Cincinnati Bengals, but do they know what he did before that? At one time, he was the Baltimore Ravens Offensive Coordinator. With that team, he won the Super Bowl, but he has never won a Super Bowl with the Bengals. In his first few seasons with the Bengals it was great, but then they hit a rock and just stopped where they were. For the next few seasons, they just weren’t the same team. I hope that the Bengals can start over and become a great team that can go all the way. I’ve been a big Bengals fan, because my favorite player is A.J. Green. I contacted Marvin Lewis and it was amazing that he got back to me and answered my questions. Here’s what he said.

How do you feel about coaching the Cincinnati Bengals? “I enjoy coming to work each and every day.”

What is one of your favorite things about the players on your team? “I enjoy working with the players and seeing them accomplish their goals.”

How did you feel when you won the Super Bowl with the Baltimore Ravens? “It was a great feeling to see the smiles on the players’ faces!”

When do you think you will retire from the NFL? “I’m unsure.”

What sports did you play when you were a kid and what did you learn from that? “I played baseball and football and I wrestled. I learned a lot about competition.”

What advice could you give me and my friends to help us succeed in school and on the field? “You should work hard and do your best every day, in school, on the field, and at home. Learn all you can, because knowledge is power. You will be able to achieve much more with a good education behind you.”

“I’ve learned that you shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back.”

—Maya Angelou

MUSIC HALL FIELD TRIP
By Caitlin Burgstrom, 5th grade

When the time is right, girls are RUNNING in the halls. Same time, different day; students are PLAYING on the computer, or COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES in art. This is what could happen after school hours.

Studies show that doing after-school enrichment helps students in many ways. They can benefit by increasing their academic skills in a more exciting environment. After-school programs can increase how much the student wants to go to school, so they might get more involved during the school day, too.

Some programs can help students with emotional and behavioral issues, because they will focus on good character traits, or sportsmanship, that will lead the student to grow. At Dater Montessori, students have access to a variety of programs and activities to explore their interests.

By Caitlin Burgstrom, 5th grade

“Reading writing and arithmetic”

By Agnes Hart, 6th grade

This winter, Music Teacher Ms. Jason took her students to see the Cincinnati Symphony in three groups, on three days. Each group got to see a different symphony. The 5-9 Level saw Once Upon A Symphony, grades 4-5 saw The Sound of Music Hall, and 6th graders saw Express Yourself. Ms. Jason only took the 6th graders who were in music with her so the band kids stayed at school.

6th grader Marley H. says, “I felt excited because, I was able to hear different kinds of music and they just re-modeled Music Hall,” she adds, “I would recommend it to someone else if they like music and symphonies.” 6th grader Isabella S-C, says, “I thought it would be a good experience and I thought it would be fun, but I didn’t know if it would be right for me.” She adds, “I liked ‘Tiger in the Sun,’ because it felt like you were out in the jungle and it had a warm feeling.”

Music Hall is said to be one of the most beautiful concert theaters in the world. Just last year it was redone and it just opened back up for the public. Aside from hosting the Cincinnati Ballet, Cincin-nati Pops and May Festival; Music Hall also has hosted Elton John, Janis Joplin, Duran Duran (an 80’s band) and so much more.

Louis Langree has been music director of the Mostly Mozart Festival since 2002 and of the Cincinnati Symphony since 2013. He is a very accomplished conduc-tor. John Morris Russell is the conductor of the Cincin-nati Pops Orchestra since 2011 and he has gotten praise from everyone he performs to.

Ms. Jason has been a music teacher at Dater for as long as I can remember and she has taken her students to Music Hall for the last 15 years. Ms. Jason says, “My favorite thing is seeing my students faces when they first walk in and see the chandeliers and the plush seats.” Louis Langree and John Russell are pretty fa-mous people and Ms. Jason got to meet John Russell. “I performed with him at one of the May Festivals,” she says, “He is a very happy, excited, inspiring person with a great personality!” Ms. Jason’s favorite symphony is Beetho-ven’s 9th Symphony. She says, “The words are just so beautiful and inspiring.” Music Hall is an amazing, beau-tiful place and people go there to make memories everyday.

