Thank you to those who made it out for the [Creative Families Association (CFA)](https://sites.google.com/site/cmicfa/home) meeting last week where we discussed ideas to help spur volunteerism at CMI. Volunteering and giving back to our school is so critical – not only does it help supplement the amazing work of the CMI teachers and staff, it also keeps us, as parents and caregivers, engaged in the CMI community. Studies show that schools with high volunteerism also have better academic success.

The meeting underscored the fact that many parents and caregivers may be unfamiliar with the role of the CFA. The CFA is all of us! Everyone who has a child attending CMI is part of the CFA. The CFA (also known as the PTAs in other schools) helps provide school-wide and classroom-specific support (financial and otherwise), outreach and communication to parents and guardians, and special programming and events throughout the year.

Some ideas on volunteerism that were discussed in the meeting include:

* Using the room parents to help drum up volunteering
* Encouraging parents to commit to volunteer hours at the beginning of the year
* Providing a list of CFA events to parents early on
* Adding text messaging and other channels to communicate with parents
* Including the CFA in Back to School events and [introducing the CFA Board](https://sites.google.com/site/cmicfa/who-we-are)
* Fostering healthy competition between the grades for volunteer hours

To that end – we still have a few volunteer opportunities left for this school year. If you haven’t yet volunteered, it’s the perfect time to start! The CMI auction is coming up in a few weeks and the parents who are coordinating the event need your help. [Check out the sign-up sheet and join us to make this event a huge success!](https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2761023/false#/invitation)