



# HIMS

## Monthly News

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**ARTICLES, EVENTS, PHOTOS, & MORE!**

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**September 2022**

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# Happy New year!

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year. On behalf of our entire staff, faculty, and admin team I can confidently say we are so excited to kick off the year! We have high hopes that this year will feel more normal than the last few. However, the pandemic has taught us that we never quite know for sure. Luckily, we are a community who values optimism and connection and we will make the best of whatever comes our way!

This year our teacher inservice week was dedicated to getting back to our Montessori roots. The Montessori philosophy not only honors independence, curiosity, and child development, but it also honors the dignity of the child, beauty in nature, and feelings of deep connection to our world. In this light, we have chosen our internal theme to be awe and wonder. This is a common thread of Montessori education. In Montessori we see value in finding something special in the ordinary and being able to appreciate the world around you. This means we will be providing even more opportunities for reflection, observation, and yes, allowing our students to literally stop and smell the roses! We want to continue to fuel the flames of curiosity in our students, as we believe we are all born to learn. The entire HMS team has really embraced this theme and we can't wait to see what special things come our way when we slow down and appreciate our world. I'm so grateful to work with staff and faculty who are so deeply invested in their work. It's pretty special.

And that positive energy and dedication isn't just true for our Gig Harbor campus. Things are buzzing at our Tracyton campus, as well. We are elated to be expanding from one classroom to three this fall! It's hard to imagine that when we opened in January we had just four students and now we have forty! And while geography will make it challenging for the two campuses to connect, we also know that we can celebrate each other's successes in both locations!

Here in Gig Harbor, we are kicking off the year with 165 students. As our enrollment grows, so too, does our staff. We are pleased to welcome the following new HMS employees to our Gig Harbor campus. (check out our website for photos to help you match a name with the face):

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Admin

Brittany Cummings-Executive Assistant to the Head of School

Assistant Teachers:

Alissa Cavin-Spruce Room

Julie Whitlow-Magnolia Room

Monika Krupnik-Birch Room

MaryAnn Small-Floating & Oak Room

Brianna Schauer-Floating Birch & Juniper

After School team:

Ryann Dobler-Maple/Alder

Natsumi Kawaai-Spruce/Magnolia

Sunny Derouin-Maple/Alder

Anna Daetwiler-Birch/Juniper

Enrichment team:

Natsumi Kawaai-Upper Elementary and Jr. High Spanish and Japanese teacher

We also have some familiar faces in new roles this year, too! Carrie Butler will be splitting her time between Tracyton and Gig Harbor as our Early Childhood Program Director. Jenna Brasch will be at the GH campus in the role of Academic Support teacher. Geni Schwesinger is now working in Alder as the classroom assistant. Last, but not least, Cheyenne Holland will be the Head teacher in the Maple classroom.

I can't wait to reconnect with our returning and new families at our all school picnic at Sehmel park this Friday evening.(5:30 pm). Don't forget to bring your own picnic dinner and a blanket to sit on. I am looking forward to an incredible school year!

Warmly,  
*Aimee*





# Upcoming Events

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**September 7th**      Early Childhood Back to School Night - Meet in the  
**6:00pm**              Maple Room

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**September 8th**      Elementary & Junior High Back to School Night -  
**6:00pm**              Meet in the Aspen Room

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**September 9th**      All School Picnic - Be sure to pack your food and  
**5:30pm**              bring a blanket to sit on

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**September 13th**      Infant & Toddler Back to School Night - Meet in the  
**6:00pm**              Aspen classroom

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**September**              Upper Elementary Nature Bridge Trip  
**14th - 16th**

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**September**              Junior High Camping Trip  
**21st - 23rd**

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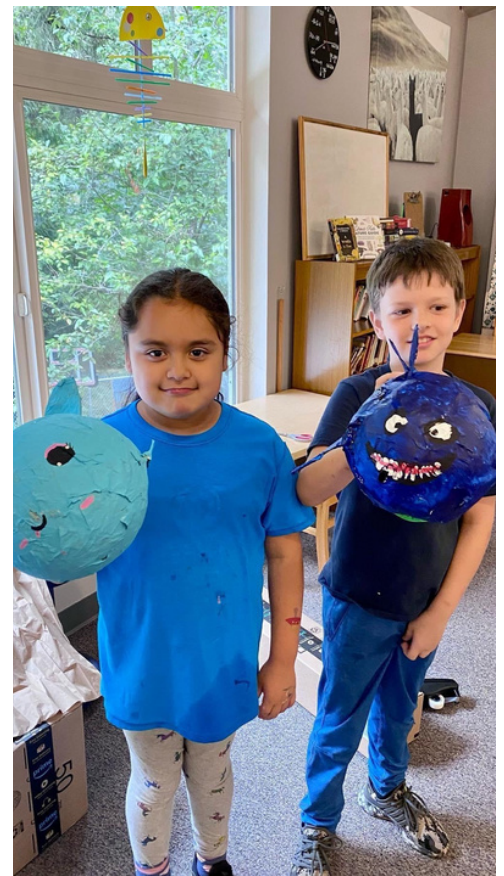
# Summer Program Wrap Up

By Rachel Lezcano

Summer Program was full of fun and excitement.

I would like to thank all of our volunteers who helped out on our field trips, you made these trips so wonderful for the kids. My favorite week of Summer was our Wands and Wizards, which I will make sure will be a part of the program next year.

Thank you for allowing me to give back to the kids and make this the best possible Summer.



# Board Corner

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Hi. My name is Wendy Holt, mom to Chloe, wife to Sean, and your newest HMS Board Chair. This is our 10th year here at Harbor Montessori and my 6th year serving on the Board. In my previous life, I taught first, second, and third grade in the Tacoma School District for 18 years. Now I am helping launch a new skincare line plus we have a trucking company. In my free time I like to cook, read, and garden plus be with my family. I love Palm Springs and chocolate chip cookies. And I will end with a "Go Huskies!"

Being here at Harbor Montessori for ten years, I have seen so much greatness for Chloe and for all the other children that pass through these doors. There are just so many stories to share, I do not think I can name one. Chloe could sweep at age 3, sew at age 4 and iron at age 5 (thanks Miss Oxana). My mom would always say, "don't make Chloe sweep the floor, she's so young", but yet she was capable of doing this job and wanted to do this job thanks to the Montessori philosophy. People do not understand until they live and breathe it. That's what makes HMS so wonderful and why we have been here for 10 years: the love and caring of the teachers, the kindness, the concern, the understanding of each individual child. The staff know who Chloe is. Mrs. P. sharing her love of rocks with Chloe because Chloe loves rocks. Miss Nazy suggesting Chloe attend SAMI one day. Mrs. Butler talking how she will find her voice (she has found it). Mr. P's daily reading of a chapter book that really grabbed Chloe's attention. Ms. Lorincz knowing to push/pat her back at nap time. I can not say enough about HMS and this is why we love it so much.

"The greatest gifts we can give our children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence" ~ Dr. Maria Montessori

- Wendy

## *This Month's Staff Contributors:*



**Wendy Holt**  
**Board Chair**



**Rachel Lezcano**  
**Admin Team**