THERE’S MORE TO DATER THAN READING WRITING AND ARITHMETIC
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MEETING MS. MANDOLA

By 4th graders Mikel Larkin & Dylan Cleveland

A lot of us were nervous on the first day of school, meeting a brand new teacher. We were all nervous. Ms. Mandola lived in West Virginia, before she moved here and one thing that she brought with her is her accent. Ms. Mandola has a very cool, but often times her West Virginia she used to say, ‘yall and ain’t. It’s really cool that my language teacher says ain’t. Shoutout to Ms. Baker for making Ms. Mandola a better

2018: NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS

By Penny Nicholas, 4th grade

Hooray, it’s 2018! Do you make new year’s resolutions? A new year’s resolution is a goal you make for the new year. It is a goal you try to complete in the new year. Sometimes it is something as simple as reading just a little bit once a day, or it can be hard like trying to learn a whole new skill in just one month. Either way it is a good idea to set new year’s resolutions, because they can teach you new skills.

When a new year comes, send out phone blasts and to have a fresh start. You can try to forget about the bad things that happened last year and try to do better this year. It is like trying to forget yourself for anything bad that happened last year. A lot of people just make new year’s resolutions but never actually do them. This is a problem if it doesn’t help you learn anything new, it only makes you slack more. Most people just keep them for a week or two and then forget about them. People do that much too much.

Sometimes people think new year’s resolutions are bad ideas because they think they’re a waste of time, but really they don’t waste time. New year’s resolutions help you learn new things. I don’t think THAT is a waste of time! Do you?

GATOR GIVES BACK, CONTINUED


How do you get donations? There is a donation box in the lobby, across from the office. Families have been bringing them in on a regular basis.

How do you get the word out? “That is a work in progress. Currently, I post updates on Facebook and send out phone blasts and emails. We also have a sign in the lobby and Ms.

Ms. Mandola lived in West Virginia, before she moved here and one thing that she brought with her is her accent. Ms. Mandola has a very cool, but often times her West Virginia she used to say, ‘yall and ain’t. It’s really cool that my language teacher says ain’t. Shoutout to Ms. Baker for making Ms. Mandola a better teacher. Ms. Mandola says, “Don’t tell her, but Ms. Baker helps me be a better teacher.” We think Ms. Baker helps everyone be a better teacher. She does a lot for us.

Ms. Mandola says, “I love the kids at Dater Middle. I am amazed every day by the intelligence and the kindness of each student.” Ain’t that awesome?

THE NEW KID WAS ME

By Jeilah Mays-Roddy, 3rd grade

So I’m the new kid in my class. I had ABSOLUTELY NO FRIENDS on the first day of school! Most of the first graders were new, but I was the only third grader that was new.

When we went to lunch, I met 3rd-grader Malak M. while I was asking someone else to be my friend. She said, “I’ll also have a babysitter here. When we sat at the lunch table that day, I missed my friends, but I did not miss my old lunch. At Dater we can pick our own lunch, but at my old school we had to eat what was made. Everybody’s tray was the same. I did like the Doritos taco salad.

The first day ended pretty well, because then I could go home and talk about it and take a nap. It wore me out. The second day was better, because I made a lot more friends than the first day. Throughout the school year, I’ve made a lot of friends. My teacher is also nice and kind. Mrs. Strohmeier Wentz is my language and homeroom teacher. She is the best, because she helps us our class.

We were watching “The Princess and the Frog” at our Valentine’s Party. We had pizza and decorate our Valentine’s party. We played a game with marshmallows, “Don’t Drop The Marshmallow.” My math teacher, Mrs. Emily Dennis is great. She’s also my science teacher and I love science. We did a string project, where we sanded wood, put nails in and then wrap string around the nails. We did math problem to know where to put the string and it made shapes. We get to do a lot of fun experiments. The project we are doing now is a food project. We can bring in food and show the class the recipe. I’m going to bring in fudge. My first day of school was fun, but scary. When I first walked into the school, I accidentally went to the wrong classroom. I went to Ms. Mandola’s room, instead of Ms. Mandola. It was just me and her, in her room. I got scared. At my old school I had to sit on a carpet. At Dater we sit in a circle. I like that the circle is not bunched up and we get to have a lot of space.

Things that I miss about my old school is Fridays. We had “Fun Friday” and it was fun, because we had dance parties. They were my best. I’m a good dancer – very good. Literally, I’m the best dancer in the house. It’s fun and you should try it sometime. Something else I miss about my old school is gym. Even at Dater I love gym. G is my favorite subject. At my old school, we didn’t have “Jump Rope for Heart,” but Dater does and it’s fun.

I knew Dater was going to be fun, but on the first day it was scary. At my old school I had a lot of good friends, but there was a lot of drama, far too much was very fun and crazy at the same. It is like sweet AND salty popcorn.

If Dater was a food it would be candy rainbows with just a little bit of sour, because this school is sweet but it has a few sour people. Every school has a few sour people (Sorry for those sour people out there). In the end I like candy rainbows more than sweet and salty popcorn.

Writer Seth and Spencer

We CAN BE dreamers

WE ARE all KIDS

WE CAN be whoever we want to be.

We CAN be whoever we want to be.

This was given at the ceremony.

Are people using it? “Yes, but this is our current area of opportunity. We are working on how to get the items to the people that need them, in the most sensitive and efficient ways. The door should always be unlocked and Dater families are encouraged to help themselves to any items that they need. There are grocery bags and totes in the pantry to use.”

How does the Gator Gives Back Pantry affect Dater? Your class? “I think that it brings our community closer. My hope is that people see each other in a new light. They begin to see us, not just as these big teachers, but as advocates for our family. I hope that it raises awareness about real life struggles that are occurring within our community and how children can help to be part of a solution. I hope that it teaches students that there will be times in our life when we are able to give, and that there will be times where we will need to receive—and to know that it is ok to do either. I hope that it allows students to feel safe and cared for. I hope that it gives students the confidence to start new things and to follow their ideas.”

What items would be best to donate? “We have a great collection of canned goods and other nonperishable foods. We also have a wonderful start with toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and conditioner, soap and deodorants. Our next step will be to collect paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates), bottled water and baby items—food, diapers, wipes.”

Will it be open in the summer? “Yes, but the volunteers will be worked out closer to the summer.”

Cincinnati’s poverty rate is almost double the national level. According to city- link, Cincinnati is among the top 15 poorest cities in the country. The population is below 250,000 or more compared to a national poverty rate of 15%, and Ohio’s rate of less than 15%. This means that approximately one in three Cincinnati children fall below the poverty line.”

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3
"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

– Sherry Anderson

By 5th graders, Vanessa Pitz & Jade Scharff

Last May, rainbows flew through the sky on the prop- erty of 2840 Boudinot Avenue. Students were throwing color powder on the teachers and the students by the lake. The Ar- thon pep rally was over, the Dater staff looked like rain- bow warriors. Thanks to FODM, the students got this opportunity.

The FODM is Friends of Dater Montessori, a non- profit organization that fundraises for our school. The Walk-a-Thon is the biggest event of the year. Last year, 246 people in the school donate to the Walk-a-Thon. FODM President Anne Allen says, "We raised $45,640 last year thanks to the hard work of all of the students. We infinitely increased corporate spon- sors, but we also made sure to have lots of awesome prizes so it was fun for students to collect dona- tions. The stu- dents, families and teachers made the Walk-a-Thon a huge suc- cess!" Last year was the most we had ever raised! During the walk-a-thon, all students will walk a certain distance. 3-6 level walks ½ of a mile, 4th Grade walks 1 mile, 4th and 5th graders walk 2 miles, and 6th grad- ers walk 2 ½ miles. After we walk, the FODM provides us with pizza, water, and pop- sicles. Kids can have as many popsicles as they want! Last year, if you raised $120 or more you could dump cups of color powder on the floor and let you. Also, the fire depart- ment sprayed only the 3-6 and 6-5. But not the 4 & 5 and 6th. HOW DARE THEY! The year before, if you raised $120 or more you could dunk a teacher in a dunking booth. All the stu- dents LOVE the Walk-a- Thon.

Anne Allen is super good friends with everybody in the FODM. She says, "Samantha Smith is Vice President. She’s fiercely loyal and flat out loves Dater Montessori. On top of that, she brings joy to all she does. Beth Clevenger is Treasurer. She is a dynamic, dependable, incredibly hard working person. I’m in awe of her every day. Lisa Garden is Secretary and she is lov- ing, generous, funny and always able to find humor— even in tough situations. The officers and the entire FODM board make a really great team. We all work very hard, but we have fun the entire time." Anne says the FODM’s motto is, "Teamwork makes the dream work.

Allen has three girls, Elizabeth (16), Olivia (15), and Clara (11). Elizabeth and Olivia are at Wal- nut Hills and Clara is a 5th grader in Mrs. Wal- ters’ class. Allen loves to volunteer. She says, "Dater Montessori is such a fabulous school. I feel really lucky that my chil- dren have had such a won- derful place to learn and grow. I’m happy to help in any way I can." Allen has learned a lot about this community. She says, "I’ve learned that this community has incredible heart. The people here take care of one another and are always ready to jump in and help.” Samantha Smith is the assistant president of FODM. Smith says, "Our community is diverse and unique. It’s only the school that I know of where the teachers, parents, and stu- dents are TRULY part of the same team. "I feel as many people who will listen that there is no place on earth like Dater Montessori."

Smith says, "I joined, because I wanted to help find new ways to bring much needed money to our school. The money is used to buy things that we nor- mally wouldn't have, like laptop carts, new Montes- sori materials, scholarships for extracurricular activities, and even help our teachers buy supplies for their class- room."

Smith has four girls. Madi (18), Jaiden (16), Ella (14), and Mia (8). Madi is in the Navy, Jaiden and Ella go to Walnut Hills and Mia goes to Dater and is in Ms. Tracey’s class. Smith says Allen is, “The General. The Boss, The Queen Bee. She has a great love for Dater and we love her right back.” Beth Clevenger is the treasurer. Smith says, “She’s smart, she’s savvy, and she’s a hard worker. We’re lucky we can count on her to count for us.” Lisa Gardner is the secretary. Smith says “Lisa is a leader, she’s cre- ative, and she keeps us organized, which is a big job when we’re sharing so many great ideas all the time. She’s a great asset to FODM.”

Samantha Smith and Anne Allen are both super- star students of Dater. Their hard work for Dater. Our school would not be the same without them!

By 4th graders, Emmet Cunningham, Leute Mesfin & Henry Wellbrook

During the winter months, the Dater Montessori gymnas- sium transforms into a basketball court, energetic players, deter- mined coaches, and lots and lots of fans. The bleachers, fans are passion- ately cheering on the home team, and some fans even ring cowbells for every good play by Dater. Dater’s bas- ketball players are tired from running back and forth, shooting baskets and block- ing opponents’ shots. The coaches are laser-focused on trying to get their teams to win by encouraging the players and their best. And all of this hoop madness and excitement is because of one man: Jeff Vollner.

Coach Jeff Vollner runs Dater’s basketball pro- gram. Coach Jefferson started the Dater basketball pro- gram three years ago. The program helps students and stu- dents from kindergarten through this year. A lot of us who play basketball. This year there were around 215- 220 students playing bas- ketball for Dater. That is more than one-fourth of the entire school! There were 19 teams (with ten teams in the youth league and nine in the upper league) played as part of the program. Coach Jeff has been a Dat- er coach for 10 years, but his love of basketball goes back even further. He first got interested in basketball when he was in the 5th grade.

Coach Jeff explains, "When I was in the 5th grade, my dad bought a basketball hoop to put in the backyard of our house. When I was in the 5th grade I was probably about 5’6. By the time I was in the 8th grade, I was probably about 5’9." 

As a kid, Coach Jeff played basketball for St. Martin of Tours in elemen- tary school and then Walnut Hills High School. He decided to start a bas- ketball team at Dater because of his intense love of the game. He described for us, why he chose to run Dater basketball. Coach Jeff says, "First things, first. I love basketball. I love the game. I love watching the game. I like watching how much you guys have grown as basketball players since I’ve been teaching you how to play the game." He says his favorite part is watching the kids have pride in what they do.

Coach Jeff not only runs the Dater basketball pro- gram, but he also coaches two of the Dater basketball teams. He enjoys coaching, but sometimes the hours can get long. Coach Jeff likes helping kids learn the game of basketball and rais- ing their "basketball IQ." The one thing he doesn’t like about coaching basketball is losing his voice. He says, "I don’t enjoy that, I lose my voice in every game, I think, I’ve ever coached.”

Being in charge of the Dat- er basketball program, how- ever, is not all fun and games. It has a lot of re- sponsibilities. During bas- ketball season, Coach Jeff puts in about 25-30 hours a week. He says the hardest part of running the Dater basketball program is: "coordinating everything, making sure every- thing is going and people are doing what they are sup- posed to do. Sometimes the hours get extremely long. To get everything done, Coach Jeff needs a lot of help from his family. His wife and daughter help out with the con- cession stand. His mother even helps out by handing out basket- ball shirts for the youth league.

Coach Jeff also shared a few fun facts about himself. He’s super tall at 6’3”. When asked what he would like to do for fun, he would like to play for, he answers, "I would play for anyone who wanted to keep me. If you made me pick a team, I would rather play for Cleveland, or Iden- anapolis, or something like that, because they are close to Cincinnati." Coach Jeff al- so shared his favorite mov- ie is Tombstone. Jeff Vollner has helped Dater Mon- torossi a lot over the past few years. He has spent tons of hours on the Dater Basketball Program. Coach, you have left your footprint on the court and a giant impression in our hearts. THANK YOU!!!

The 4th Grade Dater Basketball Team picture

Coaches—Josh Hunt & Jeff Vollner.
Back row—Emmet Cunningham #2, Leute Mesfin #12, Mason Hunt #34, Noah Beserra #40, Sidney Kidd #51
Mid Row—Curtis Ray #35, Jamier Johnson #14
Bottom Row—Julian March #20, Henry Wellbrook #0

Not pictured—Seth Washington #1

Photo—Ms. Ray

The Volunteers—Emmy, Alison, Jeff and Andrew

Our Annual Dater Basketball Team picture

Coaches—Josh Hunt & Jeff Vollner, Back row—Emmet Cunningham #2, Leute Mesfin #12, Mason Hunt #34, Noah Beserra #40, Sidney Kidd #51
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Bottom Row—Julian March #20, Henry Wellbrook #0

Not pictured—Seth Washington #1

Photo—Ms. Ray

The Volunteers—Emmy, Alison, Jeff and Andrew

The 4th Grade Dater Basketball Team picture

Coaches—Josh Hunt & Jeff Vollner.
Back row—Emmet Cunningham #2, Leute Mesfin #12, Mason Hunt #34, Noah Beserra #40, Sidney Kidd #51
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The Volunteers—Emmy, Alison, Jeff and Andrew
By: 4th graders, Curtis Ray & Ben Combs

Andrea and David Ray are a Dater Montessori Power Couple. They are presidents of volunteer organizations at our school. Andrea is president of the PTN, which stands for Parent Teacher Network. David is president of the DMAA, which stands for Dater Montessori Athletic Association. They have two boys in the 6-9, Koloten and Krag, and an older daughter, Kailey.

Andrea says it cracks her up to be called a power couple. She adds, “It’s not always easy to balance our crazy schedules. Between our full-time jobs, our kids’ activities and school, many times it means we have to work together as a family.”

Even the kids have to jump in to help sometimes. Andrea says, “We are always on the go and sometimes we have to work on something to complete things, but overall, we make it work by keeping a really organized calendar, by really good communication, by working together as a team.”

The boys will be stepping down from those positions, but we will remember them. Andrea says, “It was funny to answer these questions, because I never thought about those days when we were doing as anything special or newsworthy.” We are just so blessed to be in a community that loves for parents to be involved. Dater has such a special place in our hearts and we are sad to say goodbye this year. We are confident that we are leaving this great place in the hands of others incredibly selfless, creative, wonderful people who will continue to serve our children & staff at Dater Montessori.”

PTN

The Parent Teacher Network is the non-fundraising school organization that plans events that enrich our school environment and builds community. Andrea says, “I have the BEST team of people to work with on the PTN! I couldn’t do it without these ladies.”

Jessica Ritsch is my “right arm,” co-president. She is creative and loves Dater with a fierce passion.

Becky Clark is my “left arm.” Roxanne Parent Coordinator and last year’s co-president. She is such an encouraging and positive person and brings the fun to PTN.

Heather Staley is our incredible Secretary. She was a new Dater parent last year, who jumped in with both feet. She consistently goes above and beyond. She is the organization behind the PTN.

VOLLNER’S CHAMPIONS

The Dater 3rd Grade Basketball team on the league tournament championship in March. It was the second straight championship win in three years. It was an awesome game. The boys were tied 7-7 at half time and won the game 17-9.

“We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow man.”

– Herman Melville

3rd Grade Team

Top row - Colm Wright #33, Joshua Thornton #13, Dave Stanley #3, Tyler Crookham #50. Andrew Vollner #1

Bottom row - DeAngelo McCaless #14, Morgan Miller #15, Dominic Stew art #20, Trevor Green #10, Landen Wallace #32, Julian Smith #4

Not pictured - Kieran Karuna #35

During the season we lost the first 3 games and won 5 games. We won 2 and lost 1 during city tournament and won 1 and lost 1 during state tournament.

Coach Joe’s favorite game was the first state tournament game. He says, “I think it was the best game everyone played. Everyone made contributions on defense to keep the game tied all the way until the last minute of the second over time. With the seconds on the clock, we scored 1 minute to go. Our team, thinking they were about to lose kicked off with less than 40 seconds to go in the game.”

As I was trying to get our defense to move up to play offense, I look down the field to see Noah putting the ball between the goalie’s legs for the tying goal. As I looked at the sidelines, I saw all the parents, siblings and friends erupt with joy. That put us into a shootout, which we eventually won.”

Coach Joe played soccer from a young age and learned is how important teamwork is,” he says. “In soccer organizing, without a team effort, no matter how good you might be, he has been around since the beginning of DMAA. The king of the diamond is in his last year as baseball coordinator. He’ll be greatly missed. We all appreciate his endless work for our program!”

Soccer Coordinator – Andy Hutzel – This great dad has run soccer for a long time and it’s also his last year as coordinator. We’ll miss him as well as for all he has done for soccer!

Softball Coordinator – Sean Smith – Not only is he a firefighter and our mascot, but he runs softball. He has given much to our community on the diamond, classroom and saving lives!

Treasurer Adam Wheeler is the money man and a pretty great guy as well. If you see him around ask him about his musical talent!

Secretary Kevin Lynn - This Dater dad is always involved around school. He also is going to be taking over soccer next year.

Without these men giving up time and effort to DMAA, we couldn’t do any of this, so the next time you see any of them on the field, court or just around school – give them a High-5 and tell them thanks for making Dater athletics awesome!

SOCOR CHAMPS

By 3rd graders, Jacob & Joshua Scharff

There’s 15 seconds on the clock. It’s the first state tournament for our Dater soccer team. We’re in the second half of overtime. Max has the ball and a shot to Noah. He shoots. The goalkeeper misses. Noah scores! He ties the game 1-1 to 1. We won our first state game, but lost the next one.

Coach Joe is our Dad. That is good and bad, because we got to be at practice early and Max would show up, so we got to talk. The bad part is if we got in trouble we had to run laps.
OUR POLLUTION PROBLEM

By Violet Garlston, 4th grade & Lauren Staley, 5th grade

Everyday, everywhere, animals are dying because of trash. The factories and smoke that cause global warming are polluting the air right now. There is trash in the ocean which is making the water polluted. The accumulation of plastic is one of the worst things we face. It is an unnatural (man-made) substance that stays in our systems. It is affecting the development of many living things, including people. These are some of the things that VonderHaar’s terrible pollution problems. We need to use creative ways to save our planet from being badly polluted, or even dying.

According to the creator and leader of the Dater ENCASE outdoor-learning program and summer camp, Susan VonderHaar, “The problem is that the use of the environment comes free to everyone. When something is free the incentive to protect it can be diminished.”

People need to stop polluting the ocean, or soon we will lose the oceans and lakes we love and they will turn into a big trashy swamp. Nearly all the animals in the sea would die. We need to stop this! As Susan VonderHaar says, “Pollution is not necessary. We must work hard as individuals and as a society to protect it through our values and our laws.”

Air pollution can damage the food we eat, the animals, forests, and even bodies of water! According to moth-erjornes.com, “Air pollution killed more than 6 million people in 2016. It doesn’t care about political bounda-ries.” It is one of the most important and dangerous problems in the world. Air pollution can also hurt human beings, because some of the worst diseases are lung can-cer and brain damage.

The accumulation of plastic in the ocean, according to seasteaders.org and most of that is plastic. That’s BAD, and we need to help. We could start rallies to stop people from throwing trash in the ocean. Did you know that you can also buy a bracelet from 4ocean.com and “pull a pound of trash out of a sea, lake, or pond.”

Any last words? “Hmmm... Vote for me for president 2050, or 2028, actually.” Someone who doesn’t seem to have any ambisi-ous plans for president is 6th grader Julia M. When I asked to interview him, he says, “Ok, that’s a bit weird.”

What do you miss about the warm weather? “The pool. The pool. What do you hate the most about winter? ‘Uhm... I love the snow.’ What do you like most about it? ‘Uhm Christmas, and my birthday.’ Any final words? ‘One thing I do not like is Nintendo Switch.’

D’Ariz ran into Dater Librarian Ms. Kin Johnson and asked them, what they miss about the warm weather. Ms. Johnson says, “I miss being able to go out on my porch and be outside.”

Ms. Frampton says, “I love going to a pool and laying out in the sun and going for a swim when it gets hot.”

When D’Ariz asked if they like cold weather, Ms. Johnson says, “I am not a cold weather person. Anytime I have to wear a big coat, I am not happy. I like to stay in the house and eat chick-en pot pies.” And yes, she makes them from scratch – even the crust. Ms. Frampton loves cold weather. She says, “My children and husband love to ski. When it’s cold we travel further north to be in more snow. We love to play in the snow.”

Most people had things to look forward to in each sea-son and people also had something they didn’t like in each season. Mother Nature is weird. She is a bit funny sometimes. Anyway, it was fun doing this together.
DATER’S EARTH MOTHERS

By Annie McHenry, 2nd grade

Winter is coming to an end and getting ready for Spring. It is putting buds on trees. Tulips daffodils and gladolias are ready to bloom. This winter has been crazy, because it can’t make up its mind, but it has to come someday and when it does, there are four ladies who will get back to work. These are the ladies that work at the Dater Montessori Nature Center: Susan VonderHaar, Inas San VonderHaar, Ms. McHenry and our new helper, Ann Myers. Ms. Susan has been tending the Dater Gator Garden the longest. She has been here 18 years. She says, “We found families, installed the first vegetable gardens in the Spring of 2000, when we came from Carson Montessori Center events, contact volunteers and other members of the community for support, I direct the Summer Nature Camp which is a 12-hour day for me and I love it best of all.” Ms. Inas says, “Susan is very committed to leaving a small fingerprint on Mother earth as she loves to recycle just about anything. She has an incredible knowledge base about permaculture and is fabulous at writing grants.” Ms. Inas has been working at the Dater Garden for three years. She says, “Over the summer, I was spending a good 6-8 hours a week in the garden to water, weed, plant, weed whack, harvest and tidy the area.” Ms. McHenry agrees, “Inas works works works. She is one of the hardest working people I know. She also has a knack for finding things the garden needs.” Ms. McHenry has been working at the Dater Garden for two years. She says, “I’m not there as much as Inas and Susan. I mostly water and weed and try to follow directions.” Ms Inas says that Ms McHenry loves to plant unique foods, not typically seen at the grocery store (like her lemon squash) and she loves to share her seeds. Ms. Inas says, “(Ms. McHenry) used to live in Florida where gardening was tricky—but was able to make it work by building elevated garden beds.” Ms. Inas says the new helper, Ms. Ann, has been so helpful in getting other teachers jazzed about helping in the nature center. Ms. Inas says, “(Ms. Ann) loves to share plants—she was able to snag a ton of strawberry plants, which hopefully will be thriving in June! She is also very helpful at committing to working in the garden as much as she can.” Come help the garden tamers this Spring and Summer. You can find out more at Dater Montessori Garden on facebook. If you work there you get at least two pounds of fruits and veggies each week in the summer and fall. When asked what their favorite food from the garden is, the ladies has opinions: Ms. Susan says, “This is a very hard question. Tomatoes are the most delicious. Kale is the most nutritious. Asparagus is most rare, so it’s a special treat when it comes.” Ms. Inas says, “Favorite food? So many!!! This past fall, I really enjoyed nibbling on the ground cherries and huckleberries that Susan introduced to our elevated beds!” Ms. McHenry says, “TOMATOES! ORANGE TOMATOES, PURPLE TOMATOES, STRIPED TOMATOES!”

LET’S TALK TRASH CHALLENGE

By 4th graders Kenzia Stevens & Cassie Dreier

The trash challenge is a face-off between the 6-9 level and the 9-12 level. It’s a competition to see who can keep there hallway the cleanest. This is how it works -- there is a fish tank in the the display case just past the glass wall of the front hall. The fish tank is divided in half and labelled, ‘upper level’ on one side and ‘lower level’ on the other side. When Mr. G. or Ms. Ridley find trash on the floor, they put it in the side where the trash was found. We like seeing no trash in the lower level side of the tank, because we like to win. Whichever level wins the trash challenge, gets 30 minutes of extra recess. It’s been a long time since the 9-12 has won the trash challenge. Some of the 9-12 students think this is unfair, because all of the kids in the school walk down our hallway. Sometimes even Mr. G thinks it might be unfair. He says, “I was thinking about how many more papers the 9-12ers have to handle and the many more transitions they make during the school day. With that said, we find most of the trash during the following times: 9:20-9:30am and 12:30-1:15. The lower level has not won a challenge yet. I have a bit of mixed feelings on this, but as we do get older, we are supposed to become more responsible and mindful of what we are doing,” Mr. G adds, “We also have more 9-12ers moving through the hallways that could pick up the trash on the floor and throw it away before we see it.” Mr. G. says, “As far as a larger space that covers (9-12 hallway), we only place trash in the fish tank from the hallway in front of the lunch-room and the main 9/12 hallway- not the 3/6 hallway. I have thought about making the lower level side of the fish tank a little bigger. I am always open for suggestions and new ideas to help make Dater Montessori a better place for all of us to continue to learn and challenge ourselves daily (arriving at a clean and safe school daily) and have a ‘never give up attitude;’ so we can be better equipped to handle what the world throws at us.”

Come on 9-12 and let’s think of more ideas to win the Trash challenge and maybe we pick up after each other a little more.
6TH GRADE LOCK IN

By Jana Smith, 6th Grade

This year was the first ever called "6th De Lock In" at Dater. A lock in is a sleepover at school. We will have a Lock In the 3rd trimester. It all started because of another new thing we have this year called the Leadership League. Leadership League is a system that we use to monitor our behavior. It also counts if you do your homework and turn it in.

Leadership League is a system that we use to monitor our behavior. It also counts if you do your homework and turn it in. In the beginning it made our Leadership League, your picture would be put on a bulletin board next to the stairs at the bus entrance. By the end of the semester we developed a new system called The Clipboard. The Clipboard is a clipboard that has the students name on it. If you get a mark on it, you get a mark on the clipboard -- two weeks in a row you aren’t invited to the Lock In.

The First Ever Lock In was fun and crazy. We had a huge obstacle course, bounce house in the gym, old fashioned video games, basketball, football, a major nerf gun war, movies and a ton of snacks. We also pranked Mr. G and Mrs. Ridley. The girls slept in Mr. Frampton’s room, the boys slept in Mr. Crosin’s room and Ms. Willet came in the morning and made us breakfast. The teachers loved the lock in as much as us kids did. Here are some opinions of the lock in from Mrs. Frampton and Mr. Crosin’s lock in experience. They both had lots of favorite things we did at the lock in. Mrs. Frampton had a hard time narrowing down her favorite experience. She says, "I think the obstacle course and Nerf gun wars were the most fun, but playing pranks on Mr. Greco and Mrs. Ridley was also unforgettable. It was so nice to just relax and real feel your care for all the students that attended. Seeing Mr. Crosin act like a kid was fun, too. The cherry on top was the homemade waffles and turkey sausage served by Ms. Wolff for Saturday morning breakfast.

Mr. Crosin also had some good favorite things that we did. He says, "The two best things about the lock in were the giant inflatable obstacle course that was in the gym for everyone to play on and the Nerf gun war that we had in the gym. It was pretty awesome to experience with my 6th graders."

Mr. Crosin adds, working with the adults and the students, you probably appreciate it more.

The newspaper brings everyone together — like how Ms. Fisher is the Yin to Ms. Cowgill’s Yang, or how they are like a bee to a flower, or how Amyll and Erinae are two best friends becoming even better friends, or even how people who have been here longer help the younger and new students. The Dater Investigator connects people, helps people, and makes people’s writing better — so next year, join the newspaper and buy Candy Grams!